**Department of Kinesiology and Community Health**

Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities

The Pennsylvania State University

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I earned my Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Humanities at the Pennsylvania State University and began my career at Illinois, where I am associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology & Community Health and affiliated with the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, Global Studies Institute; and Games Studies & Design. My research and teaching focus on cultural-interpretive analysis of sport and ritual; and ancient Greek receptions/aftermath in modern physical culture. I authored *Social Theory for Sport Lovers* (2021) and am the doctoral research advisor of over 20 dissertations related to play-sport-games. I serve on the editorial boards of *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* and *The Ethnographic Edge;* was awarded the UIUC College of AHS Award for Excellence in Online Teaching; and UIUC School of Medicine Medical Scholars advising awards; and am a past National Endowment for the Humanities scholar (Periklean Athens).

“Play” as theory and content interconnects my life: from previously teaching middle-school physical education and art; as long-time parent (currently of 2 young teenagers); published research on the culture of Nintendo (1993); co-edited volume with Robert Rinehart, *To the Extreme: Alternative Sports Inside and Out* (2003)*;* with Robert F. Fagen, work on plotlessness, ethology, and play (2012); to essays forwarding new knowledge about performance and ethnography (2018-present). I am currently writing a book explicating a thesis to understand sport’s origin and role in human life today.

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Links to selected publications

<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/social-theory-sports-lovers>

<https://doi.org/10.3726/b15947>

<https://www.sunypress.edu/p-3729-to-the-extreme.aspx>

https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137457967

<https://doi.org/10.1386/jcs.7.2.184_1>

<http://www.tee.ac.nz/index.php/TEE/article/view/26>

[https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1532708611430492](https://doi.org/10.1177/1532708611430492)

<https://doi.org/10.1386/jcs.7.2.184_1>

<https://journals.humankinetics.com/view/journals/ssj/aop/article-10.1123-ssj.2019-0186/article-10.1123-ssj.2019-0186.xml>

<https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/26med5bc9780252038938.html>