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Title	Alterglobalization, Global Social Movements, and the Possibility of Political Transformation Through Sport
Type	Article
URL	https://clock.uclan.ac.uk/id/eprint/4665/
DOI	
Date	2009
Citation	Harvey, Jean, Horne, John and Safai, Parissa (2009) Alterglobalization, Global Social Movements, and the Possibility of Political Transformation Through Sport. <i>Sociology of Sport Journal</i> , 26 (3). pp. 383-403. ISSN 0741-1235
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Alterglobalization, Global Social Movements, and the Possibility of Political Transformation Through Sport

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Location: [Sociology of sport journal](#), ISSN 0741-1235, [Vol. 26, N° 3, 2009](#) , pp. 383-403

Abstract:

Alterglobalization is the name for a large spectrum of global social movements that present themselves as supporting new forms of globalization, urging that values of democracy, justice, environmental protection, and human rights be put ahead of purely economic concerns. This article develops a framework for the study of the influence of alterglobalization on sport by: outlining a periodization of social movements and sport; proposing a typology of responses to the politics of globalization; and proposing a typology of recent social movements associated with sport. The article does not report on an empirical research project, but provides a stock take of what has happened since the 1990s regarding the politics of globalization and the politics of sport, with specific reference to global social movements. The questions raised in this article include: What form do the movements challenging the world sports order today take? Does an alterglobalization movement exist in sport? What alternative models of sport do they propose?