

WOMEN SPORT AND DEMOCRACY

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Democratisation of access: a socio-economic perspective
THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURE

**INSIGHTS INTO THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF
WOMEN ORIGINATING FROM THE NORTH
AFRICAN (MAGHREB) PRACTISING SPORT**

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INTRODUCTION

1-The practise of sport by women of Maghreb origin: some key elements for reflection

2-What sports do women of Maghreb origin get involved in?

3- Hypothesis

4- Top sportswomen of Maghreb origin: social characteristics and environment of socialisation

PRACTICE OF SPORT BY WOMEN ORIGINATING FROM THE MAGHREB

Some key elements for reflection

- Women are subject to various forms of domination
- They resort to a series of stratagems to invent themselves a less restricted way of living rather than choose between emancipation and submission
- Practise of sport may take an ambiguous role :
independance / conflict

WHAT SPORTS DO WOMEN ORIGINATING FROM THE MAGHREB GET INVOLVED IN?

- Objectives:

To identify sports that women originating from the Maghreb get involved in

- Methods:

- Resources consisted of lists of registered participants in the Midi Pyrénées
- Sports: boxing, football, rugby, volleyball, basketball, athletics, gymnastics

	Total number of licence holders	Number / % of women licence holders	Number / % of men licence holders	Overall total and % for women and men of Maghreb origin	% of women of Maghreb origin out of all women	% of men of Maghreb origin out of all men
boxing	956	93 9.7%	863 90.3%	90 9.4%	15%	8.8%
Football	101125	4782 4.7%	96 343 95.27%	4993 4.9%	6%	4.9%
Rugby (soccer)	4160	148 3.5%	4032 96.9%	246 5.9%	9.4%	5.7%
Volleyball	2314	1272 54.9%	1042 45%	33 1.42%	1.6%	1.1%
Basket ball	19358	9595 49.5%	9763 50.43%	437 2.25%	4.5%	2.7%
Athletics	6184	2535 40.9%	3649 59%	144 2.3%	2.1%	2.4%
Gymnastics	8034	6596 82.1%	1438 17.8%	139 1.7%	1.4%	3%

HYPOTHESES

- Role of the body in the socialisation of teenagers of Maghreb origin

It carries of a host of social signs

- Family control

71.6% of women practising men 's sports know a man in their family circle practising the same activity (C. Louveau)

- Social origin : working class

The social sphere favours these activities

RESULTS

- Men and women of Maghreb origin tend to get involved in the same activities:
 - rugby (9.4% of women involved are of Maghreb origin)
 - football (6%),
 - boxing (15%).
- Sex is not a factor in its own right when it comes to choosing a sport

TOP SPORTSWOMEN ORIGINATING FROM THE MAGHREB : SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ENVIRONMENT OF SOCIALISATION

- Objectives: To understand how an investment in sport within a Maghrebin family is possible
- Methods:
 - Interviews: 30 biographical interviews with sportswomen in boxing, football, and handball at a top or very high level. They aim at identifying:
 - sports women 's characteristics
 - family environment socialisation of the sportswomen
 - Observation of training and competitions

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SPORTSWOMEN

- Social origin and cultural level
 - All sport women come from working class backgrounds
 - Social evolution
- Religious practice
 - They have given up certain religious practices
- Choice of partner
 - Reluctant to live with a man of Arabic origin

SOCIALISATION OF SPORT

- None of the mothers have practised sport
- Determining factor: presence of a male relative who practises sport

(often in the same activity)

CONCLUSION

- Clear patterns emerge from the quantitative statistical data and qualitative data from interviews
- Not all the women of Maghrebin origin are in a position to approach sport
- Sport can be liberating for young women originating from the Maghreb
- Practise of sport is an indicator of the evolution of democratic liberties and emancipation