



Disabled athlete activism

: Motivators and Barriers to participation in activism
among athlete with disabilities in South Korea

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Introduction



- The research on athlete activism ↑ / Focus upon western elite athletes
- Still lack of research on disabled athletes activism
- A complete absence of empirical research on social activism among disabled athletes in non-western cultures
- Approach with Cultural Sport Psychology [CSP]
 - promote understanding in communication and behavior within cultural values
 - lead to uncovering new horizons

Introduction



South Korea

- Pyeong Chang Paralympic 2018
: influence the transition and development of activism

- Confucianism : communication patterns and modes of behaviour
in various aspects of daily life in South Korea
: cooperation and group harmony
: hierarchy and seniority



Study purpose



The purpose of this study is to identify how disabled athletes participate in activism to alleviate social inequalities in South Korea

- Explore the types of activism that disabled athletes engage in
- Discover the motivators and barriers to be activist from disabled athletes
- Make some recommendations to eliminate some of the barriers and facilitate participation in activism from disabled athletes

Methods



- **37 disabled people (18 elite /15 recreational / 4 stakeholder)**
- **Maximum variation and Criterion-based sampling**
- **Inclusion criteria for elite disabled athletes:**
 - (a) Performed at a national or international level disability sport
 - (b) Participated in elite talent development programme
 - (c) Experienced sustained success at the highest level of their sport
- **One-to-one semi-structured interview**
- **Inductive thematic analysis with semantic approach**

Types of activism -1



	Recreational athletes	Retired (stakeholder) and Current elite athletes
Social activism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Writing a novel / essay ▪ Play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interviews ▪ Motivational speech
		<p><u>Current</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteering ▪ Donation ▪ Mentoring ▪ Advertising / Film
Scholar activism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participating in seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research ▪ Lecture ▪ Lead a seminar or forum
Political activism	Civil complaint / Voting/ Protest / Candlelight protest	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting a politician ▪ Policy monitoring

Types of activism -2



	Recreational athletes	Retired (stakeholder) and Current elite athletes
Sport-based activism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a sport club / local event Supporters Join a sport association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status (athletes / medalist) <p><u>Current</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IPC or KPC member/ Paralympic ambassador Talent donation <p><u>Stakeholder</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder (e.g. president of KPC)
Online activism	Social Network Service (SNS) (sharing an information)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a online community (sport-based activism) 	<p><u>Current</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog (social activism)

Motivators/Barriers to be an activist



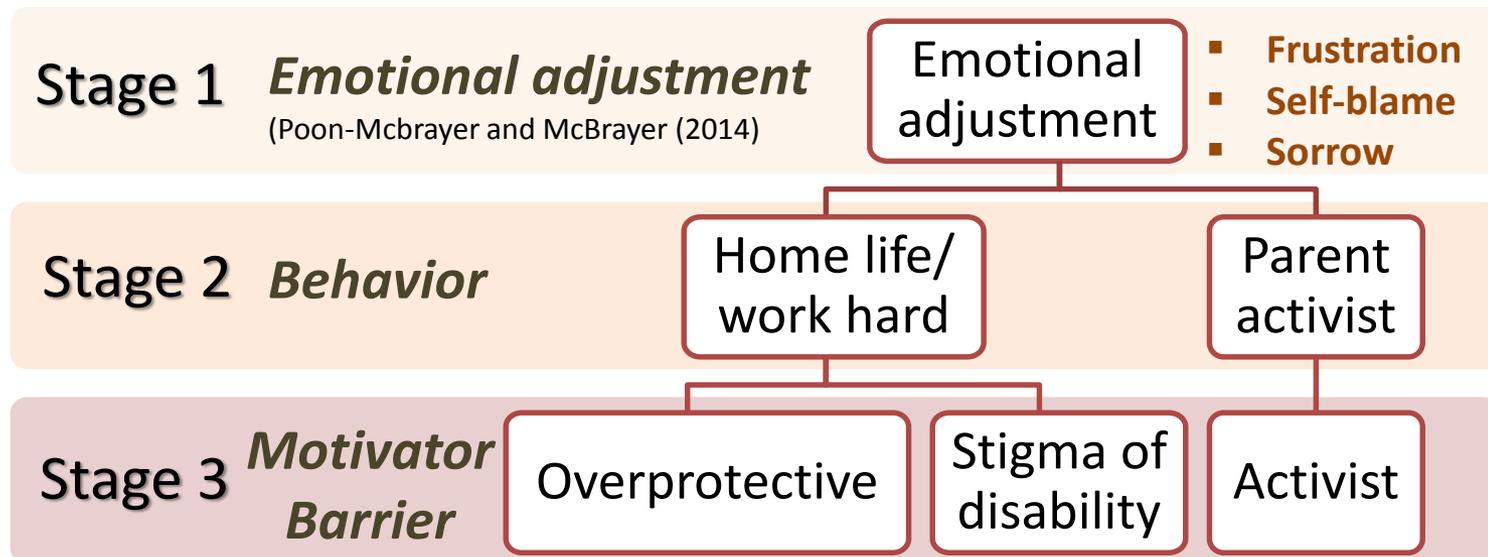
	Motivators	Barriers
<i>Accessibility</i>	Ease of access	Difficult of access
<i>Emotional reasoning</i>	Emotional benefit	Emotional cost
<i>Cultural factors</i>	Cultural facilitators	Cultural barriers
<i>Results</i>	Positive results	Negative results
<i>Society</i>	Develop society	Poor social structure
<i>Others</i>	Other commitment	Other commitment

1) Parent, 2) Position, 3) Personal connection, 4) Community spirit, 5) Age

Discussion

Family/Parent (Confucianism)

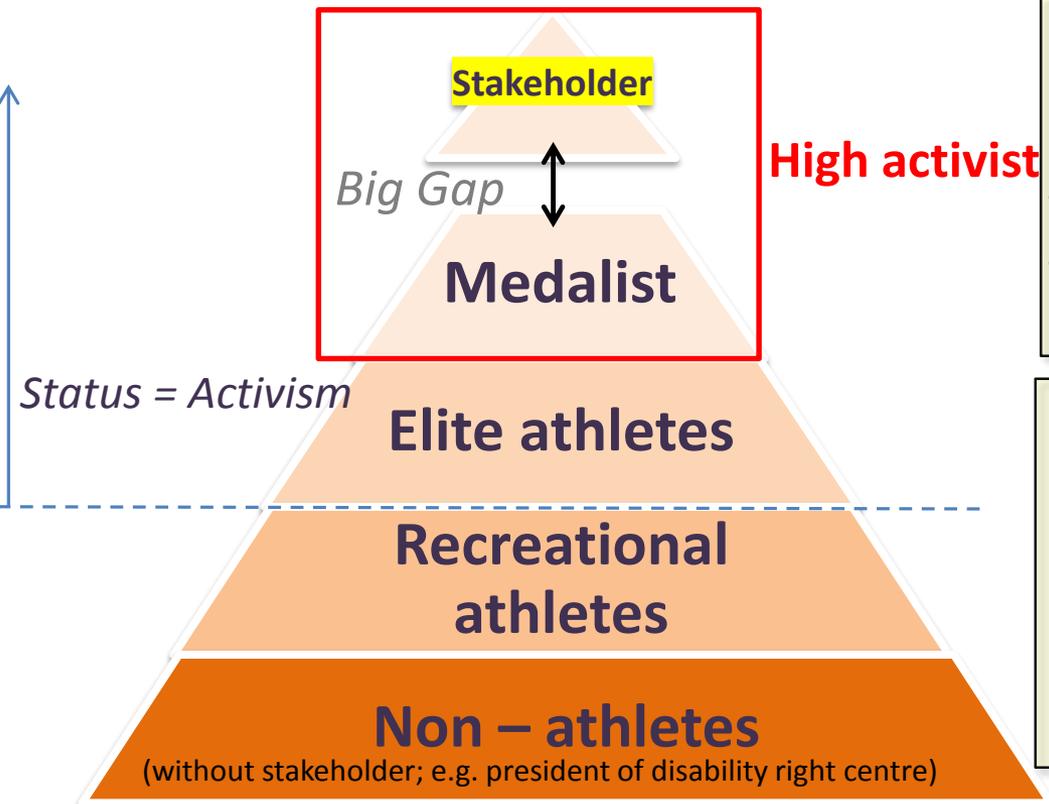
- Five cardinal relationships of Confucianism
: 父子有親 : Children must always listen to their parents (Croll 2006)
- Parents : unconditional care, devotion, and sacrifice (Tagaki 2016)
- Social structure: disability as the results of bad luck or misfortune (Yan et al. 2014)



Discussion

Status / Position (A hierarchy society)

- A position has an influential factor to be an activist in hierarchy society



“Sports society is more difficult. It is more vertical than normal society. If I provide opposite opinion to stakeholder, I may not be in this society anymore.”

[Recreational athlete, Male]

“Someone complaining and raising a problem are bad for people in administration. So I was excluded a lot in society, and ignored. This gave me a motivation or goal with the spirit of fighting.”

[Retired elite athletes, Male]

Personal connection (Factionalism)

- In-group / Outgroup distinction
:regionalism, school relation, kinship, affective networks
- In-group: ‘tolerance’, ‘flexibility’, and ‘trust’
- Outgroup: ‘non-persons’, ‘subject to mistrust’ and ‘hostility’

Birds of a feather flock together



LanguageTies.com/prove

“I experienced about the importance of the personal line while I was doing activism....the factionalism. A follow B’s words... so A can come B’s line. Then this person (A) should become an enemy of the other’s line. Also, even if this line have a power, this line can be decadent. Then it will be like a rotten rope.

[Elite athlete, Male, 34]

Community spirit (Collectivism)

- 'Collectivism' is extremely strong national culture of Koreans
 - : 'Sense of belonging', 'harmony with others', 'cooperation'
 - : 'Group obligation', 'hierarchy society'
 - : Expression such as 'our; (Woo-ri, 우리)' country, family, company, even 'our wife' comes very natural



When talking, people would say, 'The damn guys is wrong' rather than 'He is wrong' So, if I do wrong, it is bundled up totally, not persona area. I am an athlete. If I do something wrong, people think, "all athlete are in the same way" not thinking it as my problem. It has been rooted into Korea society for a long time. So I try to hide my voice, be far from people, and avoid being around them.

[Elite athlete. Male, 44]

Age (Confucianism)

- Although disabled athletes wish to participate in activism, **those who are young or middle-aged face significant constraints**
- Five cardinal relationships of Confucianism
 - : 長幼有序
 - : Old and young have an order or sequence
 - : Vertical relationship – different age
 - : Horizontal relationship – same age (Hyun 2011)
- Young athlete activist – online activism

“Older people tend to think someone who has different or opposite idea is baddy or asshole. They said to me “He is jerk.”, if I had a different idea.

[Elite athlete. Male, 44]

Example

- > the pronoun “You” to the older person as it is considered as rude (Hyun 2011)
- > hard for younger to refuse a drink from an elder (Yum 2009)

Practical Implication



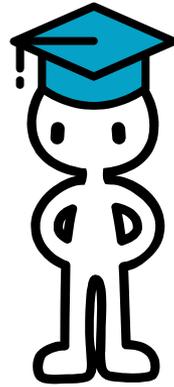
- **Parents**
 - : Support disabled children to adjust to society
- **Athletes / Sport organization**
 - : Use their position to have a positive impact to society
 - : The approach with social media can be useful for young or modern activists
 - : The environment around the athletes should encourage social consciousness rather than put the responsibility solely on the athletes

Theoretical implication



- **Cultural sport psychology / Athlete activism research**
: First evidence on Para-athletes activism within non-western cultural paradigm
- **Future research**
: Southeast or West Asian athlete participation of activism / sports environment

: A comparative study on parent of disabled child to be an activist between Western and Eastern culture



Thank You