

CLAIRE NICOLAS

**Research Fellow (Swiss National Science Foundation; SOAS, University of London).
Associate Faculty (Centre of International History and Political Studies of Globalization,
Lausanne University).**

– EDUCATION –

Professional Qualifications

2021. Qualified as Lecturer by the National University Council (France).

Section 04 (Political Science); section 22 (History); section 74 (Sports Science).

Degrees

2019. PhD in Political Sciences (CERI, SciencesPo Paris) and Sport Sciences (ISSUL, Lausanne University).

Thesis: Sport, citoyenneté et genre en Afrique de l'Ouest. Histoire sociale et politique comparée de la jeunesse au Ghana et en Côte d'Ivoire au XXe siècle

Best Thesis Awards: Social and Political Sciences Faculty of Lausanne University; Swiss Society for Sport Sciences.

Advisors: Richard Banégas and Nicolas Bancel.

Jury: Prof. Anaïs Bohuon, Prof. Patrick Clastres, Dr. Anne Hugon, Prof. Alexander Keese.

2012. Master in Humanities and Social Science

Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University.

2010. B.A. in Humanities and Social Sciences

Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University.

– EMPLOYMENT –

November 2020 – November 2023

Research Fellow, Swiss National Science Foundation

* PostDoc.Mobility. Department of History, SOAS, University of London (Fellowship P500PH_206625).

* Early PostDoc.Mobility. Department of History, King's College London (Fellowship P2LAP1_191287).

February – August 2020

Research Fellow and Substitute Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, Lausanne University.

September 2014 – September 2019

Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Social Sciences, Lausanne University.

January 2013 – September 2014

Project Manager, Forum Vies Mobiles, SNCF.

– RESEARCH –

May 2022 – November 2023. Visiting Research Fellow. SOAS, University of London.

Research Project: Gender and Games: British Moral Empire and Girls' Leisure in Colonial Gold Coast, 1900-1957 (Archives in Ghana and Great-Britain).

November 2020 – April 2022. Visiting Research Fellow. King's College London

Research Project: Imperial journeys and Physical Education. Exploration of the mobility of ideas and actors in the field of Physical Education, between Gold Coast (Ghana) and Great-Britain (Archives in Great-Britain and Ghana).

Secondary Project (With Taiwo Aina, Photographer): Art-Science Collaboration on women boxing in Lagos (Nigeria).

Spring 2020. Research Fellow. Faculty of Social Sciences, Lausanne University.

Main Project (with Grégory Quin, Lausanne University): Historical notes for a Sport Museum: biographies (IOC Presidents, sportsmen, sportswomen) and notices on Sport in Africa before 1800 and in the Middle-East before 1800.

Personal Project: The "Projet Côte d'Ivoire" (1968-1976). Analysis of a cooperation project between Swiss and Ivoirian Girl Guides (Archives and interviews in Côte d'Ivoire and Switzerland).

Fall 2017. Visiting Research Fellow. Institute of African Studies. Columbia University

2014 –2019. Doctoral Student. Center for International Studies, SciencesPo Paris and Institute of Sports Science, Lausanne University.

Main Project: Doctoral Thesis on the History of Sports in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Comparative History demonstrating the how sports were entangled with the transformation of social identities and relationships in West Africa, during the 20th Century. Archives in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, France, United Kingdom and Switzerland; 40 interviews with former sportsmen and sportswomen in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire).

Secondary Project: (with Georgia Cervin, Western Australia University) Collaborative Project on the history of women in International Sports Organisations.

– AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS –

Fellowships and Grants

2021 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Swiss National Science Foundation

2021 Gender Equality Grant, Swiss National Science Foundation

2020 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Swiss National Science Foundation

2019 Young Scholars Grant, Société académique vaudoise

2019 Young Female Scholars Grant, Erna Hamburger Fellowship

2018 Doctoral Grant, Swiss National Science Foundation

2017 African Studies Partnership Sciences-Po / University of Columbia

Awards

2020 Best Thesis Award from the Swiss Society for Sport Sciences

2020 Best Thesis Award from the Social and Political Sciences Faculty of Lausanne University.

2020 Finalist of the North American Society Prize for Sport History Anthologies.

– EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES AND CONFERENCE ORGANISATION –

Editorial activities

Editor

Since 2022. Member of the Editor-in-Chief team of the *Revue d'histoire contemporaine de l'Afrique*.

2019-2021. Head of the "book Review" section of the *Revue d'histoire contemporaine de l'Afrique*.

Since 2019. Scientific Committee member: *Revue d'histoire contemporaine de l'Afrique* and *Les Sports modernes*.

Peer-Review

Since 2021. *Sciences sociales et sports*

Since 2021. *Les Sports Modernes*.

Since 2021. *The International Journal for Sport History and Social Sciences*.

Since 2020. The History, Culture and Sociology of Sports (specialty section of *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*).

Conference Organisation

Main Organiser

2022. **Claire Nicolas** and Solène Froidevaux (University of Concordia): *Feminist Theories and Sports Social Science*, King's College London.

2019. Gilbert Kpassigué Koné (Bouaké University), **Claire Nicolas** and Elisa Prosperetti (Princeton University): *Sortir de l'École*, Bouaké University. Funding: Princeton University and Lausanne University.

2017. Georgia Cervin (University of Western Australia) and **Claire Nicolas**: 3rd RERIS Congress: *It's a Man's World*, Barcelona Centre for Olympic Studies. Funding: Lausanne University.

2015-2018. Seminar Cycle of the African Studies Association at Lausanne University.

Organising Committee Member

2019. European Committee for Sport History Congress, Lausanne University.

2018. International Sociology of Sports Association Congress, Lausanne University.

– SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY –

Elected Representative

2015-2017. Research Commission, Political and Social Sciences Faculty, Lausanne University.

2015-2017. Faculty Board, Political and Social Sciences Faculty, Lausanne University.

2015-2018. Co-Founder and Treasurer of the African Studies Association at Lausanne University.

– TEACHING –

Invitations

2020-2021. Lausanne University

2021. Colonial and Postcolonial History (Political Science, M.A.): "Gender and Colonialism".

2019. Gender and Sports (Social Science, M.A.): "History of Women Sports in Africa".

2019. History of Physical Education and Sports (Sports Science, M.A.): "Gender and Physical Education in Africa".

Teaching

Summer 2021. Expert at the "Doing, Writing, Thinking Sport History" Doctoral Summer School, Lausanne University.

Roundtables and Writing Workshops.

Spring 2020. Substitute Senior Lecturer, Political Studies Institute, Lausanne University.

* Colonial and Postcolonial History (Political Science, M.A.).

* Contemporary International History (Political Science, B.A.).

Fall 2014/2015/2016/2017/2018. Teaching Assistant, Institute of Sports Science, Lausanne University

* Colonial and Postcolonial History (Sciences politiques, M.A.).

* "Third World" History (Political Science, M.A.).

* Anthropology & Body Representations (Political Science, M.A.).

* Physical Education History (Sport Science, M.A.).

* Sport History (Sport Science, B.A.).

* Master Thesis Advisor (Sport Science, M.A.).

– PUBLICATIONS –

Papers in International Peer-Review Journals

Claire Nicolas, "La coopération depuis les marges : des éclareuses suisses en Côte d'Ivoire, 1968-1975", *Monde(s)*, Submitted.

Claire Nicolas, "Physical Education in the Colonial Gold Coast: From a Civilizing Mission to 'Useful Citizens'", *Social Sciences*, vol. 10, n° 2, p. 1-17, 2021.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci10020077>

Claire Nicolas, "Upstanding Youngsters: Ivorian Scouting and the Manufacture of a Subordinate Citizenship (1937–1979)", *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*, vol. 2, article 568013, p. 1-14, 2020.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fspor.2020.568013>

Claire Nicolas, "De l'histoire comparée à la démarche multi-située : sur les traces des cadres sportifs africains", *Espaces et Sociétés*, vol. 3, n° 178, p. 55-72, 2019.

<https://doi.org/10.3917/esp.178.0055>

Claire Nicolas and Philippe Vonnard, "Ohene Djan. A Pan-Africanist activist taking over FIFA?", *Staps*, vol. 3, n°125, p. 49-68, 2019 (French and English versions).

<https://doi.org/10.3917/sta.125.0049>

Claire Nicolas, "Des corps connectés : les Ghana Young Pioneers, tête de proue de la mondialisation du nkrumahisme (1960-1966)", *Politique africaine*, vol. 3, n°147, p. 87-107, 2017.

<https://doi.org/10.3917/polaf.147.0087>

Georgia Cervin, **Claire Nicolas**, Sylvain Dufraisse, Anaïs Bohuon and Grégory Quin, "Gymnastics' Centre of Gravity: the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique, its Governance and the Cold War, 1956–1976", *Sport in History*, vol. 3, n°37, p. 309-331, 2017.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17460263.2017.1363081>

Claire Nicolas, Thomas Riot and Nicolas Bancel, "Afrique 50 : Le cri anticolonialiste de René Vauthier", *Décadrages*, n°29-30, p. 12–30, 2015.
<https://doi.org/10.4000/decadrages.785>

Books

Claire Nicolas, Une si longue course : Sport, genre et citoyenneté au Ghana et en Côte d'Ivoire au xx^e siècle, In progress.

Georgia Cervin and **Claire Nicolas**, ed. *Histories of Women's Work in Global Sport. A Man's World ?*, London: Palgrave MacMillan, coll. Palgrave Studies in Sports and Politics, 2019.
Finalist of the North American Society Prize for Sport History Anthologies, 2020.

Book Chapters

Claire Nicolas, "Ghanaian table tennis, or the lost dreams of African Unity", in Sylvia Dümmer Scheel, Charlotte Faucher and Camila Gatica Mizala, ed. *Beyond National Allegiances: Rethinking Soft Power through Identities and Transnational Cooperation, 1800-2000* (Provisional Title), Submitted.

Claire Nicolas, "La mission civilisatrice par corps: genre, « race » et éducation physique en Côte d'Ivoire (1940-1945)". In Pierre Guidi, Jean-Luc Martineau and Florence Wenzek, ed. *Politiques scolaires, publics et écoles en Afrique subsaharienne XIXe – XXe siècle* (Provisional Title), Toulouse: Presses Universitaires du Midi, coll. Cahiers Afriques, Accepted.

Claire Nicolas, "From Handball Courts to Ministries, the Cousins of Côte d'Ivoire". In Georgia Cervin and **Claire Nicolas**, ed., *Histories of Women's Work in Global Sport. A Man's World?*, London: Palgrave MacMillan, coll. Palgrave Studies in Sports and Politics, p. 217-244, 2019.

Florys Castan-Vicente, **Claire Nicolas** and Georgia Cervin, "Women in Sport Organisations: Historiographical and Epistemological challenges". In Georgia Cervin and **Claire Nicolas**, ed., *Histories of Women's Work in Global Sport. A Man's World?*, London: Palgrave MacMillan, coll. Palgrave Studies in Sports and Politics, p. 17-48, 2019.

Georgia Cervin and **Claire Nicolas**, "Introduction". In Georgia Cervin and **Claire Nicolas**, ed., *Histories of Women's Work in Global Sport. A Man's World?*, London: Palgrave MacMillan, coll. Palgrave Studies in Sports and Politics, p. 1-17, 2019.

Claire Nicolas, "The Ghana Young Pioneers: Intertwining global connections to build a Pan-Africanist youth". In Philippe Vonnard, Nicola Sbeti and Grégory Quin, ed. *Beyond Boycotts. Sport during Cold War in Europe*, Berlin: De Gruyter, coll. Rethinking the Cold War History, p. 157-177, 2017.

Book Reviews

Claire Nicolas, "Anne Hugon (2020) – Être mère En Situation Coloniale (Gold Coast, années 1910-1950)", *Revue d'histoire Contemporaine De l'Afrique*, 2021.
<https://doi.org/10.51185/journals/rhca.2021.e512>.

Claire Nicolas, "COOPER FREDERICK, *Africa since 1940: The Past of the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019, 320 p., 2nd Edition, 28 €", *20 & 21. Revue d'histoire*, vol. 4, n°148. 2020.
<https://doi.org/10.3917/vin.148.0187>

Claire Nicolas, "AHLMAN (Jeffrey S.) Living with Nkrumahism. Nation, State and Pan-Africanism in Ghana", *Politique africaine*, vol. 2, n°150, p. 203-204, 2018.
<https://doi.org/10.3917/polaf.150.0203>

– ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS –

Panels

- Claire Nicolas** and Solène Froidevaux, "Women football and its professionalisation", *Beyond the Big Five, The Professionalisation of Football in Europe, from the 1960s to nowadays*, Lausanne University, 2021.
- Claire Nicolas** and Lucie Schoch, "Book Presentation: A Man's World", Société suisse des sciences du sport, Fribourg University, 2019.
- Claire Nicolas** et Sara Panata, "Masculinités et féminités en recomposition", Rencontre des études africaines francophones, Marseille University, 2018.
- Claire Nicolas**, Grégory Quin and Philippe Vonnard, "International Sport Facing Decolonization. Officials, Networks, Organizations (1945-1975)", European Congress on World and Global History, Corvinus University, 2017.

Oral Presentations

- Claire Nicolas**, "African Ladies on Colonial Grounds: Negotiating Sports Practice in the Gold Coast (1910s-1950s)", *Women in Sport*, University of Worcester, 2021.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Swiss Girl Guides in Côte d'Ivoire: Humanitarian aid from a Microhistory Perspective (1968-1976)", *European Committee for Sport History Congress*, Lisbon University, 2021.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Des éclaireuses suisses dans le Tiers-Monde », Internationalisme(s) et Education pendant la Guerre froide : Acteurs, compétitions, circulations, Lausanne University, 2021.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Representing self, sport, and country: Ghanaian student-athletes on a global stage, 1936-1991", *Sports and Leisure Seminar*, London Institute of Historical Research, 2021.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Oblivion of the archives? Dahomeyans expulsions in 1958 Côte d'Ivoire through the lens of the scouting archives", *European Congress on African Studies*, Edinburgh University, 2019.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Les Cousines", *Société suisse des sciences du sport*, Fribourg University, 2019.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Le sport scolaire à l'heure des indépendances : entre coopération et africanisation (1960-1980)", *Sortir de l'école*, Université de Bouaké, 2019.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Devenir un athlète scolaire en Côte d'Ivoire. Réinterprétation d'un ethos viril colonial", *Rencontre des études africaines francophones*, Marseille University, 2018.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Les Real Republikans au Ghana, une seule équipe pour une seule nation ?", *Le football en régime autoritaire*, Brussels University, 2018.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Ivoirian intermediate sport officials: A French network used for one's personal agency", *Between the "big conspiracy" and network-building on the ground*, Geneva University, 2017.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Les Cousines. Differentiate life trajectories of the Bouaké (Côte d'Ivoire) handball team members: from housewives to Ministries", *Réseau d'études des relations internationales sportives*, Barcelona Centre for Olympic Studies, 2017.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Ghana Central Organization of Sports – "Panafricanizing" a colonial associative sport bureaucracy", *European Conference on African Studies*, Basel University, 2017.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Theodosia Okoh", *Réseau d'études des relations internationales sportives*, Barcelona Centre for Olympic Studies, 2016.
- Claire Nicolas**, "Les Ghana Young Pioneers, la pratique d'un panafricanisme ?", *Rencontre des études africaines francophones*, EHESS, 2016.

Claire Nicolas, "The Ghana Young Pioneers: a Youth Movement dedicated to Socialism", *Young Historians Conference*, Barcelona University, 2015.

– OUTREACH –

Outreach Projects

Exhibition

"Combats". Residency, exhibitions and public debates on Gender and Sports in Nigeria organised by IFRA-Nigeria and Alliance Française Nigeria, to be held in March 2022.

Public Debates

Sébastien Gokalp, Carine Montrésor, **Claire Nicolas** and Yvan Gastaut, Roundtable on Racism and Racial Discrimination in Sports" Seine Saint-Denis Council, 2021.

Claire Nicolas, "'Young Modern Black Girls'. African Sportswomen During Colonisation", *Sports en tout genre(s)*, AS SciencesPo Bordeaux and Sexprimons-Nous, SciencesPo Bordeaux, 2021.

Claire Nicolas, Conference on Racism in Sports from an Historical Perspective, Lausanne City Council, 2019.

Claire Nicolas, Racism in *Africa Addio* (movie by G. Jacopetti et F. Prospero, 1966), Lausanne Underground Film Festival, 2018.

Outreach writing

Press

Claire Nicolas and Taiwo Aina, "Game of confidence: Nigeria's female boxers throw a punch at the patriarchy – in pictures", *The Guardian*, 13.04.2022. [Online](#).

Claire Nicolas, "L'histoire oubliée des sportives ghanéennes", *Le Temps*, 7.10.2021. [Online](#).

Claire Nicolas, "Sport et Genre au Ghana et en Côte d'Ivoire", *Africa 4 – Libération*, 23.12.2018. [Online](#)

Dictionnaire Entries

Florence Carpentier, Florys Castan-Vicente and **Claire Nicolas**, "Women Sport Leaders during the Twentieth Century", *Encyclopédie pour une histoire nouvelle de l'Europe* ([En ligne](#)), 2020.

– SKILLS –

Language

French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (medium).

Computer Sciences

Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, ArcGIS, Zotero, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and WordPress.

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST