

The development, reflection and implementation of Chinese sports history

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Abstract

This paper reviews the development process of the discipline of sports history in China by the method of documentary materials, discusses the existing problems in the development of the discipline of sports history, and puts forward suggestions on the future development of the discipline on the basis of the existing research results, so as to determine the value of the discipline in the development of sports in the new era. Through the historical review of Chinese sports history, it shows the fruitful results achieved in the development of Chinese sports history in more than 100 years, and points out the shortcomings of the current sports history: the status of sports history curriculum is marginalized, the disciplinary boundary is blurred, and the academic attitude is not rigorous. The future development of sports history can be taken as a new breakthrough from the following points: First, strengthen the discipline construction. Second, change the function of the discipline. Third, strengthen the construction of disciplinary development platforms. Fourth, strengthen academic norms.

Keywords

Chinese sports history; Development course; Development dilemma; Discipline construction.

1. Introduction

The discipline of sports history, as a science, focuses on the study of the emergence, development and evolution of the social phenomenon of sports, and constitutes a unique special history. Dating back to the end of the 18th century in Europe, the international study of the history of sports and related monographs have been published, and this discipline is based on a broad human history [1]. The study of sports history is of great significance to the development and evolution of sports culture, which enables us to have a deep insight into the changes of sports activities in different historical periods, the reform of sports system and the continuation of sports culture.

2. The development of Chinese sports history

The study of sports history in China began with the Reform Movement in the late 19th century. Prior to this, although China had a fine tradition of paying attention to history for thousands of years, sports had never been the object of traditional historical research, because sports had never been regarded as an independent cultural category [2]. With the introduction of western sports culture, China gradually began to pay attention to and study the history of sports. The development of sports history in our country can be roughly divided into the following stages:

2.1. Early embryonic stage

At the end of the Qing Dynasty, a special article on "Sports history" was first published in newspapers and periodicals in 1909. In 1919, Guo Xifen (Shao Yu) first wrote "Chinese Sports History", which was the earliest work to study Chinese sports history. Although it was not

finished at that time, it was of great significance. It established the embryonic form of the discipline of sports history [3] and opened the vanguard of the study of Chinese sports history. In 1923, Hao Gengsheng studied at Springfield College in the United States. In 1926, he published in English the first chapter OF his doctoral thesis "FHYSICAL EDUCATION OF CHINA", "The History of Chinese Sports", which discussed Chinese sports, and on this basis added a book [4]. Since then, there have been more and more books on sports history, including the World Sports History in 1931. In 1933, Xiang Da's "Changan Ball Game Quiz"; A Short History of Chinese Track and Field Events by Ruan Weicun in 1933; History of the Olympic Movement by Wu Wenzhong in 1941; In 1944, Xie Shiyan's "Olympic Vicissitudes" and "Western Sports History"; 1944 Luo Xianglin's "Polo Play"; In 1946, Cheng Dengke's Outline of the History of World Sports; Wu Wenzhong's "Sports History" in 1946 and "Sports History in the United States" in 1949 are the most influential sports history works at that time. Before 1949, due to the relatively backward state of politics, economy and culture in China at that time, the research on sports history started late, and a systematic research system and complete research team had not been formed, and sports history materials were relatively scarce, and various historical conditions restricted the research on sports history at a low level [1-4].

2.2. Initial stage

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the study of sports history has been highly valued by the Party and the state, and a series of measures have been taken to promote its development. In 1957, the State Sports Commission set up the "Sports Technical Committee" (referred to as the "Technical Committee"), which clearly stated its responsibility to focus on the research and compilation of "Chinese sports history" [5]. In March 1960, the State Sports Commission organized a symposium on the compilation and teaching of Chinese sports history in Beijing, which deeply discussed the nature, significance and function of sports history, and advocated that qualified schools take the lead in the compilation of sports history [6]. In 1962, with the participation of three senior professors, Dong Shiheng, Sun Zhongda and Li Jifang, Chengdu University of Sport established the Sports History Research Office of Chengdu University of Sport (later renamed the Research Institute of Chengdu University of Sport), the first institution in China to focus on sports history research [4], which marked a new stage of development for Chinese sports history research. However, due to the impact of the Cultural Revolution, the study of sports history, which was still in its infancy, was suspended.

2.3. Rapid development stage

In 1978, the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee was held, and the study of Chinese sports history ushered in new vitality. In September 1979, the All-China Sports Federation decided to set up the Sports Literature and History Data Editing Committee, and a large number of old sports workers who had retired from their jobs actively participated in the work of collecting sports historical materials. In June 1982, the Chinese Sports Literature and History Working Committee was established, and one of its main tasks was to organize the academic research of sports history. In 1983, the magazine "Sports Literature and History" was founded, which mainly published sports history manuscripts and sports history papers. In June 1986, the Chinese Sports History Society was established in Leshan, Sichuan Province [7]. In 1979, Chengdu Institute of Physical Education enrolled the first batch of graduate students majoring in sports history, and taught sports history to the national Sports theory teachers' training class. In 1992, Chengdu University of Physical Education and Shanghai University of Physical Education began to jointly train doctoral students in the history of sports. Since then, the discipline of sports history in China has been established as a discipline with distinct master, master and doctoral degrees, which also indicates that China's history of sports has basically formed a relatively complete discipline system [8].

2.4. Low level stage

Since the 1990s, due to the impact of market economy and the reform of government institutions, the support of various institutions for the academic study of sports history has gradually weakened, and local sports history work and research institutions have encountered many challenges. At the same time, sports colleges gradually weakened the sports history course in the teaching and curriculum reform, resulting in the failure of sports history to obtain its due status in the historical circle [9]. During this period, most of the older generation of sports history researchers retired, the research team was significantly reduced, and the publication of high-quality research results was significantly reduced. In addition, "Sports Literature and History" was renamed "Sports Culture Guide" and promoted to the core theoretical journal of sports, which made sports history lose an important academic platform [8].

At the university level, curriculum reform leads to the drastic reduction or even cancellation of sports history courses, and the original sports history teachers turn to other research directions and teaching, which has a great impact on the inheritance and development of sports history scholarship. According to Sun Shuhui et al., only five sports schools retain sports history courses in undergraduate education (and most of them are electives). They pointed out that if the problem of curriculum status is not solved, the in-depth study of sports history will be impossible [10].

In addition, the quality and quantity of research results declined significantly during this period. In addition to a few high-level researches, many scholars had undesirable phenomena such as "eager for quick success", "emergency mentality" and "plagiarism", which had an extremely adverse and negative impact on the development of the discipline of sports history [11]. Therefore, from the 1990s to the early 21st century, the study of sports history bid farewell to the prosperity of the 1970s and 1980s and entered a low stage.

2.5. Revival stage

With the deepening of reform and opening up, the state vigorously promotes the reform of cultural undertakings, under this background, the vision of Chinese sports history learning has changed greatly, and has achieved positive results. With the expansion of the research basin, large-scale sports history works with pictures and pictures began to appear. With the progress of disciplinary research methods, methods such as history, archaeology and sociology have been widely used in the research of sports history, which has enriched the theoretical basis of sports history research. He got rid of the habit of treating history from the present to the present, and gradually established the thought of treating history from the present to the past. The gradual completion of local sports history and the successive publication of individual sports history books have facilitated the overall study of Chinese sports history [12].

3. There are shortcomings in sports history

Although the field of the development of sports history in our country is wider and deeper, the current development is too depressed compared with the 1970s and 1980s.

3.1. Sports history curriculum status marginalization

In the university environment, curriculum reform has led to the reduction or even cancellation of sports history courses, causing the original sports history teachers to turn to other research directions and teaching work, which has a significant impact on the foundation and inheritance of sports history scholarship. Sun Shuhui et al. 's survey revealed that only five sports schools maintain sports history courses in undergraduate education (and most of them are elective). They emphasized that if the status of sports history curriculum is not solved, the in-depth development of sports history discipline will have no basis [10].

Take Chengdu University of Physical Education as an example, which enjoys the reputation of "leading goose" in the field of sports history research in China [4]. Since 1985, when it was approved by the former State Sports Commission, its sports history has been compiled to 21 people [13]. However, between 1999 and 2000, the staff of the department was reduced to three people, including a deputy director, an office staff member, and Professor Zhou Xikuan, who retired as a leader of the self-taught school. [14] In addition, Chengdu University of Physical Education has experienced a shortage of students for more than 10 years since 2007, and the structure of researchers is also unreasonable.

3.2. Subject boundary ambiguity

As a branch discipline of history, sports history is also a cross-field between sports and history, but it is facing the awkward situation of subject belonging and has not been recognized in the history circle. Although the history of sports belongs to history in essence, its research origin and discipline structure mainly belong to the field of sports science, so it is necessary to follow the norms of sports science in the research. However, most sports history researchers do not have a professional background in history, which leads to their lack of basic skills, concepts and methods in historical research. As Sun Shuhui said, the history of sports is in the awkward situation of "the family name is 'sport' but far from 'sport', belonging to 'history' but not into 'history'" [10]. When reviewing the development of sports history in China, Li Yang pointed out that the tradition of sports history was initiated by sports scholars, and historians rarely intervened. Sports history seems to have been forgotten by historians, and the field of sports history also seems to have gotten used to this state of being forgotten [8].

Cao Shouhe asked why the discipline of sports history has not received enough attention from scholars and has gradually been marginalized at the level of leadership. Why is the academic status inferior to that of literature history, education history of pedagogy and medical history? The reason is that sports history textbooks are too broad and lack depth, and the pertinence is not strong, so that learning or not has little impact on practice, "do not learn sports history, still do sports". This is further confirmed by the fact that most of the current leaders in sports (i.e., "sportspeople") have not studied sports history. At the same time, we do not see writers who do not understand the history of literature, educators who do not understand the history of education, military strategists who do not understand military history, medical scientists who do not understand the history of medicine. Therefore, Cao Shouhe suggested that "moral evaluation", "character appraisal" and other contents rich in humanistic connotation and value should be highlighted in the process of sports development, so as to be one of the effective ways to improve the status of sports history discipline [11].

3.3. The academic attitude is not rigorous

Cui Lequan once criticized that "some scholars, in order to confirm their own views, excessively cited texts or cultural relics, resulting in frequent errors and adverse effects" [2]. Other researchers, when using physical materials, especially archaeological materials, have problems of abuse and practical interpretation, that is, regardless of the age, properties and coexistence environment of archaeological materials, they forcibly included them into their own evidence system without in-depth analysis, and even named materials without authorization, leading to absurd conclusions [8]. This kind of academic unrigorous phenomenon occurs frequently, which seriously pollutes the academic atmosphere of sports history. Lang Jing et al. also pointed out that the study of sports history has obvious deficiencies in the collation of historical materials, failing to form an organic network of historical materials that covers the overall sports history and various historical periods, classical documents, cultural relics and archaeology, and folk customs. Instead, it only focuses on the simple listing of historical materials and lacks in-depth excavation [12]. Dong Shiheng stressed that if the sports history community remains closed, it will be difficult to develop, and it is necessary to break the closure

and establish contact with the history community. Unfortunately, some historians, influenced by the traditional concept of disdain for sports, have a wide range of studies but only ignore sports [14].

As far as the curriculum of sports history in colleges and universities is concerned, there are obvious deficiencies. Most universities mainly focus on professional basic courses and skills courses during the undergraduate period, and few sports history courses are offered. This not only reflects the lack of emphasis on sports history courses, but also leads to the lack of full-time sports history teachers. The school's contempt for sports history course, naturally, it is difficult to attract students' attention, resulting in students' lack of clear understanding of the origin and development of sports, which is extremely unfavorable to the development of sports history discipline.

4. The future trend of sports history

4.1. The further transformation of the discipline function of sports history

Fu Yannong once said, "Sports history courses play a marginal role in sports colleges because they fail to directly solve practical problems such as technical movements" [14]. Gu Shiquan put forward: "Historians should serve the current work and provide help, so as to highlight the important role of sports history" [14]. Hao Qin further pointed out that "only by combining the research with the major issues of contemporary sports development can the sports community pay wide attention, rather than being limited to the interests of researchers" [14]. Wang Junqi said, "Although the emergence, development and even rise and fall of disciplines are restricted by multiple social conditions and the internal logic of disciplines, the core of determining their vitality lies in the social demand for disciplines and the degree of satisfaction." If the discipline is far from the needs of society, it will inevitably encounter difficulties and even decline "[15].

In order to enhance the ability of sports history to serve the reality, sports history should closely fit the society, serve the society, actively respond to national policies, focus on hot and difficult issues, and actively explore solutions. Specifically, social services can be provided to intervene in practical issues. For example, the research results of sports history can be used to provide decision-making basis for public policy formulation and social reform, provide historical mirror for the society, popularize sports culture and education to the public, enhance social cognition and understanding of sports, so as to make sports history better serve the society and make greater contributions to social development.

4.2. Improve the curriculum status of sports history

Sun Shuhui once pointed out: "The history of sports, as a dimension of history, is not an immediate solution to the practical problems of sports, nor is it a master key, but its value lies in a kind of" useless use." History is essentially a process of cultivating rationality and conscience, so is sports history. It leads us to explore the long process of human civilization from the perspective of sports, reveal the mystery of human evolution, reflect on the twists and turns of history and glory, so as to understand the reality, learn the truth skills, and accumulate wisdom through the ancient and modern. Therefore, sports history literacy is not only a necessary component of the expansion and deepening of professional knowledge of sports professionals, but also one of the important humanistic literacy "[10].

The development of the subject is inseparable from teaching, so it is necessary to strengthen the position of sports history in the curriculum system. At present, the development of sports history will be out of the question if the students of college sports majors generally ignore the study of sports history. Therefore, it is important to teach not only the overall history of sports, but also the history of each specific sport. In addition, the study of sports history is not limited to students, teachers also need to participate in it. Although students have their own sports

projects, they know little about the origin and development of sports projects, which is indeed a problem worth pondering. Therefore, we should strengthen the construction of teaching materials, compile high-quality special sports history textbooks, provide solid support for teaching, and pay attention to the combination of theory and practice, so as to stimulate students' interest in learning.

4.3. The diversified development of sports history research field

Sports history should actively promote the communication and interaction with other disciplines, and broaden the research horizon by contacting and understanding the knowledge structure and thinking mode of different disciplines. This helps to break the shackles of traditional frameworks and explore more diversified solutions when dealing with complex problems. Interdisciplinary collaboration also inspires new ideas and approaches, which are essential for innovation and drive the development and progress of the discipline.

In-depth communication with experts in the field of history is especially crucial. As a branch of history, most of the researchers of sports history come from sports professional background. History, as a mature discipline, has a complete theoretical system and methodology, its research methods have evolved in a fine way, especially the mining and analysis of historical materials, and it has rich academic resources, such as literature and archival records. All these can be used for reference by sports history. Through exchanges with historical experts, sports history researchers can absorb these theories and methods, improve their own research framework, and enhance the depth and breadth of research.

At the same time, it is also necessary to broaden the international vision of sports history. Transnational exchanges can pool the wisdom and resources of different countries and promote the sharing of research results and experience among scholars from different countries. This exchange mechanism is conducive to the dissemination and innovation of knowledge, improve the quality of research, and provide scholars with more opportunities and resources for research, so as to promote the prosperity of the entire academic community of sports history.

4.4. Sports history discipline development platform construction

Zhang Bo argued: "The construction of sports history curriculum is urgent, we need to gather teaching strength and cultivate research talents; In order to enhance young scholars' sense of identity in the discipline of sports history, we should diversify the ways of academic exchange and provide a stage for display. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the social service function, with the goal of educating the government, so that the achievements of sports history researchers can be more widely recognized by the society "[16]. He stressed that the development of sports history should be promoted from three aspects: teaching platform, academic exchange platform and social service platform.

The construction of sports history teaching platform is imminent. At present, the lack of sports history courses in colleges and universities and the scarcity of sports history researchers have seriously weakened the development basis of sports history. The academic exchange platform covers the release platform of sports history research results and professional seminars held by academic groups, which can effectively integrate academic resources, broaden the scope and depth of sports history academic exchange, and promote the new progress of sports history discipline construction. On this basis, universities with conditions can consider setting up professional research institutions on sports history, relying on the support of specialized institutions, and continue to produce distinctive and high-quality sports history think tank research results, to provide decision-making support for party committees and governments at all levels.

Strengthening the construction of sports history teaching platform aims to improve the quality and quantity of sports history professionals. Through enriching sports history teaching materials and cultivating high-quality sports history teachers, we can consolidate the talent base and promote the prosperity and development of sports history discipline.

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