

A Systematic Review of Sport Management Literature: Does Diversity Play in Sport Management?

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The ranks of sport management remain ethnically and racially monolithic, even as the industry has become increasingly diverse at the player level. Gender and racial diversity within the sport industry, at the level of management, is hampered by exclusionary barriers to leadership positions as evidenced by poor reviews of workplace diversity in American professional sport leagues and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The dichotomy between diversity at the player level and apparent uniformity at the management level within our sport industry has not been adequately addressed within academic or trade research on sport management. The purpose of this poster is to present findings from a systematic review of sport management literature that testifies to the dearth of research on issues related to diversity. A review of secondary sources was conducted to compile a set of relevant terms for use in database searches that index published material on sport management: SportsDiscus, PsychInfo, Business Source Premier, Physical Education Index, ABI, Race Relations Abstracts, and ProQuest Dissertations and Theses. Database searches were conducted on the same date in order to lend validity to the study. The findings indicate a need for more research, driven by praxis, on diversity in sport management settings and more pedagogical emphasis on socio-cultural issues in graduate sport management programs.