

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



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Institute for Culture  
and Society

**‘A nation of “good sports”’?  
Cultural citizenship and sport in  
contemporary Australia**



# The project

Australia is widely regarded as both characterised and united by sport. Sport has an elevated place in Australia's official and popular national culture, and its reputation as a 'paradise of sport' has become a largely unquestioned aspect of Australian identity. But the established relationship between sport and nation is undergoing significant change in contemporary multicultural Australia.

Focussing principally on sport participation and spectatorship, the aim of this project is to achieve an advanced understanding of sport's place in the lives of Australia's increasingly diverse citizenry. It focuses on the nation's most dynamic and diverse metropolitan region, Greater Western Sydney, exploring the extent of sport-related belonging, affinity and expression in an era of accelerating global change. This inquiry provides an opportunity to identify the direction of change in Australian national culture at a time when globalisation is intensifying, and global media – including global sports media – are increasingly available to people irrespective of where they live.

The significance of this project lies in its engagement with questions of nation and sport as they relate to 'cultural citizenship', which broadly concerns levels of engagement by all citizens in their national culture. Through this research a better grasp of sport's relation to Australian culture and identity will be gained, an enhancement of social scientific knowledge that will also assist the development of policies linking sport to cultural citizenship.

## RESEARCHERS

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It champions collaborative engaged research in the humanities and social sciences for a globalising digital age, and is the largest dedicated research concentration of its kind in Australia.

The Institute encourages collaboration from Australian and international institutions, and students interested in postgraduate studies.

