Aims and Objectives

This course explores the economic and social background to the funding and construction of large sports stadiums and arenas. We will study the extent of this activity, its rationale, the costs and benefits and the political logic behind it.

Course Structure

The course is divided into ten sessions of ninety minutes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. For each session a core reading is required. There will be a brief introduction, followed by a discussion of issues arising from the reading. Additionally students will be assigned a second reading which they will explain to the class.

Course Requirements

In preparation of the course:

- Carefully work through the required readings.
- Skim the additional readings to get a basic sense for the issues.
- Prepare a two-page summary of the assigned paper to be distributed before class.

During the course:

- Lead the class discussion of the assigned paper.
- Contribute to class discussions when you are not the leader.

After the end of the course:

- Write a short report (up to 2000 words) comparing the social costs and benefits of two major sports events: a pair of Olympic Games (two summer games or two winter games), a pair of FIFA World Cups or a pair of UEFA Euros. As far as possible use data to support your analysis. You have one week to complete this task.
Session 1: Why host the games? Motivations for mega-sporting events

Reading 1

Reading 2

Session 2: Football stadiums

Reading 3

Reading 4

Session 3: The theory of economic impact

Reading 5

Reading 6

Session 4: Estimates of stadium impact

Reading 7

Reading 8
Session 5: Estimating hedonic effects

Reading 9

Reading 10

Session 6: Mega event economic impact

Reading 11

Reading 12

Session 7: Contingent Valuation Methods

Reading 13

Reading 14

Session 8: Tourism and mega events

Reading 15

Reading 16
Session 9: Happiness

Reading 17


Reading 18


Session 10: Motives and alibis

Reading 19