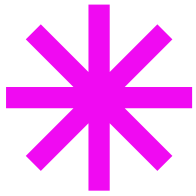




Greenhouse Sports Independent Research Board



Introducing the Board



Rachel Abbott



**Dr. Francesca
Cavallerio**



**Prof. Tracey
Devonport**



**Dr. Stefania
Fiorentino**



Prof. Tom Fletcher



Dr. Maita Furusa



Dr. Saba Hussain



Prof. Jenni Jones



**Prof. Dany
MacDonald**



**Dr. Thierry
Middleton**



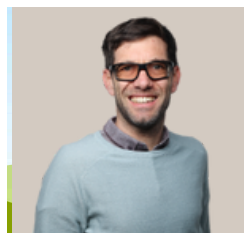
Dr. Kurtis Pankow



**Dr. Kavyta
Raghunandan**



Dr. Fieke Rongan



**Dr. Olivier
Rouquette**



**Dr. Fernando
Santos**



**Prof. Meredith
Whitley**

Introducing the Board



Rachel Abbott

Rachel is a Director at The Behavioural Architects, a leading research and insight consultancy that uses behavioural science to help organisations better understand and influence behaviour. She is deeply passionate about tackling inequalities in and through sport and has worked extensively with Sport England, NGBs and charities on projects to better support and engage historically under-represented audiences. This includes research into challenges and opportunities for engaging children and families from marginalised groups in sport, and working closely with vulnerable young people to inform activity programme design. Rachel brings expertise in applied behavioural science for insight and behaviour change challenges, across a range of sectors and global markets.



Dr. Francesca Cavallerio

Francesca is Associate Professor in Qualitative Sport Psychology with a focus on youth sport and sport injury. Her research area relates to (youth) athletes' wellbeing, particularly prevention of abuse in sport, and focuses on both the athletes themselves, as well as key characters in their networks (e.g., parents, coaches). She is particularly interested in using creative and arts-based methods to represent and communicate research findings to reach a non-academic audience and create a positive impact in the world of youth sport.

Introducing the Board



Prof. Tracey Devonport

Tracey is an expert in Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology, who currently works at Hartpury University, Gloucester, UK. Her extensive body of work, spanning over 100 professional outputs, seeks to bring about academic rigour and real-world impact. Much of her work focuses on stress, coping, and emotion regulation, topics that touch every young person's journey and resonate with anyone striving to achieve their goals and aspirations. Her exploration of mentoring and reverse-mentoring relationships, offer insights into the ways in which these powerful connections not only help individuals manage, but truly thrive in sporting and academic environments. As an accredited Sport and Exercise Psychologist, Tracey seeks to bridge the gap between cutting-edge research and practical application. Her drive for this is her passion for research that creates tangible benefits for participants whilst also generating insights that can be translated into meaningful improvements for practitioners and policy makers.



Dr. Stefania Fiorentino

Stefania is an Associate Professor in Planning and Urban Regeneration at Cambridge University and a Fellow of Downing College, where she is also a Director of Studies for Land Economy. Her research interest and expertise combine urban planning and economic geography for more inclusive and resilient local economic development policies and regeneration strategies. She has a particular interest in supporting the development of coastal communities. Stefania trained as an engineer in Rome and in urban studies and planning in Paris and London (UCL). with work experience in international consultancies in Italy, France, and the UK. As an academic, she contributes to consultancy, thought leadership, and influencing policymaking, acting as an advisor for institutional bodies like the European Union (EU) Commission.

Introducing the Board



Prof. Tom Fletcher

Tom is a Professor in the Carnegie School of Sport at Leeds Beckett University, UK. He is internationally recognised for his work into the South Asian diaspora, race equality and social justice in sport. Tom has led projects for research organisations, public sector bodies and private companies, including the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Higher Education Academy, UK Sport, England and Wales Cricket Board, UNESCO, Lawn Tennis Association, UK Sport, and Yorkshire Cricket Foundation. Tom is part of the consortium Tackling Online Hate in Football (www.tohif.com). Tom has published widely in journals, books, and wider media, including authoring the award-winning book *Negotiating fatherhood: Sport and family practices*.



Dr. Maita Furusa

Maita is a safeguarding practitioner with extensive research experience in safeguarding, parental involvement, and enjoyment in youth sport. He currently serves as Safeguarding Manager at Kroenke Sports & Entertainment for the Colorado Rapids Soccer Club, where he supports the development and implementation of safeguarding policies and practices across the organisation. In this role, he works closely with the Rapids boys' Academy teams to ensure that policies are effectively applied and practices are consistently followed, enabling young players to be supported and develop in a safe, inclusive, and positive environment.

Introducing the Board



Dr. Saba Hussain

Saba is an Associate Professor in Education Studies in the Department of Education and Social Justice. Saba is a feminist Sociologist of Education with a particular interest in theorizations of social justice, citizenship, power and resistance in postcolonial contexts. Shaped by her own location as a transnational scholar, she has an inter-disciplinary research portfolio working across the global North and South. Within the various strands of research Saba's interest has been on the workings of 'power' and how actors and institutions position themselves in relation to the various forces of domination. Saba's other research interest is in the area of gender and education, especially in the global south contexts. Her doctoral work based on empirical research in India offered a post-colonial feminist analysis of subjectivities available to school-going Muslim girls.



Prof. Jenni Jones

Jenni is a Professor of coaching and mentoring at the University of Wolverhampton, with a PhD in leadership, mentoring, and learning. Prior to joining the University in 2004, her career comprised a mixture of Human Resources Management, Human Resources Development and Training Management roles within both the private and public sector. Her passions are all aspects of learning and teaching, coaching and mentoring and leadership. She has trained mentors within the Police, coaches within the NHS, Directors in the Institute of Directors and within the Black Country Chamber too. She has a number of articles and book chapters published as well as an edited book.

Introducing the Board



Prof. Dany MacDonald

Dany is a Professor of sport psychology in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at the University of Prince Edward Island (Canada). His research interests revolve around understanding and promoting youth sport experiences that contribute to holistic development of participants. This is achieved by considering multiple agents of the youth sport environment (participants, coaches, policy makers) to better inform delivery of sport programs. In addition, Dr. MacDonald has an interest in instrument development to further understand changes in behaviour over time.



Dr. Thierry Middleton

Thierry is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Portsmouth, UK. Thierry's work primarily focuses on understanding psychosocial and cultural aspects of sport for development. Thierry conducts his research in collaboration with, or in response to, community needs and desires so that research outcomes result in impactful changes that increase engagement and enjoyment in physical activity and sport. Thierry's work has received multiple awards for innovation and impact from the Association for Applied Sport Psychology, Division 47 of the American Psychological Association and the International Society for Sport Psychology. Thierry is also a proud girl-dad of two daughters. He enjoys trying to keep up with them, whether that means enjoying swimming in the lake/ocean or learning different playground games.

Introducing the Board



Dr. Kurtis Pankow

Kurtis is a Senior Lecturer in Sport Psychology at Swansea University. He started doing research because he wanted to understand how we could use sport as a place to help young people grow and develop. Now, his research interests cover two related areas: mental health and wellbeing in sport; and understanding how we can get research evidence to people who can benefit from it (i.e., knowledge translation and implementation science). Kurtis has experience working with local, national, and international organisations to help them make decisions about programmes and policies. One of his favourite projects so far has been writing a children's book to translate sport psychology research about sport parenting and children's sport experiences into a fun and accessible illustrated story.



Dr. Kavyta Raghunandan

Kavyta is a Senior Lecturer in Race and Education at Leeds Beckett University and an Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. With a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy, her research unpacks the intersections of race, gender, space, and power – from developing racial literacy through comics to examining the green space gap for South Asian communities in Britain and issues around access and inclusion in sports and recreational spaces. Her commitment to decolonial practice extends beyond academia through advisory roles, including serving as a School Governor for a primary school. Her work champions stories as tools for empowerment, whether in peer-reviewed journals, graphic novels, curatorial contexts, or reimagining inclusive futures where classrooms, cultural spaces, playing fields, and green spaces belong to everyone.

Introducing the Board



Dr. Fieke Rongan

Fieke is a Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Psychology at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). After earning her BSc and MSc in Psychology, Fieke worked as an Academic Counsellor. Based on this experience, she decided to pursue a PhD looking at how being part of a football academy affects young players within and beyond sport. Since finishing her PhD, Fieke's research has continued to focus on how sport can support young people's development and what makes a sporting environment 'healthy'. She uses mixed-methods research to explore if/how involvement in sport shapes young athletes in a holistic way. Her work is driven by doing research with young people, not just on them. She is passionate about making sure their voices are at the centre of any project and using those insights to help organisations understand what works, for whom, and why—so sport can be a positive force for everyone, not just a select few.



Dr. Olivier Rouquette

Olivier holds a PhD with a double degree in Sport Sciences and Psychology. His early research in sport psychology focused on the role of interpersonal relationships in performance and well-being. Following completion of his PhD, he worked as senior researcher at Swansea University, where he remains an honorary fellow, using population-level data to investigate social and environmental influences on mental health, especially among children and young people in education. Olivier now leads the Data Acquisitions and Access team at GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, where he focuses on improving the quality and representativeness of research data, and on enhancing data infrastructures to make high-quality, accessible data more readily available to the research community.

Introducing the Board



Dr. Fernando Santos

Fernando has a PhD in Sport Sciences and a post-doc in Education and Psychology. Currently, he is an Associate Professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Porto in Portugal and a member of the Research Centre of Innovation in Education (inED). He is a former coach and physical education teacher with more than 10 years of experience working in local schools and sport organisations. He also serves as a coach developer working closely with numerous sport organisations such as the Portuguese Rowing Federation, Portuguese Hockey Federation, as well as the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth. His main areas of research include coaching, coach education, positive youth development, life skills, social justice and mental health in youth sport.



Prof. Meredith Whitley

Meredith is a Professor of Sport-Based Youth Development at Adelphi University in New York. She is also a Research Fellow at the Centre for Sport Leadership at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Her research explores the complex and multi-faceted roles of sport and Sport for Development programs in young people's lives, along with the interrelated systems impacting youth and community development. In 2020-2021, she served on the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, & Nutrition Science Board and is currently leading the development of Mental Health Guidelines for Youth Sport across the United States.

Team

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