

Northeastern Sporting Borderlands and the Globalization Process: Virtual, Theoretical and Geographical Borders and the Contested Nature of Representative Identities

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Over the past couple of decades or so a considerable amount of scholarly work has focused on sporting borderlands in historical perspective. Much of that work has addressed the development of the Maritimes and New England (and to a lesser extent Newfoundland) as a coherent and highly integrated sporting region¹, but it has also addressed transatlantic sporting connections, considering the Atlantic itself as both a transnational borderland and a highway for cultural transmission.² In a sense, the process of globalization, and its implications for understanding borderland regions and communities, is not simply a recent phenomenon but an ongoing reality with deep historical roots.

The objective of this paper is to look at the ever-changing character of borderland sporting life in Eastern Canada under the impact of globalization. It will:

1. Survey the early history of the Maritimes and New England and the construction of an elaborate sporting borderland region in the period 1880-1960
2. Look at the countervailing influence of Canadian sporting connections and the primacy of those pan-national influences from the 1960s through the end of the 20th century
3. Provide a couple of case studies, one involving the Saint Mary's University football and another the Iroquois National Lacrosse teams, which address the influence of globalization and the crossing of boundaries that have emerged in the ever-increasing virtual universe

¹ Colin Howell, *Northern Sandlots. A Social History of Maritime Baseball*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995); Andrew Holman, ed. *Canada's Game: Hockey and Identity*. (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press, 2009); Leah Marie Grandy, "Rounding the Turn for Home: Harness Racing in New Brunswick and Maine, 1880-1901," (Unpublished PhD dissertation, University of New Brunswick, 2010); Andrew Holman, "Playing in the Neutral Zone: Meanings and Uses of Ice Hockey in the Canada-US Borderlands, 1895-1915," *American Review of Canadian Studies*, 34,1, (Spring, 2004), 33-57; Colin Howell, "Borderlands, Baselines and Bearhunters: Conceptualizing the Northeast as a Sporting Region in the Interwar Period," *Journal of Sport History*, 29, 2 (Summer, 2002), 251-70; Gregory MacIntosh Ross, "Beyond the Abysmal Brute: A Social History of Boxing in Interwar Nova Scotia", (Unpublished MA thesis, Saint Mary's University, 2009).

² Colin Howell and Daryl Leeworthy, "Borderlands and Frontiers in the Writing of Sport History: Confronting the Metropolitan Fallacy," in S. |W. Pope and John Nauright (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Sport History* (London: Routledge, 2010) Chap. IV.; Two forthcoming essays follow the process of ludic diffusion back and forth across the Atlantic. See Daryl Leeworthy, "Skating on the Border: Ice Hockey, Class and Commercialism in Britain, 1845-1945," *Social History/Histoire Sociale* (forthcoming) and John and Robert Reid, "Diffusion and Discursive Stabilization: Sports Historiography and the Contrasting Fortunes of Cricket and Hockey in Canada's Maritime Provinces, 1869-1914", *Journal of Sport History* (forthcoming).