

EDITORIAL

SPORT DUAL CAREER: PERCEPTIONS AND CHALLENGES IN DIFFERENT SCENARIOS

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The dual career consists in the challenges faced by athletes to reconcile their sports career with academic and/or labour requirements (European Commission, 2012). Considering that this is a sociocultural and multifactorial phenomenon, manifested in different contexts, to provide a balanced routine between studies/work and sports training is essential for student athletes to develop both their athletic and academic/labour skills, without compromising their participation at different levels and contexts of practice, and in different social positions – as athlete, student, parent, among others (Stambulova et al., 2009; Wylleman; Rosier, 2016). Another important issue related to dual career is the preparation for the sports retirement and the transition to the world of labour in a new profession (Pallarés et al., 2011; Kuettel; Boyle; Schmid, 2017).

Within this context, the dual career consists in a relevant and prominent research topic related to Sports Sciences since the end of the 20th century (Torregrossa, Conde and Sánchez-Pato, 2021), being the Latin America a potential environment for investigations related to this area (Stambulova; Ryba, 2013).

Planning for a balanced dual career, or prioritizing sport or studies and/or about activities, involves understanding the barriers and challenges, especially related to the transitions during sports and academic careers, the possible financial investments, the participation of different social agents

such as family, friends and coaches. For this reason, dual career consists in a sociocultural phenomenon that demands broadening and in-depth analyzes within the contemporary times.

The aim of this special issue was to gather empirical and documentary research, as well as theoretical reflections that can contribute to discussion on sport dual career, analysing the impacts on different socio-cultural contexts, both in emerging countries, especially in Latin America, and those with greater tradition in this research area.

Researchers from Latin America, Europe and United States present dual career studies from different perspectives, being distributed in eleven articles.

The first seven articles are related to the sport dual career in the Latin American context. In the first one, entitled ‘Reflections on dual careers of student athletes: promoting harmony between public universities and high-performance sports’ (Costa & Figueiredo, 2021), from a Portuguese-Brazilian partnership, the authors reflect on the athletes’ holistic development, discussing both the conceptual aspects that involve the dual career, as well as the empirical research findings within literature. The authors propose alternatives to Brazilian public universities to better receive and welcome the elite level athletes.

In a partnership between authors from Colombia and Argentina, the article ‘Dual career in Colombia: a state of the art between legislation, education and competition’ (Cortez Díaz & Galak, 2021) presents an analysis on the legal and normative structure related to dual career in Colombia. The authors make a parallel between the international literature and the guidelines and gaps in the legislation of this country focused on support student-athletes.

Still related to the dual careers legislation, but in the Brazilian context, authors from this country present the article ‘Legal framework of the dual career: perspectives and limits of bill n. 4,393/2019’ (Rocha, Pinto & Soares, 2021), with reflections on the title mentioned law project, reflecting on limits and perspectives related to dual career in Brazil. The authors highlight the potential that this initiative has in initiating the political discussion about the dual career in Brazil, noting the need to expand the scope of this legislation not only to the educational institutions, but also involving the families, the sports environment and the labour market that affect the student-athletes.

With an approach based on empirical research, the article ‘The challenge of dual career: analysis on Brazilian women elite futsal players’ academic degrees’ (Maquiaveli et al., 2021), from a group of Brazilian authors, consists in a study with players from the Brazilian women national futsal team, with the aim to analyse the characteristics of the athletes’ dual career. The discussion topics were: the academic degree of the study participants, theirs fathers and mothers; the influence

of the family cultural inheritance on the players' academic performance; aspects related to the athletes' dual career, such as access to scholarships, types of attended schools, class attendance, the withdraw from sport or school activities, and migration from home as a way of investment in sport career.

Also on an empirical approach, the article 'Success and abandonment: a case study in judo' (Romão, 2021), signed by a Brazilian author, presents a discussion on the process of public policies that allow the conciliation between sport and academic careers. Based on the trajectory of a young men judo athlete, the barriers and opportunities experienced are analyzed, such as the distance from the family, injuries and the decision to withdraw from the sport career.

Following, two articles present bibliometric and 'state of the art' analyses on dual career. The first one, a partnership between Colombian and Brazilian authors, entitled 'Coverage of scientific databases on the dual sports career theme' (Amaya Cadavid, Costa & Carneiro, 2021), is an analysis on the scientific coverage related to dual career, and the identification of most important databases for this research area. The authors mention that two of these databases concentrate 90% of the dual career research production. This article contributes to the systematization of academic efforts, observing thematic gaps that demand further investigations.

Another study on this approach, developed by a group of Brazilian authors, being entitled 'Women and Dual Career: fine lines between conciliation and sports dropout' (Martins et al., 2021), is an integrative review on the European scientific production regarding the dual career, dated between 2015-2019, with a focus on the participation of women student-athletes and the gender issues within this context.

In addition to the articles developed by Latin American authors, this special edition also includes empirical studies and theoretical reflections from other contexts.

The group of Spanish authors of the article 'Studying and competing in accelerated societies. Skating on thin ice?' (Mateu et al., 2021) presents a reflection, based on the work of Helmut Rosa, on the dual career challenges in accelerated societies, and the difficulties arising from this context, that are imposed on the student-athletes' lives.

The article entitled 'The 2020 NFL draft: dual-career (dc) messaging on education, families, gender, and race under american capitalism' (Harrison et al., 2021), developed by a group of North American authors, is an analysis on the draft of young athletes for the National Football League (NFL). They highlight the racial inequality in higher education, the role of the athletes' family and topics such as racism and masculinity related to dual career.

Regarding the European context of dual career, the article entitled ‘An innovative European sports tutorship model (ESTPORT) for the dual career of student-athletes’ (Sanchez-Pato et al., 2021), a partnership between authors from Spain and Italy, presents the ESTPORT project, related to sports orientation models applied in universities sited in both countries, delining forms of application and contribution to the dual career of student-athletes within these contexts.

Finally, the Portuguese authors of the article ‘The dual career experience: a study with Portuguese ex-athletes’ (Faria and Vieira, 2021) present a retrospective analysis on the way that former athletes from Portugal perceive their experiences of dual career. The authors discussed implications for promoting and developing a sustainable dual career, suggesting alternatives for facilitating the organizing student athletes’ sport and school investments.

We thank for the Latin American Association for the Sociocultural Studies of Sport (ALESDE) which, through its journal, The Journal of Latin American Sociocultural Studies of Sport (JLASSS), made possible to bring together these authors to present and discuss a topic of undoubted relevance to the sports and education sciences. We especially thank to the editor-in-chief of JLASSS, Prof. Dr. Marcelo Moraes e Silva, for all the support and attention during the editing process of this special issue.

We also thank all the authors who contributed to the development of this special issue. We believe that theirs contributions were precious for a better understanding on the different contexts of sport dual career, both in the Latin America, as in other places and cultures.

We wish you an excellent reading, expecting that these articles’ contributions can provide subsidies both for theoretical reflections and practical actions to better support student-athletes, as well as to promote future studies related to this growing research area.

The editors.

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