

Reimagine sports: exploring the Netherlands

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Publication date

2024

Document Version

Author accepted manuscript (AAM)

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Heijnen, G. (2024). *Reimagine sports: exploring the Netherlands*. 46-47. Abstract from D'Autres Corps, D'Autres Jeux/Other Bodies, Other Games Conference, Paris, France.

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Reimagine sports: exploring the Netherlands

In *Theory of the Earth* (2021) Nail presents his kinetic materialist ontology in which the continuous flow of matter is the core principal. There is no such thing as a discrete object or fixed position, only metastable patterns of matter in motion. Building on this ontological position I am exploring the concept of bioregionalism and the sport experience in both conceptual and creative ways.

Keywords: Kinetic materialism, nature, sport experience, art based research

In the project I'm currently working on the aim is to understand human experience in close relation to larger planetary systems. More precisely: developing a (sportive) relation with and within a specific bioregion. Not only can this take us closer to localized traditional sports from pre industrial society, more importantly it can give us the possibility to make a shift from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism through sport. A new understanding considering our existence and to 'planetary health' is what is desperately needed in the unfolding process of ecological crisis (Gammelsaeter & Loland 2022) (Goldblatt, 2023).

Part 1.

In my presentation I'm going to show the trailer (3 minutes) of the film (45 minutes) I'm co-producing with filmmaker Raphael Bourdon. It is a documentary-style film that adopts some fictional elements. It stages three Dutch ecosystems and human sport activity taking place within it.

- 1) Forest, earth (as dominating element), trail runner,
- 2) wetland, wind (as dominating element) windsurfer and
- 3) coastal area, water (as dominant element) wave surfer.

The film is a work of art that synthesizes Thomas Nails non-anthropocentric philosophy of kinetic materialism with images, impressions and thoughts in sport experience. In other words, from the premise that there is nothing outside the continuous flow of matter we can open up our senses and reshape our understanding of the relation between self and world. The film elevates the embodied (including linguistic) conversation between the environment and the moving human body. It becomes evident that the (local) ecosystem shapes, nurtures and revitalizes this intimate relation.

This documentary will be released in the fall with support of the largest nature conservation organization (www.natuurmonumenten.nl) in the Netherlands.

Part 2.

After showing the trailer I will discuss a (draft) paper that assesses the implications and possibilities of Thomas Nail's kinetic materialism for the current debate on sport and environment or 'nature' within sports philosophy (Breivik, 2021) (Loland, 1996) (Welters, 2018), sport management (McCullough, Orr, & Kellison, 2020) (Sartore-Baldwin & McCullough, 2018) and social science (Sparkes, 2018) (Thorpe, Brice, & Clark, 2021). The paper applies a non-anthropocentric approach to re-conceptualize what is 'going on' in the world of sports considering sustainability and ecology.

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