

# Visiting Scholars

## Scholar and report

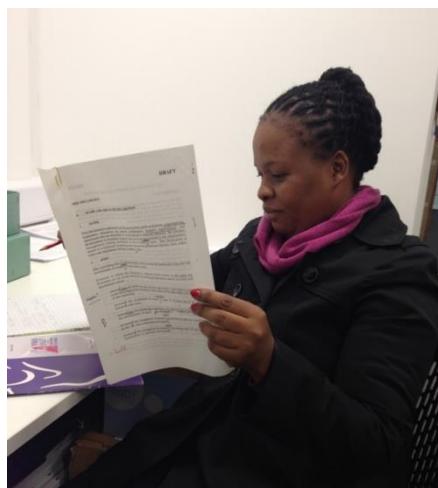
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In 2012 **Bárbara Schausteck de Almeida** (Brazil) started an eight month visit to the University of Chichester to enhance her research on the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games.



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In 2013 **Lombe Mwambwa** (Zambia) visited for one week in March 2013 as part of the partnership with the National Organization for Women in Sport and Physical Activity and Recreation (NOWSPAR)



In 2015 **Game Mothibi** (Botswana) visited and used the Archive to learn more about the history of her organisation; the International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG)



In late-2015 **Funda Akcan Amca** (Turkey) started a twelve-month visit to understand the meanings attributed to climbing culture in the UK by its practitioners and its main subcultural features in terms of gender, risk, identity

## Bárbara Schausteck de Almeida



My stay in Chichester came from a scholarship opportunity from the Brazilian government to enable PhD students to do part of their research abroad. After receiving the support of Dr Pike and the University of Chichester, I successfully applied to spend 8 months in this lovely city – from September 2012 to April 2013. The topic of my research in Brazil is about the bid and selection of Rio de Janeiro as host city of 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. For this reason, I planned to use my time in Chichester accessing books and articles in English about mega-events, Olympic Games and Olympic cities. And of course, considering this immersion in British culture, I was expecting to improve my English language skills.

After these 8 months, I notice that I've learnt a lot from the written words. I have improved my knowledge on how to do research, I discovered a whole new world of information in my area, and I was able to attend some very interesting events and to meet some of the authors who are references in my work. Regarding my PhD research, having access to literature in English allowed me to write in 8 months 62% of my dissertation, in comparison to 18 months that I wrote in Brazil before. Even from distance, I am already sure that I can contribute by transferring and constructing academic knowledge in Brazil and hopefully in Latin America as well.

But I am absolutely convinced that much of my aggregated knowledge came from informal relations and conversations. Living the everyday life here taught me a lot about a country and its people, and it was especially useful to understand in more depth the London 2012 Games, added to the impressions from British academics and non-academics. Getting involved with the British culture and its apparently minor routines opened my eyes to understand in much greater depth the past Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as 'modern sport' in a general sense.

Much of this aggregated knowledge came from contact and debates associated with the AWF. Although I was aware about some of the main issues discussed and promoted by the Foundation, I could see many other possibilities on how to get engaged and make a change. Before, I thought that my current research and my background wouldn't help me to get involved or even to contribute to the AWF mission. It was a great surprise to know more and notice that the purpose of the Foundation



is much more than I had thought. Being familiar with these objectives motivated me to really apply my experience in Chichester in every area that I might be related to in the future – university, organizations, associations, social groups, etc.

The academic lessons and knowledge learned in Chichester would be more than enough to make this experience worthy, but it was much more. In the University, I found very friendly and helpful staff and colleagues who made my stay even more pleasant. The size of the university and of the city could have been very tricky but, even though it is not very big in comparison to others, it offers all the structures and possibilities to have an excellent quality of life and quality of study. Of course, it's impossible to live in England without talking about the weather. Well, I confess I was expecting it to be much worse, but even the snowy days – the first opportunity that I had to see snow – lasted enough to provide a pleasant and remarkable experience for my life.

Living abroad to study was one of my biggest dreams and I achieved it! But such a remarkable experience brings much more than just satisfaction for an accomplishment. More than the 'official' scholarship responsibility of bringing back and spreading some of the things that I've learnt, I intend to do more. I really feel 'empowered' to raise awareness about how women are dominated in Brazilian sport. Now I notice how a common sense that I used to have on a supposed equality of conditions is being harmful to many girls and women who want to get involved. And also how this issue is being poorly debated regarding the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio. Maybe it is not too late to raise this awareness and I hope to be part of the team who will make it happen.

I am glad for receiving the support of AWF and the University of Chichester to have this 'time of my life'. From now on, I am more than happy to add my support in any way I can. A seed was planted and hopefully many more will be planted and will grow. Thanks for everyone who make it happen for me.

## Lombe Mwambwa



### Introduction

The Anita White Foundation, which is based at the University of Chichester, aims to provide a central point of reference for scholars and activists in the world-wide women and sport movement. It has two components: an archive of original materials related to the women and sport movement, and a fund to support the education and development of women leaders from countries where women face particular challenges.

NOWSPAR is the National Organisation in Zambia that works to advance the rights of women to and through sport. NOWSPAR undertakes advocacy, awareness, research and policy work towards promoting women's engagement in and with sport.

In 2012, the Anita White Foundation and NOWSPAR agreed on a Concept for a partnership to cooperate towards mutual support, a major deliverable of the partnership was a study visit to the UK by NOWSPAR General Secretary Ms. Lombe Mwambwa.

### About the Visit

My visit to the Anita White Foundation was on 13<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013; the purpose was to explore further opportunities and ideas for cooperation with the AWF as well as to develop the ideas we had initially on how AWF and NOWSPAR would support one another.

### *How my visit was funded*

The visit was co-funded by NOWSPAR and the AWF, NOWSPAR covered my international travel expenses, insurance and visa application. The AWF met all hosting expenses including accommodation, meals and local travel in the UK.

### *My Expectations*

I had expected to spend some time at the Archive to get a clearer picture of what the purpose was and how it was progressing; I also expected to meet with Dr. Pike to discuss opportunities for undertaking a PhD and the area of study that would be strategic and explore opportunities for developing further partnerships with NOWSPAR for staff development as well as program delivery.



## What I actually did

- a. **Meetings:** I had meetings with various players in the sport and development community including Commonwealth, UK Sport, UNICEF and Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation.
- b. **AWF Activities:** Presented a seminar at University of Chichester, participated in a meeting to develop the AWF International Summer School as well as several meetings with AWF personnel.
- c. **Socialising:** Went out to eat at the University as well as in Pubs in Chichester and the villages around. Attended Church Service at the Cathedral and also went to the Cinema and the theatre.
- d. **Reading:** Spent some time in the University of Chichester Library reading and looking up resources on gender, women, sport and sociology. Did some reading at the AWF Archive at Bognor Regis.
- e. **Visits/Tour:** Walked around central London to see the landmark places the Abbey, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square among others. Attended the Vitality Show to visit the WSFF stand.
- f. **Orientation to transport:** Learnt how to navigate the transport system including taxi, bus, subway and train.

## My Impressions of the UK, Chichester, the University, and the AWF

Firstly, I was happily surprised by how pleasant and polite most people I met are, it totally challenged my perception that people in the UK are generally unfriendly and cold.

My favourite place at the University is the Learning Resource Centre; the environment is light, airy, friendly and welcoming. It was very useful to me to have access to publications as this is one of the major challenges we have back in Zambia. Our libraries are not well stocked and online access is limited as Credit Cards are not a common service provided by our banks, so online purchases for many are almost impossible.

Touring the campus and meeting the people in the various departments as well as the students helped me get a sense of what Chichester is about and how it has developed. I liked the old buildings in the University and how it is all worked out to not compete with the newer infrastructure.

I am amazed at the progress of the AWF and excited that it is actively moving forward. I am particularly pleased that the University is such an active part of it, not just hosting the AWF but the level of involvement of the staff and the students is much higher than I imagined.

The AWF is a strategic organisation that is bridging a gap that has been there for a long time, connecting academics and activism. Providing a platform for mentoring and sharing as well as learning, the Archive is a huge contribution to the women's movement, the people in AWF and University of Chichester are very brave, to take on this kind of work means there is a commitment to the vision of taking women forward in sport.



Meeting Prof. Behagg and Dr. Gilroy helped me see the keen interest and support that the AWF has from University of Chichester and it taught me about being available and connected to people in your organisation and to be aware of what is going on as a leader. Further, I think this initiative has provided part of the answer to the persistent question of how to work with men in advancing the women in sport movement.

### **The best things about my visit**

It was great reconnecting with Anita White, previously we met at Conferences and so had little chance to get to know each other. During the visit spending some time together was useful for learning and sharing and understanding some historical perspectives of what has happened in the Women and Sport movement.

Meeting with Dr. Andy Dixon was valuable for me as we had a good conversation on research activities and it helped me become clearer of what I would like to work on for my PhD and also important for my organisation.

It was great that I had the opportunity to give the Seminar; the attendance was better than I expected and I was thrilled at the interest in the topic of women and sport and in the AWF and its vision.

I enjoyed meeting with the students for the social outings, it was interesting to listen to their views of sport and development, their keen interest to help out with the AWF and also their questions about Africa and Zambia.

My accommodation was great, I stayed with Sam Leo a student at Chichester and leader of the AWF Student Action Group. It was good to have conversations with her about life in the UK, Chichester, career options and ambitions as well as ideas for the AWF. She was very hospitable. In London, I liked it that I stayed with Cath Sweet whom I had not seen since 2008. I enjoyed meeting her family and catching up on Zambia and she showed me some sights and helped me learn to get around.

Going to the theatre was so much fun and a wonderful cultural experience; I went with Mel Paramasivan, an intern at UK Sport who I had known from when she was in South Africa a few years ago. We had a wonderful time.

### **Outcomes of the Visit and Follow Up Actions**

Firstly, the visit resulted in the establishment of links to people in various organisations through introductions and various meetings. These are the foundation for potentially good and useful connections for the present and the future, at both personal and professional level.

Follow up will include staying in contact and sharing information from my end on our work as well as linking others to the work that is being done in the UK.

Secondly, attending the meeting by UK Sport for governing bodies and discussing UK Sport's work on standards is beneficial and the tools Amanda shared are useful and very practical to my work at NOWSPAR this year.

Back at home follow actions will comprise of sharing within my organisation as well feedback to UK Sport on how we are using or adjusting the tools.



Thirdly, reviewing and updating the framework for agreed expectations and contributions from AWF and NOWSPAR. This is a good guide for our cooperation over the next few years and as both organisations develop will assist to monitor our relationship and give room for developing further activities together.

Fourth, an increased understanding of the development of the Women in Sport movement and the role of the AWF, going forward, we will have a more deliberate approach to engaging other women in sport groups or initiatives in the region and actively exploring ways to contribute to the AWF programs such as the leadership development and the Archive.

We will communicate with the AWF about the various actions agreed on including supporting the leaders in Tanzania, contributing to gathering documents and information from the African region as well as promoting the AWF with the Sport and Development community and beyond.

### **Future plans**

Plans include:

- Contribute to the development and running of the Summer School in 2014
- Participate in support and mentoring of leaders, most immediate the two leaders in Tanzania
- Contributing documents to the Archive
- Contribute the Student Action Group as needed
- Conducting research activities with the AWF and NOWSPAR
- Undertaking a PhD at University of Chichester

### **Conclusion**

The visit was exciting and enlightening at both personal and professional level, it did help me to see some of the work that is possible with the AWF and it provided me with some context and things to reflect on for my development as well as that of NOWSPAR and the women in sport movement.

**In 2015, Lombe returned to the University to undertake doctoral study on the experiences of women leaders in South African sport organisations. She continues to be involved with the AWF as an International Advisor.**

### **Appendix 1: Summary of Outcomes of Meetings**

Outcomes of Lombe's Meetings in UK		
Partner/ Stakeholder	Discussion Points	Agreed Action
Anita White Foundation +University of Chichester	Continued Cooperation Explore opportunities for staff development at NOWSPAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update concept note for cooperation</li><li>• Keep in touch with Student Action Group at Uni of Chichester</li><li>• AWF + NOWSPAR continue to look for opportunities</li></ul>
	International Summer School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribute to development of concept and content</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with facilitation as resource person and mentor</li> <li>• Meet in August for preparations</li> </ul>
	Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of support by Matilda</li> <li>• Video by Lombe</li> <li>• Articles on Study Visit</li> </ul>
	Archive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with collecting documents from the region for the Archive</li> <li>• Act as depository for documents in the region</li> </ul>
	Supporting Scholars in Southern Region	Help with communication and support of the scholars in the South
	Collaboration on research with NOWSPAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Play Free research as foundation for developing bigger broader research. Send draft proposal to AWF for input</li> <li>• Develop broader research together and source for funding</li> </ul>
	PhD Program for Lombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrol in Pre-PhD program</li> <li>• Explore scholarship opportunities</li> <li>• Meeting with advisor in August while at AWF</li> </ul>
UNICEF	<p>Work that each of us are doing on protection.</p> <p>NOWSPAR: Play Free</p> <p>UNICEF: Protection Working Group developing a plan for piloting and tracking action</p>	<p>Explore opportunity for NOWSPAR to contribute info to working group</p> <p>Connect to Zambia office of UNICEF check opportunity for cooperation in Country</p> <p>NOWSPAR to share our work and as we progress</p>
UK Sport	Engaging National governing bodies (NGB) on standards of protection	UK Sport share their work and tools of engaging NGB that NOWSPAR can use
	Cooperate on work on protection and safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection Working Group developing a plan for piloting and tracking action</li> <li>• Cooperate on work being done with SIA and Edusport</li> <li>• Cooperate on running session on child protection during Play Free National Conference</li> </ul>
	Promoting sharing and learning through web based seminars	Present seminar/webinar
Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sport (CABOS)	Advocacy and sharing of our work to input in decision making at Commonwealth	Submit Paper to input in meeting to be held in June
	Engaging government ministries on policies on protection	Share draft tools and policy guide for trial by NOWSPAR through the Task Force on Sport and Gender
Women Sport Fitness Foundation	Sharing on advocacy approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can use their tools and publications</li> <li>• Have consistent surveys and advocacy papers</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information and explore opportunity for joint action</li> </ul>
SportandDev.Org	Page on platform on protection and safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOWSPAR to actively contribute our work and articles etc</li> <li>• Continue to advise on articles and issues</li> <li>• Get more of our staff members to sign up as team players</li> </ul>