



**The first edition of the international
workshop "Sciences and Skateboarding":**

**Assessment and perspectives for research
in Social Sciences and Humanities**

Thursday, October 16, 2025,

From 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Cour Mably (Bordeaux, France)

**In collaboration with ESSCA School of Management, the 2025 edition
of the Connect festival presents the first international workshop in
Social Sciences and Humanities on free skateboarding.**

Workshop presentation

Since its inception in the United States in the 1950s to its inclusion in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, skateboarding has continuously evolved in terms of sports, society, culture, and economy, while maintaining the street as its place of sharing. The maxim "*Skateboarding is not a crime*" has long symbolized the resilience of a practice often misunderstood. The sharing of public space has tarnished the reputation of skateboarders, frequently described as outcasts and destroyers, where the exploration of the urban environment on a skateboard seemed incompatible with other human activities. Nevertheless, skateboarding has continued to build its identity through its unique perspective and relationship with the urban environment (Laurent, 2010). Urban specificities of agglomerations give rise to local communities building a style of practice and territorial identity that enrich a protean global culture. Consequently, public decision-makers have found that substituting the skatepark for the street was an ineffective decision. The city remains the place for consolidating spatial experimentation (Calogirou, 2010), now driven by the skate urbanism movement born from the desire of activist communities and municipalities to jointly plan the integration of skateboarding into the urban environment to exploit its potential political, social, cultural, economic, etc. benefits for the community.

Therefore, skateboarding (as a sporting and cultural practice) offers fertile ground for the Social Sciences and Humanities. In recent years, several international researchers have studied how skateboarding has shaped unique identities and communities, influencing, for example, fashion, music, and even urban planning (Beal, 1995; Borden, 2001). For instance, some studies have shown how skateboarding transforms urban spaces and lifestyles, redefining the use of public spaces and integrating values of diversity and inclusion (Machemehl & Roult, 2020). Others have highlighted skateboarding as a means of expression for marginalized communities, particularly skaters of color, who use this platform to challenge racial stereotypes and promote social activism (Williams, 2022). Finally, it has been demonstrated that the urban, social, and cultural dimension of skateboarding reveals both opportunities and challenges for women in this historically male-dominated sport (Wheaton & Thorpe, 2020). Studies emphasize that this practice can support and enhance

the visibility of female athletes, while requiring continuous efforts to overcome structural inequalities (Allamano-Kessler & Mione, 2020).

As a result, all these emerging dynamics make skateboarding a rich subject of study for the Social Sciences and Humanities (Political Science, Economics, Management, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Geography, Urban Planning, *etc.*). **In this sense, the first edition of the "Science and Skateboarding" workshop invites researchers (PhD or Doctoral student) to meet, present their work if they wish, and collectively reflect on the prospects of research in the humanities and social sciences.**

Call for papers

The "Sciences and Skateboarding" workshop invites researchers in Social Sciences and Humanities (Political Science, Economics, Management, Sociology, Anthropology, History, Geography, Urban Planning, *etc.*) to submit contributions broadly related to the workshop's theme. Submissions may include:

- Theoretical papers,
- Field studies or case analyses,
- Presentations on innovative approaches, tools, analyses, or methodologies.

The following themes and issues may be addressed (non-exhaustive list):

- **Skateboarding and Urbanity :**

How does skateboarding transform the use and perception of urban spaces?

How can the needs of skateboarders be reconciled with those of other public space users? *Etc.*

- **Skateboarding and Inclusion :**

What are the challenges and opportunities for women in the skateboarding world?

How can skateboarding serve as a vehicle for social inclusion in certain communities? *Etc.*

- **Skateboarding and Cultures :**

How does skateboarding contribute to the emergence of new norms, values, and habits?

How can the cultural identity of skateboarding be preserved as it becomes increasingly mainstream? *Etc.*

- **Skateboarding and Economy :**

How does skateboarding promote innovation and local economic growth?

In a context of market crisis, what strategies can economic actors develop? *Etc.*

- **Skateboarding and Public Management :**

How do municipalities integrate skateboarding into their urban development strategies?

What are the challenges and opportunities for public authorities in managing skateboarding spaces? *Etc.*

Submission Guidelines and Requirements

If you wish to submit a contribution as a PhD or doctoral student, communication proposal must be submitted as an abstract in English (800 to 1,500 words) and should include:

- Title of the communication,
- Author(s) name(s) and email contact(s),
- Theoretical positioning, research problem, and research questions/hypotheses,
- Research methodology,
- Main results (expected or obtained),
- Bibliographic references.

Submissions must be sent no later than July 31, 2025, to the email address :

workshop.connect@essca.fr

Authors will be notified of the acceptance decisions for communication proposals on August 31, 2025.

Daily Schedule

9:30 AM – Welcome breakfast

10:00 AM – Roundtable discussion

10:30 AM – Presentation of research and discussions

12:30 PM – Lunch break

2:00 PM – Research perspectives

4:00 PM – Workshop closing

The Workshop will take place at Bordeaux Cour Mabli (France).

Information regarding travel and other logistics is available on the Connect festival website.

Registration for the workshop closes on September 15, 2025.

No registration fee is required.

We're looking forward to welcoming you!

References :

Allamano-Kessler, R., & Mione, A. (2020). Qui fixe la norme ? Le genre dans l'institutionnalisation d'une pratique sportive. *Innovations*, 3(57), 85-107.

Beal, B. (1995), Disqualifying the Official: An Exploration of Social Resistance Through the Subculture of Skateboarding, *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 12, 252-267.

Borden, L. (2001). Skateboarding, Space and the City: Architecture and the Body Borden, Berg Publishers (edition First Edition).


Calogirou, C. (2010). Le skate, un corps à corps avec la ville. *Diversité*, 160, 201, 109-115.

Diewald, S. N., Neville, J., Cronin, J.B., Read, D. & Cross, M.R. (2020). Skating into the Unknown: Scoping the Physical, Technical, and Tactical Demands of Competitive Skateboarding, *Sports Medicine*, 54, 1399-1418.

Machemehl, C., & Roult, R. (2020). Urban skating sport: Current research on sports-related urbanity. *Society and Leisure*, 42(3), 321-335.

Wheaton, B., & Thorpe, H. (2020). Action Sports, the Olympic Games, and the Opportunities and Challenges for Gender Equity: The Cases of Surfing and Skateboarding. *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, 42(5).

Williams, N. (2022). Before the Gold: Connecting Aspirations, Activism, and BIPOC Excellence Through Olympic Skateboarding. *Journal of Olympic Studies*, 3(1), 4-27.

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