Systematic Literature Review of the Impact of Hosting Sport Mega-events on Residents’ Housing

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Objectives. This systematic literature review aims to describe and evaluate the findings of all relevant individual studies about the impacts of hosting mega-sport events on host city residents’ housing.

Theoretical background and Literature review. Sports mega-events, such as the Olympic Games, bring a variety of positive social benefits through the process of urban regeneration (Poynter, 2009). However, hosting sport mega-events is associated not only with benefits, but also with negative impacts for the host city. There is substantial literature exploring housing issues in various host cities (Watt, 2013; Williamson, 2017). Scholars pointed that sport mega-events have generated large-scale displacement of poor populations through forced evictions associated with event-related urban renewal projects (Lenskyj, 2000; Watt, 2013). Some academic work has associated the issues of gentrification, polarization, and human rights abuse with housing legacies (Smith, 2002; Butler, 2003). Although some authors have summarized and analyzed housing legacies in some host cities through the method of literature review, there is no published systematic literature review related to this subject. The purpose of this systematic review is to help researchers and policymakers eliminate bias and assist them in their evidence-based decision making.

Methodology

This systematic review was conducted following the PRISMA protocol (Moher et al., 2015). First, the terms were decided by authors to ensure the broadest capture of publication possible. We searched academic data bases (WebScience, Scopus, Sport Discus, Proquest, SocIndex, Public Affairs Index, and Political Science Complete), grey literature and theses in sport and broader social sciences and humanities databases. Next, we downloaded all references from the initial search results and imported them into a group of Mendeley, which allowed for duplicates to be identified and removed. A set of pre-selected inclusion and exclusion criteria were used throughout the screening process that was designed to capture as many possible outlets as possible while excluding works that provided no empirical evidence, were not related to sport mega-events, or did not explore the possible link between hosting mega-sport events and residents’ housing issues.

Findings and Discussion

We found 2,372 records after eliminating the duplicates. Applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, we finished with 308 records to be screened. After screening, 41 records were separated for quality assessment. Thirty-two records focused on single countries, and four records included more than two countries. Among them, the United Kingdom was the most popular country for research, with twelve records. It was followed by Brazil with seven and China with six. Two were focused on South Africa, single studies being conducted in America, Korea, Canada, German, Japan. All of the research design was a case study approach. The predominant data collection
strategies included interviews, document analyses, surveys, and observations. Although the short-term impact of sport mega-event on housing has been empirically found, more research is needed on the long-term effects on residents’ living experience. There is a clear need of more empirical studies to investigate impacts of hosting sport mega-event over sustainable housing in host communities.

References:


