

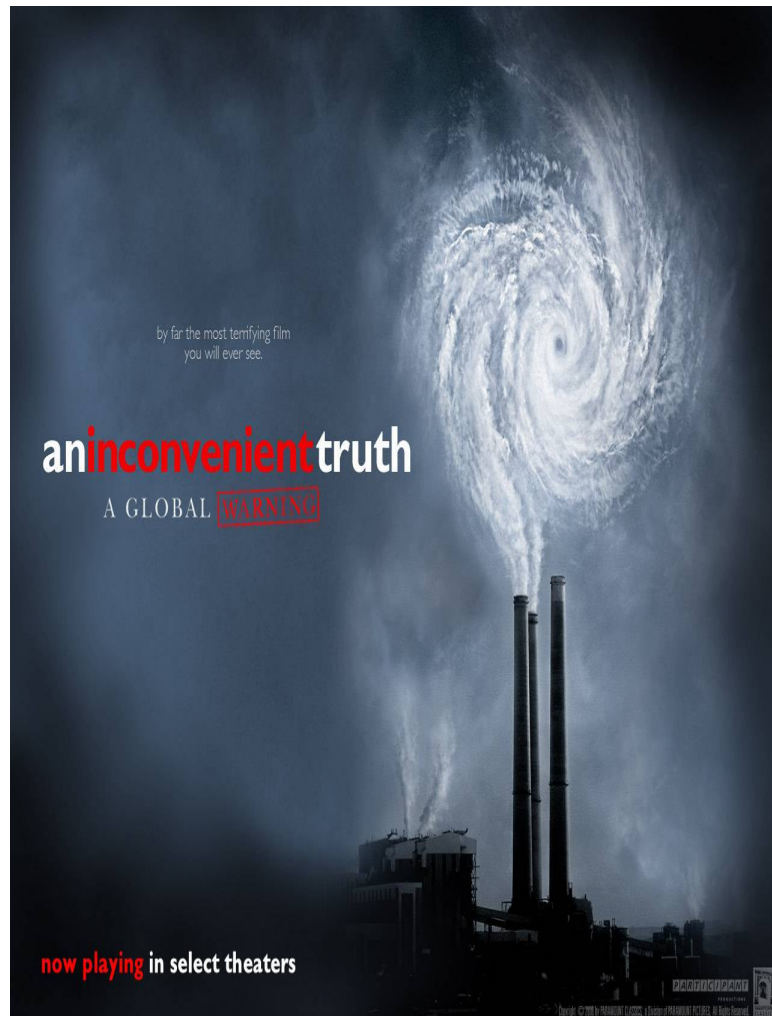
Who's to blame for present-day children's sport paradoxes: **Socrates or Nietzsche?**

Lamartine DaCosta



Children, Sport, and Physical Activity: Philosophical Dimensions

The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada - May 30 – June 01, 2007



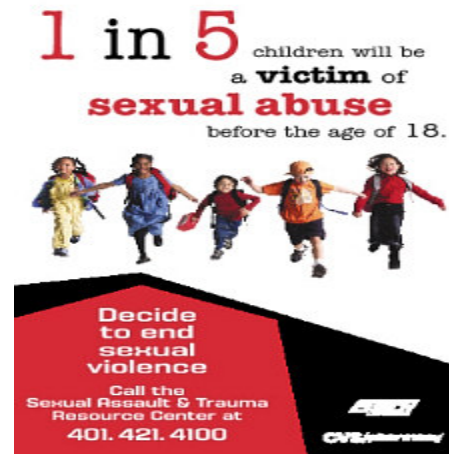
Children's sport harms and abuse: **another world-wide inconvenient truth?**





Are children and adolescents becoming a “commodity”* in today’s world, including high performance sport?

* D. McArdle’s theory (2007)



Criminal gang members, drug trafficking, child prostitution etc



War children



Child labour

Are these facts evidences of
“commodification”
of children and / or family
dysfunctionality?



Children acting as priests



Adolescent mother



Adult children's toys

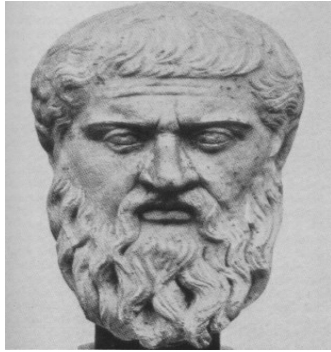
The great success of Miss Sunshine in different continents in 2006 would represent a reaction against adult child competitive pressures in addition to a rediscovery of traditional family values?





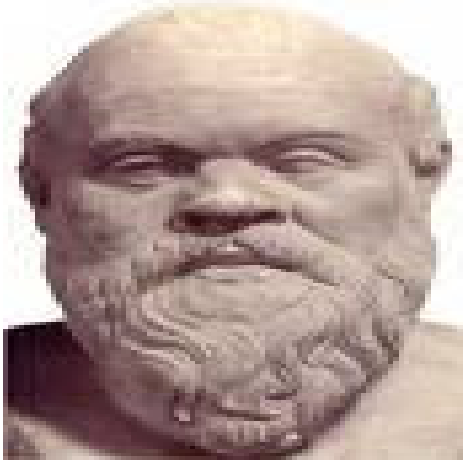
This presentation aims to provide philosophical overviews of the following historical and sociological contexts from children's negative impacts in sport:

- 1.The rise of technological society and fall of humanism
- 2.Children as a social construction
- 3.The restoration of family's love, happiness and mutual respect
- 4.The paradoxical nature of today's sport



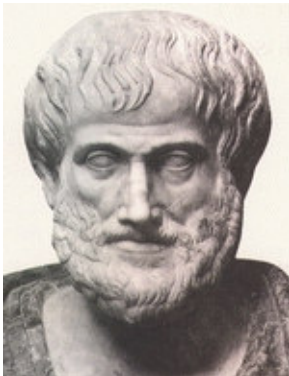
“Children may be raised and educated by the society as a whole, rather than by their parents”

Plato



“Children nowadays are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food and tyrannise their teachers”

Socrates



“The right policy in regard to physical training is to avoid an excessive early training...In the records of Olympic victors there are only two or three cases of the same person having won in the men’s events who had previously won in the boy’s”

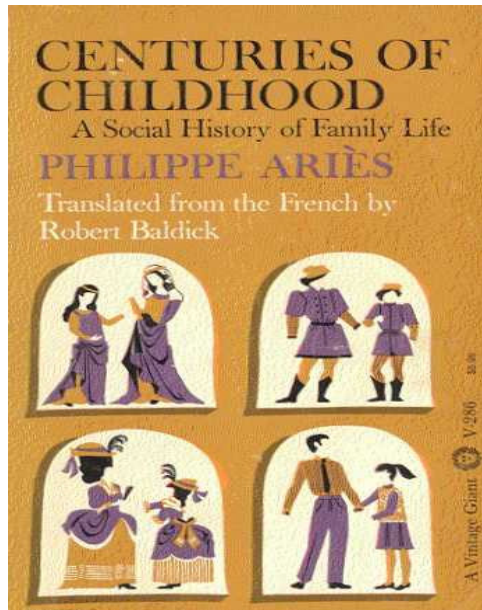
Aristotle



Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche
1844 - 1900

- Dehumanizing effects of the mechanization of society
- Rejection of humanity in favor of the “Overman”
- Emphasis on the individual ethical concept (agonistic)
- Perspectivism and transvaluation of all values

[And social groups, family, women, children etc ?]



1914 - 1984

Children as a social construction in Europe – 17th to 19th centuries – and then everywhere...



Joseph Wright of Derby
"The Wood Children" c1789

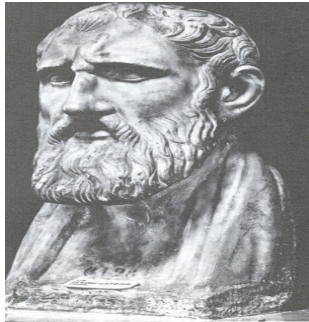


Diego Velasquez,
"Las Meninas" 1656

Infanta Margarita Teresa of Spain



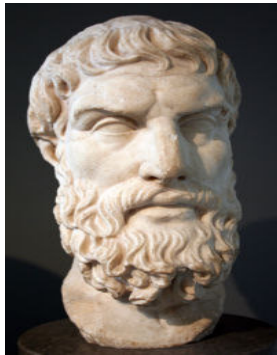
Soccer's talents in Africa, 2000s



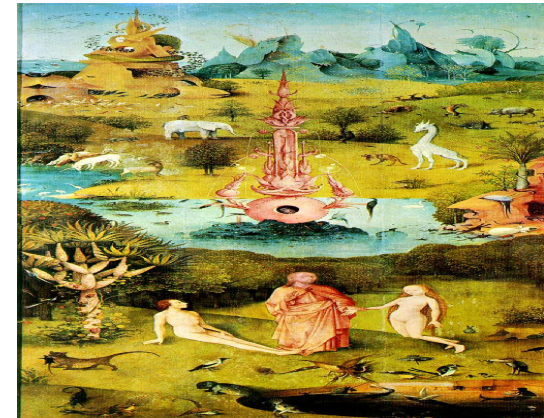
Zeno of Citium
333 BC - 264 BC



"He was a Stoic's Stoic."



Epicurus
341 BC, Samos – 270 BC,
Athens

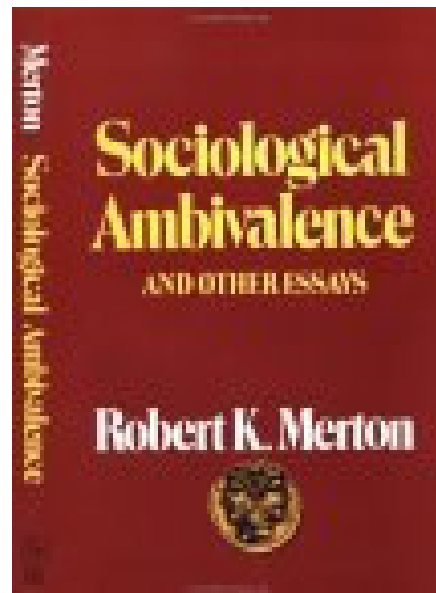


Luc Ferry
2003





Gunther Luschen in the 1970s: Conflict vs Integration and Emancipation vs Repression in sport social relationships



Robert K. Merton in the 1940s:
Ambivalence of certain typified social facts



Auguste Rodin The Kiss



Philosophy of love*:

- Erotic love
- Christian love
- Moral love
- Love as power
- Mutual love

* R.E. Wagoner, 1997

CONCLUSION

The philosophical dimensions – that is, research questions - of children's sport paradoxes are:

- Family's values
- Sport values



“By dancing on stage together they find what is really important in life: each other”.