

Nature of Event

Football 150 is an academic conference to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Football Association. It has been jointly organised by the National Football Museum, International Football Institute (University of Central Lancashire) and International Centre for Sports History and Culture (De Montfort University) and it will be held at the National Football Museum, Manchester, UK on 2-4 September 2013.

The conference aims to reflect on the history of the Football Association and develop a blueprint for the future of the game and its study.

My contribution

The abstract of my presentation is as follows:

"The **football** rivalry between England and Germany, though at its peak in 1996, is declining in intensity. The globalisation of sport and multiculturalism in both countries has made the memories of the Second World War increasingly redundant in the rivalry between the two states. While this acceptance of the past has come a bit later to England than it has Germany (as seen by the English media coverage of the 1996 European Championships), it appears that the worst of the rivalry has passed, although one could argue it is because Germany do not see England – who haven't won a major tournament in nearly fifty years – as a significant competitor.

The relationship between the England and Germany national **football** teams is discussed using the framework used by political scientists such as Brandon Valeriano to analyse international rivalry. Using the framework and concepts such as conflict accumulation, rivalry conceptualization and myth construction, the history of the rivalry is discussed, as is the future and sustainability of the rivalry."

Reflection of Value

The opportunity to speak at an academic conference on a topic which I am passionate about would not have been possible had it not been for the flexibility of my degree at the University of Glasgow. The University were extremely supportive in my trip, from helping me during the research stage to the funding of transport and expensive conference fees, and for that I am truly grateful.

Speaking at the event was a brilliant experience; aside from the opportunity to hone my presentation skills and boosting the CV, the Football 150 Conference was above the chance to learn more about my chosen subject from specialists in the field. The chance to network with academics from top universities around the world was a unique one for me, and one which could not have happened without the support of the university.

David Childs, September 2013