

# Emotions and Values?

## Parliamentary Debates on Sport, Gender, and a National Stadium in the Nationalrat

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### Context: Sport as part of political culture

- Sports is political! political statements and protest by athletes and fans, etc.
- Important policy area at all political levels (see Mittag 2023)
- Platform for political, social, cultural, and economic issues (Mittag/Nieland 2007, Reicher 2013)
- Foster a sense of inclusion, identity and generates public mood & nation branding (Nieland 2019)

### The Parliament as communication space

- Co-structured by media logics, federation rules, and transnational struggles
- Political communication condenses conflicts into accessible symbols;
  - Sport as stage for normative visions of social order
  - Sports generates visibility, affect, and public attention; highly attractive for ideological positioning.

### Trans People in Sport

- Conflicts over gender order, bodily integrity, fairness, and the politicization of sport
- Not only about regulation; it is about persuasive boundary drawing aimed at media, publics
- This debate offers simplified conflict narratives, making it especially useful for “culture-war” mobilization

### New National Stadium

- Symbolic communication = identity work and emotional mobilization
- Parliamentary communication performs “who we are” as a nation
- The National Stadium as symbol of:
  - National pride and unity
  - Modernization and progress
  - Fiscal responsibility and authenticity

### Approach

Qualitative frame and discourse analysis of selected debates, committee records, motions, and public interventions, combined with a mapping of party positions and media coverage.

### Dominant Frames

- Fairness and protection
  - Competitive equality is biologized;
  - Women’s and girls’ sport is constructed as a space in need of defense.
- Equality
  - Counter-positions embed sport in anti-discrimination, participation rights, and LGBTQIA+ inclusion.
- Gouvernance
  - Part of the debate shifts decision-making to federations, expertise, and regulation.

### Dominant Frames

- Modernization and national progress
  - Infrastructure renewal, international competitiveness, nation-building
- Criticism and attribution of political responsibility
  - Failures, political dissatisfaction,
- Regional development and competitiveness
  - Spillover effects, territorial prestige, regional competition
- Fiscal responsibility and strategic planning
  - Costs, needs assessment, long-term coordination

### References

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