

Ronnie Love Undefeated

by

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Introduction

My research project is a hybrid of writing portions and a documentary. The documentary focuses on amateur fighter and boxing coach Ronnie Love. It depicts various aspects that influenced his life and career such as his culture and identity as a black boxer. Showcasing how black boxers are represented across media and how they are seen by others. Overall, both elements of the project will seek to put on display how the boxers and boxing as a whole challenged the white hegemony that existed in the early days of boxing, and even in the past push back against oppression. The writing portions of my project will contain a mix of creative elements and historical elements. The historic aspect will be fueled by various media and articles that are detailed below. A large portion of these articles touch on boxing legends such as Muhammad Ali, Jack Johnson, and Joe Louis. These works are important because they focus on topics that are not only relevant in the past but also in the modern day as well as bringing to light aspects of boxing that are not just seen as violent or vicious. After reaching the end of my project people who view it will be able to gain insight into how black boxers fought against oppression of their race and the significant impact that boxing has had on the world itself.

Research

The research done engages the concept of the masculine gaze and how it relates to African American culture through the lens of boxing. The research was done through the use of both writing and documentary. The documentary shows how the gaze is being used oppressively and how boxing mirrors, transcends the oppression. The end goal of the research project is to see how a modern day African American boxer is shaped by the social contract of the masculine

gaze, also exploring aspects of background and culture. The significance of the research is to bring attention to African- American culture and the social norms that oppress African- American boxers in their everyday lives.

The “gaze” is this concept created by Foucault the idea behind it is that through the use of surveillance the hegemony can maintain proper behavior of its citizens, that being both law and order. Foucault’s idea is that we are all both watchers and watched. The goal of this is to enforce a specific “model” for its society. This theory is linked directly to the idea of the social contract, that citizens forego certain freedoms in exchange for insurance against human barbarism. “The gaze is alert everywhere: 'A considerable body of militia, commanded by good officers and men of substance', guards at the gates, at the town hall and in every quarter to ensure the prompt obedience of the people and the most absolute authority of the magistrates, 'as also to observe all disorder, theft and extortion.”(Foucault 195,196) This idea of the “gaze” can be seen in society every day, the very social norms that make determine if someone is deemed masculine of feminine. My research will expand on this and show how the gaze was used to construct ideals about African American boxers.

A common social norm for African American boxers is for them to be masculine. This social norm has been constructed by the gaze created by boxing culture and certain influential figures like Mike Tyson. “Many fighters, far from being “born” fighters, had to learn fighting to get by as boys in their tough slum environments. Professor Weinberg even found fighters who took up fighting because as boys they suffered insults to their manliness.” (Nathan Hare) The documentary and paper that I have constructed will serve to answer the question of why we have a fixed gaze on masculinity in fighters, and how this fixed gaze was created. Tackling issues of how the fixed gaze serves as a way to even oppress and constrain the fighter.

I believe that through the sport of boxing fighters can meet and face the oppression that the fixed gaze presents to society. “The benefit of boxing training as a bolstering force is set in sharp contrast to the psychic struggle that black fighters faced outside of the ring as subjugated people. By staging physical training in proximity to the suffering of the black man of South Africa, Mandela testifies to the important work of pugilism as a practice in his own life and the lives of other fighters he knew, a benefit that went far beyond physical conditioning. He suggests that boxing offered a kind of transcendence that certainly did not ignore the oppressive conditions that necessitated it in the first place, but nonetheless enabled individuals to maintain a personality not deranged by oppression.” (Kurt Campbell) This is extremely vibrant within the African American boxing communities due to the various amounts of and still continued inequality and oppression of their culture. The training, endurance, and physical toll that boxing puts on an individual almost in a sense mirrors what the African American fighter himself has been through in his life.

The end goal of my research is to walk away with a clear understanding of how the gaze works in boxing in terms of creating a masculine image of a fighter. Going deeper into that, I wish to see the fighter’s culture, being African American, served to facilitate the gaze/image further. Using the documentary as a lens I can further see how the gaze is being used oppressively and how boxing mirrors, transcends the oppression.

Research Questions

1. How do aspects of black culture influence and affect African American boxers as well as how does it play a role in how African American boxers are viewed in society?

2. How does boxing challenge and the white hegemony, and in what ways is boxing a medium to confront and push back against the oppression of the white hegemony?

Statement of Ethics

As a documentary filmmaker, I have a responsibility to protect my participants and present an accurate representation of my subject. Through my film I can easily misrepresent the subject, in this case my coach, in ways that could be seen as slander or harming to his character. Respecting the privacy of my coach as well as how his family would like me to conduct myself while researching and filming him are two more things I need to keep in mind as I carry out this film. In order to maintain these ethical boundaries, I plan on setting clear rules as to where and when filming is acceptable. When it comes to not objectifying his character and representing him truthfully and accurately, I will be showing all the people in the film the documentary before it was published. By doing this, all parties involved will be able to see if there is any portion of it that they dislike or believe is harming their character. While filming and doing research into my coach's life I will always keep in mind what is important to protecting my coach ethically.

Analysis of *What's My Name*

This documentary directed by Antoine Fuqua is about the legendary Muhammad Ali and his representation in society over the course of his life. This documentary is broken down into two parts, each covering a variety of facets Ali encountered such as religion, financial stability, and race. The film also brings up aspects of how Ali was represented in the media and also how the U.S. government saw Ali, presidents such as Lyndon B Johnson, Nixon, and Jimmy Carter. Different groups and individuals interacted differently with Ali. This also changed immensely over the course of his career. Ali began his career being identified with black culture, also going

by the name Cassius Clay. Once Ali begins to gain notoriety and overcomes various adversities in his early career, he reaches a point where he begins to think about his identity as a black man in America. Ali said publicly that he wants to fight only if it is for a million dollars. He wanted to be financially secure because he knew that as a black man in his time there was but so much you can do to live comfortably.

Malcom X and Ali were known to be great friends. Malcom is quoted in the film saying, “ They didn’t like Cassius Clay’s image, they didn’t want negros quoting Ali yelling I am the greatest.” Just as Ali’s career begins to take off Ali tells the world that he quits boxing to fight for the freedom of blacks. He begins to show his faith in god and how religion plays a big aspect in his life. Simultaneously the Vietnam war is happening, and the US Government declares a draft for the army and Ali’s name is called. At this point in his life Ali has converted to the Islamic faith and has changed his name from Cassius Clay to Ali. He uses his faith to fight against the US draft, and the government and all the white America begins to paint Ali as an enemy. They begin to represent Ali in all media forms as a negative person, various talk shows slandered him, and the government even strips him of his fighting license. One was even quoted saying “Ali has made money off American people but won't defend the people’s country.” Despite this being how white America was seeing Ali at the same time blacks in America were beginning to rally behind Ali’s ideals of forgoing the draft. Ali organized meetings to discuss oppression and the draft with notorious black figures at the time such as Dr King, Bill Russell, and Jimmy Brown. Ali is able to acquire his fighting license back and many more famous black people began to show at his fights such as Dianna Ross and Aretha Franklin. Ali’s impact on black culture and society is evident and immediate at this point in the world.

Later in his life Ali purchases a cabin, he does this because of his religious faith and his idolization to live a similar life to that of the first black heavyweight champion Jack Johnson. The cabin was rustic and filled with antique stuff. There was a coal oven, no electricity, and we would get his water from a well. Ali began to realize that his real passion was in helping others, so he started taking the purses from his wins and donating them to charitable causes such as minorities and Africans. When Ali announced his retirement, he used to say, "I'm happy boxing is hell." This film served as a good source to gather insight into how boxing was at the peak of its sport. It helps me connect aspects of not only race and black culture but also aspects of how boxers were represented in the media and how they were seen by white America. It shows how much of an impact Ali had on not only the world and blacks, but his opponents as well. He went from being booed by thousands to being revered by all and largely recognized by most to put it in words Ali would use "the greatest."

Analysis of Rocky

Rocky is a classic American film widely recognized by most as one of if not the most popular boxing films. Rocky depicts the lifestyle of a young man trying to follow his dreams in the sport of boxing. The film stars the acclaimed Sylvester Stallone portraying Rocky. Through this character the film is able to explore many aspects that have been common in my research as well as topics that apply to my project such as social anxiety and identity, as well as how Rocky's identity is defined through how people perceive him as well as how he sees himself. Rocky also illustrates aspects of financial instability, the idea of the American dream and American ideals, and lastly it gives a perspective from a fighter's point of view. There are small moments of religion, race, and referencing boxing legends.

The first shot that the audience is greeted with is a shot of Jesus hanging above a gym, other than Rocky praying before his fight there are not many other references to religion throughout the film, this surprised me because the documentary involving Ali had religion intertwined.

Immediately they place you at the forefront of Rocky's life, you see his home early on and learn how he is lacking financially, he made only \$40.65 for his fights. Rocky's home is small and not appealing. There is ripped furniture and little food in his fridge. In Nathan Hare's article "A Study of the black fighter," I got an insight as to why people begin fighting as well as how fighters had to work twice as hard to maintain financial stability, especially when coming from the slums. Rocky had to work for someone who extorts people for money in order to make his ends meet. You can see throughout the movie that Rocky is unhappy with where he is in his life currently and is unhappy with working Mr. Gazzo, who is a loan shark that employed Rocky.

These are the first signs of Rocky beginning to show how people perceiving him impacts his life. As the fight with Apollo Creed neared Rocky began to say that he doesn't believe he could beat Creed because he is a nobody, a bum. Rocky was conflicted between being the person he thought he could be, and the person people saw him as. He was feeling an immense amount of pressure from the media leading up to the fight as well. While watching the film, what struck me the most was that there were many American ideals spread through. The creation of the Rocky v Apollo fight was based on the concept of America. Apollo and the promoters were trying to advertise the fight as America is the land of opportunity and this is a regular person, in this case Rocky's chance at his American dream. When Apollo makes his ring walk, he comes out dressed as George Washington, the father of our country, Apollo also used the phrase "We want you" while pointing at Rocky symbolizing the iconic Uncle Sam poster.

Lastly, I was caught off guard on how accurate they were on some of the technical aspects of boxing and training. Rocky's training consisted of lots of early morning running, pushups, speed bag work, heavy bag work, and even pad work. Rocky is a southpaw boxer which means he is left-handed; this is extremely uncommon in boxing but is seen as an advantage. All of these things were extremely spot on when looking at real boxers and boxing but what was the most alluring was that the film included Rocky following an old boxing superstition that is still implemented today. There is a superstition that you cannot have sex before a fight because it reduces your aggression and lowers your testosterone. Rocky turns down his girlfriend while he is training for the Creed fight. Overall, I was extremely surprised by the amount of references to relevant things in the world this film had. Being able to show how a male boxer deals with the social pressures as well touching on American ideals, and how financially unstable boxing all the while maintaining a strong plot was impressive and left me wanting to watch the next one.

Boxing History

Boxing since its creation in 1681 has long been plagued by racism. Even since the early days when black boxers left the ring their fight didn't end. Jack Johnson was one of the first black boxers that began to set a precedent and combat against racism. On July 4th, 1910 Jack became the first African American to win the most coveted title in America at the time the heavyweight championship of the world. The heavyweight division was and still in the modern day is seen as the hardest or most impressive division a fighter can compete in. His opponent was a fighter by the name of Jim Jeffries. He was nicknamed at the time as "The Great White Hope." In a complete one-sided victory Jack Johnson K.O. Jim Jeffries in the 15th round, working from inside the clinch to accomplish this feat, Jack was well known for his impressive ability to fight on the inside. After his victory blacks everywhere publicly and privately celebrated, Jack was a

symbol for defying the disgraceful and humiliating customs of America at the time. Jack was rich in a time where blacks were poor, he was also free to most things' blacks weren't allowed to do. Other blacks had to bear their oppression in silence because of fear of violent retaliation from society whereas Jack didn't have those same stipulations.

Muhammed Ali is regarded by most as the best boxer of all time. After his passing, he is remembered not only for his performances in the ring but also his efforts outside the ring as an activist. Even though he is recognized as the greatest by many people, a lot of boxing experts would say that we never saw Ali in his prime. This was because during his best years Ali was banned from the sport. Just as Ali was reaching his peak so was the Vietnam War. The U.S. government began to draft people to the war. If you were called to enter the draft you could not deny the government, doing so was seen as un-American. Converting to the Islamic faith changing his name from Cassius Clay to what we all know now as Muhammad Ali, Ali would become an important figure in fighting against the draft as well as freedom for blacks. Many American's would begin to turn on Ali, at the same time the government would begin to portray him as a villain. "It is in the light of my consciousness as a Muslim minister and my own personal convictions that I take my stand in rejecting the call to be inducted. ... I find I cannot be true to my beliefs in my religion by accepting such a call. I am dependent upon Allah as the final judge of those actions brought about by my own conscience (Muhammad Ali)." Ali was active in fighting for freedom and equality for blacks. He was known to have great relationships with like-minded individuals that also wanted the same things for blacks in America, people like Malcolm X and Dr King. Ali was a huge contributor to the Cleveland Summit. This was a gathering of black influential figures in America at the time, a handful of them were highly

revered sports athletes Bill Russell, Jim Brown, and Kareem Abdul Jabbar were all in attendance. This meeting marked a turning point in sports in the fight against injustice.

Modern day black boxers do not go through nearly as much trials and tribulations as their previous idols. People like Ali and Jack Johnson sculpted the path for people like Deontay Wilder and Floyd Mayweather. Wilder is considered the modern-day Mike Tyson; he is a boxer with high destructive knockout power. To people who are not fans of the sport they might know Deontay from a famous clip of him screaming “till this day” in an interview. In this interview he was talking about the mass racism he sees on TV in regard to police brutality and white racism in general. Wilder believe even in the modern-day blacks are oppressed and seeks freedom for blacks.

Creative Writing

He rises from his slumber 6ft even, the only thing on his mind is his weight. As he arrives closer and closer to the scale the only thing Ronnie is thinking about is everything, he ate the night before. His mind races from the salad to the burger even to the late-night pasta he had. His anxiety rises, he feels a small drop of sweat fall from his brow. He’s never nervous. When he’s in the ring he never fears any opponents. To Ronnie maintaining the 201lb weight limit is just another opponent he needs to defeat. Ronnie looks in the mirror, pauses as he scans his body and his gaze becomes stuck on his abs. Ronnie takes one huge deep breath as steps onto the scale. The 3 seconds the scale takes to read his weight seems like 3 hours to him. The scale turns on and reads 209. Ronnie has made the weight range he wants but his face shows nothing but

disgust and disappointment. Fueled by his motivation to drop 8 more pounds he grabs his gym bag and heads to his home, the gym EBF, ready to start his morning workout.

As Ronnie enters the gym, he is greeted by other trainers already well into a workout, however Ronnie doesn't say much to them as he makes his way to the back, his eyes set on the treadmills. There were 10 treadmills all of them meticulously lined up next to each other. Behind them an overbearing wall lined with mirrors resembling a dance studio. As Ronnie sets the incline and his desired speed, his lips are beginning to widen covering his face with an immense smile. This is what he lives for, training, to become better to challenge himself and his body. To him, boxing is always what or who is the next challenge. When you're in the ring it's pure isolation. It's just you, and the only thing across from you is a raging bull with one thought in his mind; hurting you. Ronnie thrives off this isolation, whenever he is in the ring it resembles a surgeon undergoing his favorite procedure. Calm and cool, dissecting every moment that his opponent makes and turning their strengths against them.

There are many reasons why Ronnie puts himself through the things that he does, from cutting weight to training every day. The things that inspire and motivate him to continue boxing everyday are rooted deep in what previous black boxers have done for the sport and society at the time. People like Ali and Jack Johnson are just some of the many boxers that serve as Ronnie's idols. His identity as a black man in this sport of boxing is something that Ronnie never forgets. It is on his mind every day and serves as an x factor that gives him strength, fueling him. He knows that every time he trains, every time he steps into the ring, he has to live up to the standard that the previous legends have set before him. To Ronnie if he doesn't come out on top, he has disappointed them, let down his idols. In his mind, everything that they have done for black boxers will be thrown away if he walks away without a victory.

Bibliography

1. Foucault Michel. *Discipline and Punish*. Wordpress, Wordpress,

<https://selforganizedseminar.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/foucault-panopticism.pdf>.

Michel Foucault talks a lot about the gaze, as well as other theories such as the panopticon. A panopticon is a construct of a prison system. This concept of this system is one singular tower in the center surrounded by the prisoners in cells. The idea is that at any time the prisoners cannot tell if they are being watched by the guard in the single tower. The belief behind it is that the prisoners will effectively regulate and monitor their own behavior because they are forced to act as if they are being watched at all times. And, in order to be exercised, this power had to be given the instrument of permanent, exhaustive, omnipresent surveillance, capable of making all visible, as long as it could itself remain invisible. It had to be like a faceless gaze that transformed the whole social body into a field of perception: thousands of eyes posted everywhere, mobile attention ever on the alert, a long, hierarchized network.” Here Foucault displays the power that the police have through their means of surveillance. In Foucault’s mind the gaze is a surveillance technology that the government/state uses to maintain full autorotative control of its citizens (law and order). The significance of this source is to form my concept of the gaze as well as how Foucault relates his idea of the gaze to the social contract. I will use his theories on the gaze to help me think about ways that black male boxers are seen and represented throughout the media.

2. Hare, Nathan. *A Study of the black fighter*. *The Black Scholar*, vol. 3, no. 3, 1971, pp. 2–8.

JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/41203692.

This article by Nathan Hare focuses on many aspects of being a black fighter. Hare discusses things like how black childhood such as growing up in negative places like slums can affect the lives of black fighters. “ Because of this premium placed on white fighters, black fighters feel that they must fight them harder in order to get ahead. Black fighters especially are forced to seek in boxing the financial security and the social esteem denied them outside the ring, not to mention the knowing resentments built up from a lifetime of abuse suffered at the hands of white supremacists.” This goes to show how hard and trying it was for black boxers to rise up. Boxing also served as a platform for voices of black people. The ring was a place where no white man could deny their strength. He also touches on reasons why blacks got into fighting despite not being exposed to sports like boxing in their culture. “Only 5% of the scientific boxers attributed their initial interest to street fighting, whereas 48% gave the reason for a fondness for sports.” This source forms as a way for me to see the cultural side of fighters/boxing as well as reasons why black kids get into boxing and the goals they want to achieve.

3. Campbell, Kurt. To Think as a Boxer. *Transition*, no. 116, 2014, pp. 120–127. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/transition.116.120.

This source is in reference to a sculpture that was shown to the public on May 25th, 2013. This sculpture was a tribute to the icon Nelson Mandela, the sculpture was entitled “shadow boxing”. The artist responsible for this creation is Marco Cianfanelli, the basis for the sculpture originated from a photograph of young Nelson Mandela sparring on a rooftop of a high-rise building. The piece touches on aspects of apartheid and the tenacity as well as the strategy that boxers must embrace in order to secure victory. Nelson Mandela had very strong thoughts on boxing. Mandela believed that first through the practice of boxing, that in itself brings together the mind and body in an act of self-work. This action develops a resilience that brings benefits to the boxer

in the real social world. Mandela boxing was a symbolic representation for the fight for equality, as well as the fight for dignity and human rights. Mandela did this through the South African legal system. The notion of the boxing ring seems almost ironic to Mandela, seeing as people who are considered “champions” of the struggle were essentially boxing outside the. The ring they were boxing in is a biased and distorted one in its nature. Cianfanelli’s Sculpture represented the reminder of the disparity between law and justice as well as the need for transparency and accountability in the service of the rights of citizens. “Boxing offered a kind of transcendence that enables individuals to maintain a personality not deranged by oppression” (Mandela). This article is serving to shape the talks around how boxing comebacks oppression in the face of the black man. “The benefit of boxing training as a bolstering force is set in sharp contrast to the psychic struggle that black fighters faced outside of the ring as subjugated people.”

4. Moore, Louis. *I fight for a living: Boxing and the battle for black manhood*, 1880–1915.

September 11, 2017. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1537781418000154>

This source is of Louis Moore’s book *I fight for a Living*. This book assesses many things in relation to boxing. Focused on the time between 1880-1915, the book touches on aspects of economic independence for black men, what is the role for boxing for black men. It also seeks to define manhood in black boxers on terms back then. Moore dove into media coverage that represented many different black boxers, all of which contested the white hegemony in and outside the sport at the time. There is a heavy focus on both the physical and business sides of the sports as well as how broad social norms and expectations are placed upon black men. “As the United States economy shifted from preindustrial to industrial, native whites and immigrants

alike stymied economic opportunity for black men.” Moore introduces the concept of a “race man.” This is an individual that is held as representative of an entire race and culture. Many black men wanted to uplift the community and promoted ideas like equality, pride, and ideal masculine values. White communities would portray these things as menacing and violent. “That such a culture posed a threat to a race man because great prize fighters who proved black superiority in the ring became ostracized figures in a battle for racial uplift if they failed outside the ring.” I will be using this to help construct my ideas around how society thinks about black boxers as well as using it to compare and contrast the ways that were treated by the white hegemony then to the modern day.

5. Selby, G. S. (2004). The fight of the century: Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, and the struggle for racial equality. *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, 7(1), 96-99.

doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1353/rap.2004.0031>

This is a source focus on some history of boxing mainly on the African American hero Jack Johnson. On July 4th, 1910 Jack Johnson became the first African American to ever win the most coveted title in America at the time, the heavyweight championship of the world. To achieve this feat, he beat white boxer Tommy Burns, he also defended his title against Jim Jeffries nicknamed at the time as “the Great White Hope.” There was an active search all over for “the Great White Hope,” someone white to defeat Jack Johnson. After the overwhelming win by Jack Johnson, blacks everywhere publicly and privately and publicly celebrated Jack. Jack was a symbol for defying the disgraceful and humiliating customs of America at the time. Johnson was rich in a time where blacks were poor, he was also free to most things’ blacks weren't allowed to do. Other blacks had to bear their oppression in silence because of fear of

violent retaliation from society whereas Jack didn't have those same stipulations. This source is being used to form discourse around boxers in direct relation to challenging the white hegemony. It also serves to provide a background of historical boxing knowledge that was crucial not only to the sport but to society at the time.

6. Washington, R. E., & David, K. (2001). Sport and society. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 27, 187-212. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1146/annurev.soc.27.1.187>

This article focuses on the sociology of sports and how things like gender race and class all play a part in various issues among sports. Adding on to that, the article goes into detail about how media and globalization of sports have also impacted and affected sports. Sports have a wide variety of representation in the media. This article notes how often sports have their own dedicated section within newspapers. Sporting events easily fill massive stadiums all over, this also carries into society. People often become infatuated with sports, forming their own fantasy leagues and many debates among peers about who's player is better. Focusing more on their media representation sports usually generate a large revenue for advertising, radio, and television time. This source uses the term "hegemonic masculinity." This is gender studies theory created by R.W. Connell, it is used to explain how men are able to maintain a strong and dominant social role over women throughout history. Based on this theory this source looks at sports to "be viewed as a site of ideological struggle where individual lives and experiences are involved in a process of interpretive negotiation with the surrounding social structures."

7. Saeed, A. (2011). 'Worthy of all praises': Muhammad Ali and the politics of identity. *Soundings*, (47), 123-129. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.3898/136266211795427567>

This source talks about how Muhammad Ali identity as a Muslim as well as how Ali confronted racism throughout his career. It shows how Ali was able to transcend racism and inspire blacks and Muslims alike. “We emotionally invested in the adoration of Ali because he encouraged us to escape for a time what is and must be. Ali provided inspiration. He was an oasis for us in a world where being non-white meant being constantly subject to abuse, taunts and ridicule. He provided us with respite.” Ali had a growing interest in a black organization called the Nation of Islam. The NOI offered blacks in a time where they were being largely oppressed by religion and social concepts that offered position sources of self-esteem as well as political change. The NOI at the time when Ali joined was seen as a black supremacist organization. One of their beliefs was that one day the white race would be destroyed. Another notable figure in this organization was Malcom X. This action turned Ali into a villain and society treated him as such, stripping him of his boxing license and painting him as unpatriotic in the media. “Ali is the first 'free' black champion ever to confront white America . . . In the context of boxing, he is a genuine revolutionary ... To the mind of 'white' white America and 'white' black America, the heavyweight crown has fallen into enemy hands. Ali is conceived as 'occupying' the heavyweight kingdom in the name of a dark, alien power.” Ali went from a hero to all to an enemy of America.

8. Hopkinson, L. (2015). Descartes' shadow: Boxing and the fear of mind-body dualism.

HAU : Journal of Ethnographic Theory, 5(2), 177-199.

doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.14318/hau5.2.012>

Boxing and the fear of the mind-body dualism discuss aspects of boxing training and how training in gyms promotes a holistic sense of self. Placing himself into actual boxing situations Hopkinson examines how the body is objectified and used in training. He notes that “Carl moves

my limbs individually, objectifying each as he does so. Furthermore, the way Carl urges *me* to actively articulate subsections of my body—twist my hips or raise an elbow—shows how each body part is conceptualized as subject to the individual’s mental control.” He believes that boxing is essentially dualistic. In order to properly complete the moves, you have to instinctively move your body and hands independently of one another. You may have to twist your hips for an offensive hook while simultaneously raising or lowering portions of your body for defensive reasons. Later Hopkinson gets into how this translates into sensory elements. The sound and feeling of a satisfying snap or crack on a pad engage the body in a sensory moment. Both the coach and the fighter are able to feel this moment. Combining the dualistic practices of training with the sensory feelings Hopkinson believes this is what leads to the emergence and shaping of selfhood.

9. Kaye, Andrew M. “‘Battle Blind’: Atlanta’s Taste for Black Boxing in the Early Twentieth Century.” *Journal of Sport History*, vol. 28, no. 2, 2001, pp. 217–232. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/43609893.

This is an article that talks about customs in Atlanta during the early twentieth century. The custom that was witnessed involved what was described as a battle royal. It was an elimination style fight, that would have up to 12 people participating. The participants were given weapons and the winner was awarded with a small monetary value. This battle royal never included white mostly blacks and Mexicans, even though many whites watched and cheered along. The royal was usually on the opening of a boxing card. Diving into reasons why these fights were organized and the meaning beheading them. What struck out to me the most was the connection between the admiration blacks had for “hard” trials that famous black athletes had to overcome, and the inability for adolescents at a school to identify influential white philosophers/writers.

10. "Sports and Modern Boxing." *Boxing Is No Cakewalk!: Azumah 'Ring Professor' Nelson in the Social History of Ghanaian Boxing*, by DE-VALERA NYM BOTCHWAY, NISC (Pty) Ltd, Grahamstown, South Africa, 2019.

This is a biography that was published in 2019. It focuses on the interactions between politics, sports, economics, and society as a whole. It approaches these topics through the lens of Ghana, their imperialism and their sports. Sports can serve as a way for a ruling class to maintain a hegemony and control over the proletariat. Through sports there could be a creation of shared beliefs and attitudes between people of different classes. Through the lens of Ghana this would be the British passing on their belief about standards and social behavior. Games like cricket, boxing, and tennis were all sports that showed examples of "their social behavior" and became adopted by people in Ghana, even the governor. There is a historical background given to boxing, originating in England from English fist fighting.

11. Roberts, Randy. "The Two-Fisted Testing Ground of Manhood': Boxing and the Academy." *The Journal of American History*, vol. 101, no. 1, 2014, pp. 188–191. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/44285957.
12. RUNSTEDTLER, THERESA. "The New Negro's Brown Brother: Black American and Filipino Boxers and the 'Rising Tide of Color.'" *Escape from New York: The New Negro Renaissance beyond Harlem*.
13. ERENBERG, LEWIS A. "More than a Prizefight: Joe Louis, Max Schmeling, and the Transnational Politics of Boxing." *Beyond Blackface: African Americans and the Creation of American Popular Culture, 1890-1930*.
14. Thomas Hauser. *The Boxing Scene*, 2009.

This book focuses largely on the boxing scene as a whole and various iconic boxer within. Taking you through their trials and tribulations for example Evander Holyfield's journey to regain the heavyweight championship way past his prime. It also shows how people not only

outside but inside view boxers in the boxing community. You gain insight into how some boxers thought about boxing and why they did it. Most boxers competed for personal gain or internal gain rather than for monetary gain. Evander Holyfield even talks about how if someone gave him a billion dollars to quit boxing, he would still fight the next day. The ionic boxers that we look up to now all had unbelievable self-belief within themselves. They believed in not only the things they could do but also the feats they could reach and accomplish.

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