

A systematic review of international comparison studies on physical/sports activity participation and cultural consumption

Katarina Vukovojac, BHSc (student)¹, Brice Lefevre, PhD², Guillaume Routier, PhD²

¹ Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa ² School of Sport & Exercise Sciences, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1

Introduction

Although complex, international comparisons are scientifically useful and necessary for a thorough understanding of leisure practices from one country to another (Peterson, 2005).

In Canada and France, the histories, cultures, sociopolitical structures, and demographics, although similar in some respect, remain distinct and tend to produce specific inequalities in sporting commitment in their respective territories (Canadian Heritage, 2013 ; Lefèvre and Thiéry, 2016).

A comparison study was necessary to better understand the factors underlying participation and non-participation in physical and sports activities (PSA) in the two different national contexts.

We conducted a systematic review to explore the theory, study methodology, and quantitative results of contemporary international comparison studies relating to PSA participation and cultural consumption.

Cultural consumption refers to the material and recreational ways that people can entertain, amuse, and share experiences with others (Van Eijck and Michael, 2010).

Objectives

- To identify studies dealing with comparisons of PSA participation between France and in Canada, as well as on the international scale.
- To identify studies dealing with international comparisons on cultural consumption.

Methodology

A systematic review of literature was conducted using the following online databases: SPORTdiscus, PsycINFO, and Sociological Abstracts. The combinations of search terms that were used can be found in Figure 1.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Published between the years 2000-2017
- Full-text articles written in the English language
- Quantitative Studies
- Peer Reviewed Articles from an Academic Journal/Academic report

The selection process involved a keyword search, title scan, abstract review, and a final selection by a complete reading of an article. Reference lists of already selected articles were reviewed for additional studies not detected in the search.

The following information was collected for each article: the search keywords used, title of the paper, author(s), year published, journal title, DOI, volume/issue/pages, abstract, type of article (theory-based vs. real comparison, type of survey (international vs. multiple national surveys), sample, and study population.

An inductive research approach was used in order to be able to include as many interesting comparison studies as possible. We believe that PSA participation and cultural consumption are overlapping sociological fields with similar study methodologies, allowing for both topics to be equally considered in the project.

Results

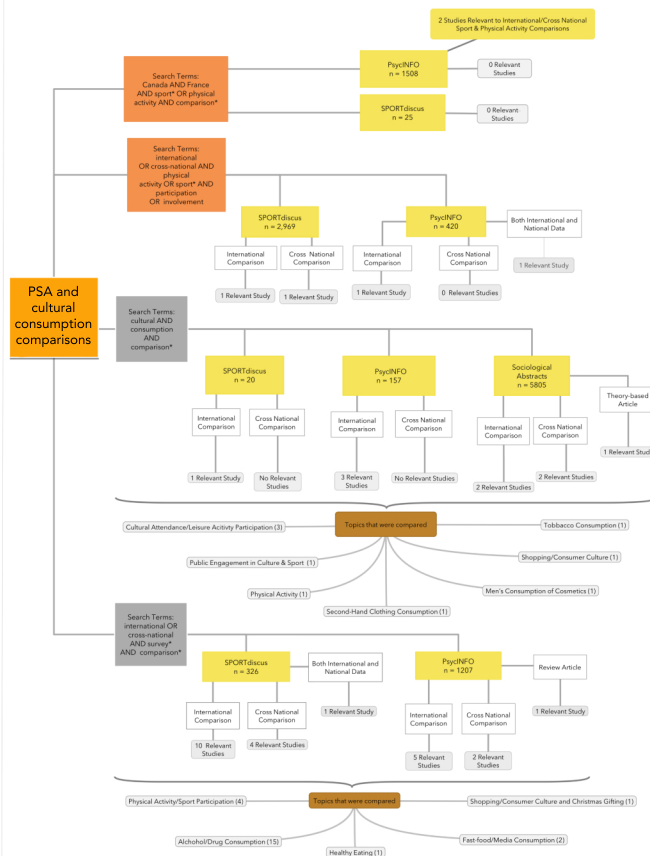


Figure 1. Flow chart illustrating search results and final selected articles.

PSA Participation Comparison Studies

Of the 12 total PSA participation-related comparison articles that were identified, there were no direct comparison studies between Canada and France. One study incorporated data from both France and Canada amidst other country data.

The surveys used to obtain data on sports participation for the international comparison studies included the Eurobarometer, Eurostat, the Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) study, the Short International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ-S), the Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS), and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System questionnaires. Data from numerous nation-wide conducted surveys was necessary for the cross-national comparison studies as well.

Results (Continued)

Countries Surveyed	Various Worldwide	European Countries	Europe & North America	Asian-Pacific	2-Country Comparison
# of Articles Identified	3	5	2	1	1
Type of Survey Data	International		Cross-National	International & Cross National	
# of Articles Identified	8		3	1	
Age of Population Surveyed	Children & Youth	Youth & Adults	Adults	All Age Groups	
# of Articles Identified	4	1	6	1	

Figure 2. Characteristics of PSA participation surveys in the selected articles.

Cultural Consumption Comparison Studies

Countries Surveyed	Various Worldwide	European Countries	Europe & North America	2-Country Comparison	
# of Articles Identified	7	3	4	10	
Type of Survey Data	International		Cross-National	International & Cross National	
# of Articles Identified	16		7	1	
Age of Population Surveyed	Children & Youth	Youth	Youth & Adults	Adults	All Age Groups
# of Articles Identified	6	2	4	11	1

Figure 3. Characteristics of cultural consumption surveys in the selected articles.*

*Review Article and Theory-based Article were not included due to their inclusion of multiple study data.

Conclusions

The majority of the studies identified in our systematic review utilized international surveys rather than cross national surveys; this suggests that international surveys may be superior and more efficient for the purposes of participation or culture-related comparisons between nations. Comparisons of cross national surveys on specific topics can be a way to improve scientific knowledge when the comparability of the surveys is possible.

No information regarding direct PSA participation comparisons between Canada and France could be identified. A potential explanation and limitation of our study is our restriction to peer-reviewed articles, so future studies will need to explore additional information sources that are not peer-reviewed.

The survey information and methodology identified in the selected international/cross national comparison studies can be utilized in future studies to gain a better understanding of various factors affecting PSA participation rates (e.g. gender, age, education, socioeconomic status, language, geographical location, level of centralization of governance, etc.) in Canada and France.

References

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