

2nd International Symposium on Social Legacies of the Games: Perspectives towards Milano-Cortina 2026

Date: January 30 – 31, 2026

Venue: Salone Marescotti, Palazzo Marescotti-Brazzetti | Via Barberia, 4 - Department of Life Quality, University of Bologna

DAY 1 | Friday, January 30, 2026

Theme: Can Major Sporting Events Produce Social Change?

- 14:30 – 15:00 | Institutional Greetings and Official Opening
Representatives of the University of Bologna and local authorities.
Scientific introduction to the PRIN-PNRR Project "dis-ABILITY!".
- 15:00 – 15:25 | Institutional Keynote: International Olympic Academy (IOA)
Speaker: Charis Tsolakis (President, IOA).
Topic: The role of Olympic education in promoting social inclusion and universal values.

15:30 – 17:15 | Session 1: Major Sporting Events and Legacy

Moderator: Prof. Sakis Pappous.

- 15:30 – 15:45: Dr. Barbara Maussier (University of Rome "Tor Vergata") - The Social Leverage of Events in Contemporary Society
- 15:45 – 16:15: Prof. Shushu Chen (University of Birmingham) – Building mass sport participation from Major Sporting Events.
- 16:15 – 16:45: Prof. Gayle McPherson (University of the West of Scotland) – The "Story of Change": Commonwealth Games and Social Impact.
- 16:45 – 17:15: Prof. Laura Misener (Western University) – Special Olympics and the evolution of research on social impact.

17:15 – 17:45 | Coffee Break

- 17:45 – 18:45 | Transition Keynote: Uniting Perspectives
Speaker: Giulia Ghiretti (Elite Paralympic Athlete).
Topic: From sport for able-bodied people to elite Paralympic sport: a personal and professional narrative.

DAY 2 | Saturday, January 31, 2026

Theme: Dis-Ability, Sport and Media: From Research to Social Action

9:30 – 10:50 | Session 2: Presentation of the PRIN-PNRR Project "dis-ABILITY!"

- 9:30 – 9:50: Prof. Sakis Pappous (UNIBO) & Prof. Paolo Diana (UNISA) – Genesis, necessity, and objectives of the project.
- 9:50 – 10:00: Dr. Pablo Gómez-Iñiesta (UNIBO+Barcelona University) – The athletes perspective: results from interviews with elite paralympic athletes.
- 10:00 – 10:20: Dr. Valentina D'Auria (UNISA) – The media perspective: results from interviews with sports journalists.
- 10:20 – 10:40: Kostas Goupos (INELSO) – From insight to platform: technical and pedagogical construction of the MOOC.
- 10:40 – 10:50: Open discussion.

Lesson from Tokyo 2020

- 10:50 – 11:10: Dr. Ian Brittain – Do Paralympians reinforce an ableist perspective of the wider disabled population? The case of Tokyo 2020.

11:10 - 11:25 | Coffe break

11:25 – 12:20 | Session 3: The Evolution of Imagery — Retrospective and Dialogue

- 11:25 – 11:50: Martina Caironi (Paralympic Athlete) – The evolution of media coverage of the Paralympic Games.
- 11:50 – 12:15: Dr. Gabriele Prospero (UNIBO) – Comparative film analysis: from "L'aria sul viso" to "A un metro dal traguardo".
- 12:15 – 12:25: Feedback from Martina Caironi on the film analysis.

12:25 – 13:35 | Session 4: Institutional Strategies

- 12:25 – 12:55: Julie Ageron & Valentine Duquesne (French Paralympic Committee) – Narrative strategies and social impact: from Paris 2024 to the French Alps 2030.
- 12:55 – 13:05: Luis Leary (Spanish Paralympic Committee) – Communication Strategy and Successes of the Spanish Paralympic Committee.
- 13:05 – 13:15: Melissa Milani (President of the Italian Regional Paralympic Committee) – A local perspective: the Italian case.

13:15 – 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:15 – 15:25 | Session 5: Methodologies of Knowledge Translation (Sounds and Images)

- 14:15 – 14:35: Dr. Chris Brown (University of Hertfordshire) – The auditory bridge: the methodology of the Disability Sport Info podcast.
- 14:35 – 14:55: Prof. Anne Marcellini (University of Montpellier) – The visual bridge: sociological research transformed into cinematography in the documentary INEXCLUSIO.
- 14:55 – 15:15: Elisa Mereghetti (Film Director) – Representing the intersection between gender and disability: documentary cinema as an advocacy tool (Analysis of the film "5 nanomoli").
- 15:15 – 15:25: Open Discussion: The role of images in overcoming multiple stereotypes.

15:25 – 15:55 | Coffee Break (Only coffee break for Day 2)

15:55 – 16:15 | Session 6: Wrapping it up

Speaker: Prof. Sofia Stathi (University of Greenwich).

Topic: Fostering positive attitudes and social equality via intergroup contact: Opportunities, challenges, and the way ahead.

16:15 – 16:35 | Conclusions and Closing of Works

Topic: Summary of works and recommendations towards Milano-Cortina 2026.