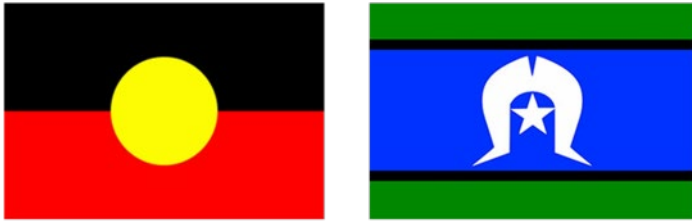


Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre and other Victoria University Olympic Initiatives

We acknowledge support from The Institute for Health and
Sport at VU



Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge, recognise and respect the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Traditional Owners of University land where our campuses are situated. In Victoria, the Bunurong/Boonwurrung, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung of the Kulin Nation; in Sydney, the Gadigal and Guring-gai of the Eora Nation; and in Brisbane, the Turrbal and Yugara people.

As we share our own knowledge practices within the University, we acknowledge that the land on which we meet, learn and grow is a place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We honour the depth of wisdom held by Aboriginal communities and recognise their enduring connection to Country. Sovereignty has never been ceded.



- ◆ 85 Olympic Studies and Research Centres in 28 nations
- ◆ Three Olympic Studies Centres in Australia
 1. Queensland Centre for Olympic & Paralympic Studies University of Queensland (1996)
 2. Australian Centre for Olympic Studies & Sports Studies (1996 UNSW) (2005 UTS)
 3. The Olympic and Paralympic Research Centre at Victoria University (est 2021)
- ◆ Require NOC endorsement and recognised by the IOC Olympic Studies Centre as a member of the global Olympic Studies and Research Centres network

IOC's OSC Services & Programs

The mission is to:

- collect, share and make Olympic knowledge accessible
- foster and support education, studies and research about the Olympic Movement
- offer a platform for dialogue between the academic world and the Olympic Movement

OSC Newsletter

On The Pulse



Olympic World Library



International Case Study Competition

Olympic Library and Study spaces for visiting scholars overlooking Lake Geneva

IOC OSC Research Grant Programs

- ◆ The Advanced Olympic Research Grant Programme - for established researchers every two years (e.g Professor Clare Hanlon and Dr Elliott Flowers from VU)
- ◆ PhD Students and Early Career Academics Research Grant Programme: run annually for early career researchers



OLYMPIC STUDIES CENTRES COLLOQUIUMS

1st Colloquium Loughborough U (LONDON 2012)

2nd Colloquium PUCRS: (RIO 2016)

3rd Colloquium Tsukuba Univ. Japan: prior to 2021 Games
(online only due to Covid)

4th Colloquium, Besancon, France, CEROU

(2024 PARIS) and IOC Headquarters in Lausanne

5th Colloquium, Los Angeles, (TBC) (2028 LA)



IOC related activities/educational programs

-
- Executive Master in Olympic Sport Organisations
- Advanced Sport Management Course
- IOC Young Leaders program
- Athlete 365
- Olympism 365
- International Seminar on Olympic Studies For Postgraduate Students
- *Professor Tracy Taylor who is speaking next can tell you all about these as she has been very involved with many of these IOC initiatives and often travels OS



VU OPRC Leadership team



Dr. Richard Baka



Professor Tracy Taylor



Dr. Jade Haycraft



Dr. Rob Hess



Professor Matthew Klugman

OPRC Key Activities

- ◆ Media requests for Olympic Games
- ◆ Research collaboration (conferences, publications, research grants, etc.)
- ◆ Relationships with other OSCs
- ◆ Networking within the Olympic Community (AOC & IOC connections - IOC Annual Report)
- ◆ UG courses/subjects and PG students
- ◆ Research Associates Engagement



PICOSR Olympic Conference in Korea in November 2023



OPRC Olympic Forum at VU in March 2026: Media Engagement, OPRC Initiatives and Keynote Address

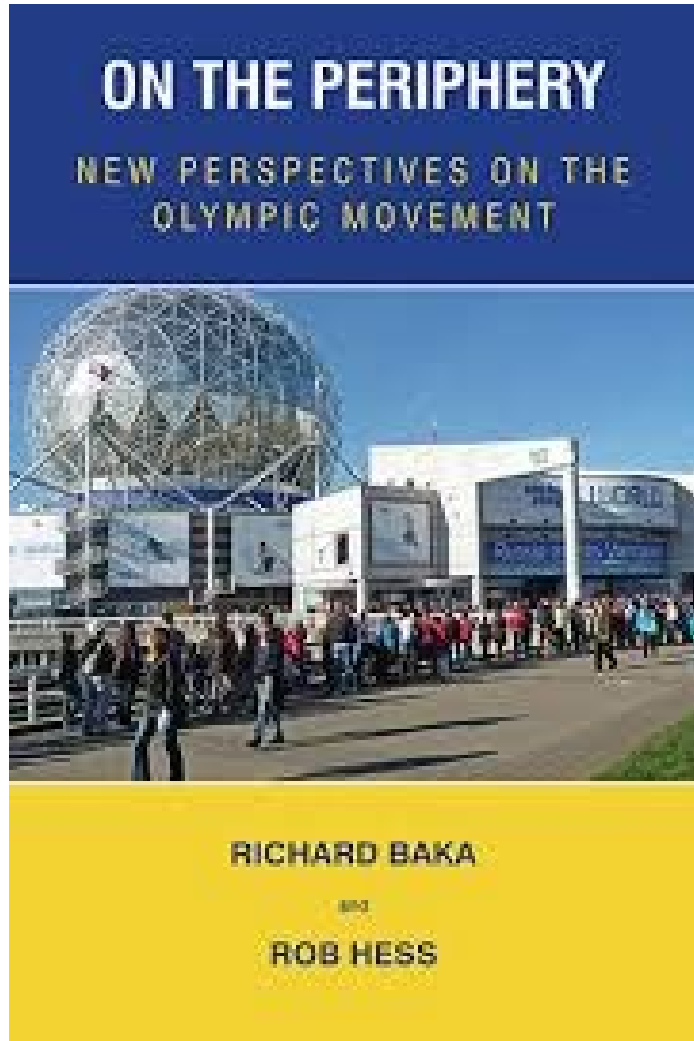
Keynote Address: “A New Olympics Legacy: Enduring Human Rights, Anti-Corruption and Environmental Reforms”; Presented by renowned American Olympic scholar Professor Andy Spalding from the University of Richmond



Speaking Tour to all three Australian OSRCs at VU, U of Q and UTS; with sponsorship of his visit by the Faculty of Law at the U of Q.



Research Collaboration/Networking



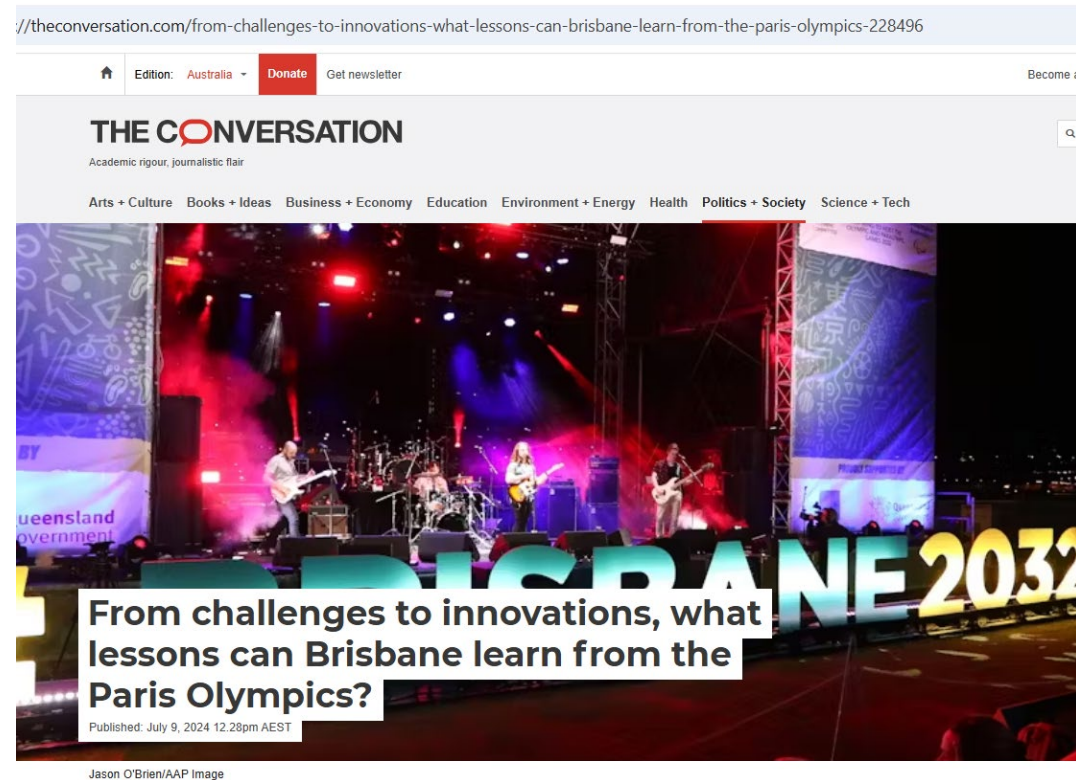
Changes to the Summer Olympics Sports Programme:
Keeping Pace with a Changing World: What is in Store
for Los Angeles 2028, Brisbane 2032 and Beyond!

 DR RICHARD BAKA AND PROFESSOR TRACY TAYLOR 

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC RESEARCH CENTRE
INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND SPORT, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

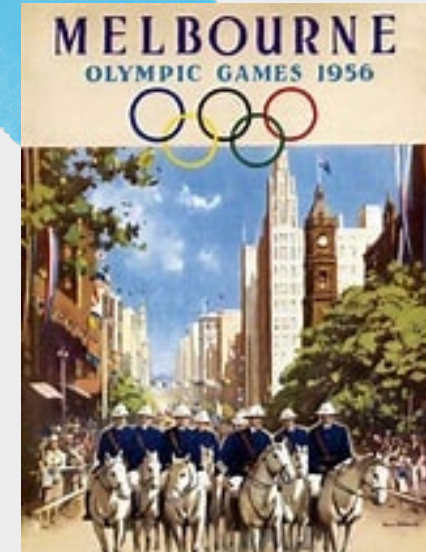
- ◆ Radio: all over Australia and OS
- ◆ TV: Channel 9: A Current Affair, ABC, Al Jazeera TV
- ◆ Print Media (Newspapers)
- ◆ Podcasts and online platforms
- ◆ Student interviews for papers/assessments



Is the Fitzroy River a suitable venue for the Brisbane Olympics, given it's home to crocodiles? Published: April 1, 2026

OPRC Resource Centre at VU (Footscray Park Campus)

- Various Olympic resources
- Archives (e.g. John Deane collection)
- Journals (e.g. Olympic Review, ISOH Journal of Olympic history, etc.)
- Books, posters and memorabilia
- Work stations for staff and visiting academics



Hosting Visiting Academics and Olympic Affiliates



OPRC Associates

- 1. Associates (Internal at VU)
- 2. External (researchers, sports administrators, other OSCs, AOC, IOC, etc.)
- 3. Other (media, individuals)
- *If here today can be added in



YOUR HOME OF THE OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS



Other VU Olympic Initiatives

- 1. Research in the Institute for Health and Sport
- 2. VU Sport: Sport Hall of Fame, Sports Award, Elite Sport and Performer Program (ESPP) and The Elite Sport Education Network (ESEN)



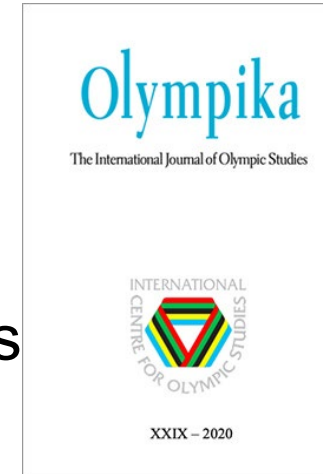
Why Should Anyone Get Involved: The Olympics Inspire

- Research Grants and Research Collaboration; opportunities to highlight research via the media
- Exciting conference locations around the world and ability to see the Games afterwards
- Camaraderie & social aspect (been to many events with colleagues John, Bjorn, Tracy, Daryl & others)
- Close affiliation with the IOC and the AOC and networking opportunities with the wider Olympic community
- Stimulating add-on to your career
- Mentoring by senior academics (*require new young blood – need someone to eventually replace myself and Tracy)



Dedication: My mentor - Emeritus Professor Bob Barney from the International Centre for Olympic Studies at Western University in Canada

- Started the first OSRC at a university in 1989
- Prolific Olympic Researcher (texts, journals, media work)
- Taught many undergrad & post graduate Olympic subjects
- Has been a supervisor for numerous MA and PhD students
- Awarded an Olympic Order in 1997, and the Pierre de Coubertin Medal in 2009
- He is 94 and still active at the university but does not attend the Games any more
- A true gentleman and an outstanding scholar!



OPRC Website

<https://www.vu.edu.au/research/research-institutes-centres/olympic-paralympic-research-centre-oprc>

Thank you

Questions?

