Kolloquium „Berner Gespräche zur Sportwissenschaft“

Montag, 06.05.2019, von 16.15 Uhr bis 17.45 Uhr
Hörsaal C001 (Universität Bern, ZSSw Gebäude C, Bremgartenstr. 145, 3012 Bern)

History of disability sports through swiss public television.
Making history through sport’s images of people with disabilities

Prof. Dr. Anne Marcellini is a sport sociologist specialized in adapted physical activities and health. She’s Professor at the Faculty of Social and Politic Sciences at Lausanne University, Switzerland. Her research focuses on the social participation of people with disabilities in connection with issues linking the body uses, identity, stigma and social integration process. She’s a specialist in qualitative and visual sociology. She has published in 2018 The extraordinary development of sport for people with dis/abilities. What does it all mean? in ALTER, European Journal of Disability Research, and have been scientific co-director of the special issue Being disabled, becoming champion of the review Sport in Society.

History of disability sports has started recently. But we already know that sport for people with physical or visual impairments was created after the second war, through the relationship between war-wounded and medical profession. We also know that sport for people with intellectual impairment was promoted later, around 1970, by private foundations, as Special Olympics, and mostly inside the institutions of special education or special care. Sport for deaf people has another specific history, starting at the very beginning of the 20th century, in the period of sport development. In the same time, since the beginning of the 20th century there was a huge expansion of photography and film, and we interest in the way pictures of people with disabilities may be used to access to another history of disability sports. In these visual studies of disability sports, we can explore various data and analyze explicit and implicit messages spread by images.

First, presentation of research conducted on photo coverage of Paralympic Games allows to show the figures of athletes with impairments most valued by press since 2000. In a second step, we will present a beginning research program focusing on french speaking swiss public television archives during 7 decades (1950-2018). From a contextual model of disability, we focus on the characters presented in TV programs as “disabled” and the social situations and “disabling situations” in which they are staged, studying the role of sport in these television narratives. A first analysis of short TV programs of the sixties is included in the communication.