

UM-UWC Linkage Program Report
Becoming A National Coach: Understanding How Coaches Make Sense of Occupational Attainment in South Africa

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Between August 2-16, I visited UWC to work with Dr. Marion Keim (UWC) and her research support team (one graduate student, one research professor) to interview coaches working in UWC's sport codes (collegiate sports) and members of the Coaches Association of the Western Cape; and I also gave three guest lectures in courses related to sport, sport and development, and culture. Our proposed research had to be modified due to a myriad of factors: the director of sport codes left the university the week I arrived; Dr. Keim was traveling and out of town for the majority of my visit; and the director of research retired and we could not get in touch with the



new director of research prior to arrival nor during my visit to get a local IRB approval. Upon arrival and meeting with Dr. Keim, we immediately changed our methodology to a quantitative methodology. I adapted my interview guide, creating a survey that we could handout and ask coaches to return during my public lectures and meetings with coaches. Dr. Keim, and her graduate assistants and research assistant (Ph.D.) reviewed the survey and approved it. They expressed concerns with language, particularly questions about culture and race, and suggested that we should delete questions that might offend. These modifications changed the nature of the study, which I expressed to them, but there was little recourse without the opportunity to connect with the director of research and to run a pilot study. Thus, the study became centered on describing the background, experiences, and challenges of coaching youth and college students in South Africa, rather than looking at mobility in coaching.

B. Gathering Data

During my initial meeting, a tentative plan was developed for gathering data. I was to administer the survey whenever I gave talks and Dr. Keim and Elmien Clote (the interim director of sports codes) had established a several opportunities: a talk given to the Western Cape Coaches Association, meeting with UWC's coaches, and two classes composed of students who also are coaches. We expected a high response rate because we would pass out the surveys to attendees and ask for the surveys to be completed and turned in before leaving. Although we didn't have a 100% response rate, we gathered nearly 80 completed surveys out of about 110~73% response rate.

C. Analysis And Presentation of Data

The completed surveys were collected and are being analyzed by Dr. Keim and her staff. Dr. Keim and I have met via Skype once and are setting up another meeting to discuss data, possible findings, and potential avenues for developing a published paper.

D. Other Activities

Dr. Keim and I spoke briefly during the trip but had previous conversations about creating a course that we'd co-teach and offer to students at UWC and MU. In addition, I have been thinking about online courses that we might co-teach and offer to students that could lead to a certificate covering International Sport and Social Development.

I gave three distinct lectures that could serve as the cornerstone of our potential online course offerings - these courses are already offered at the UWC and taught by Dr. Keim and/or her graduate assistant, Jose Cabral: Sport and Development; Sport and Society; and Coaching and Coaching Internship.

I attended sport code practices and/or matches for: men's and women's basketball, distance runners in athletics, boxing, rugby and soccer.

I also visited a middle school - Delft Technical school and spoke with students about American Sports- and two high schools, The Sports School - where I talked about African American sports heroes- and a high school in Paarl with UWC Rugby Director Peter DeVillers - where I talked about teamwork.

Last, I met with Tricia Bam of UWC Media Relations to discuss how American colleges and university used sports as marketing tool.