

Coubertin's humanism facing post-humanist visions and ambitions

- Implications for the future of the Olympic Games -

Otto J. SCHANTZ



UNIVERSITÄT
KOBLENZ · LANDAU

schantz@uni-koblenz.de

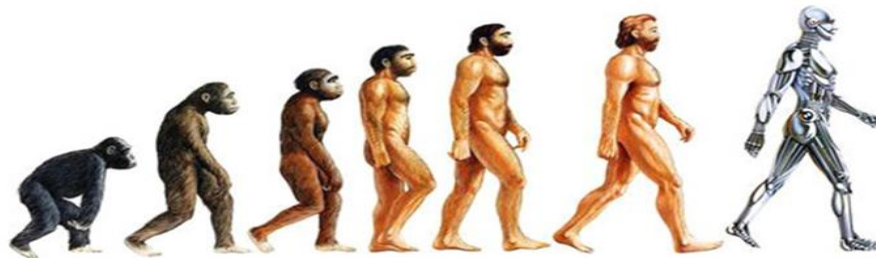
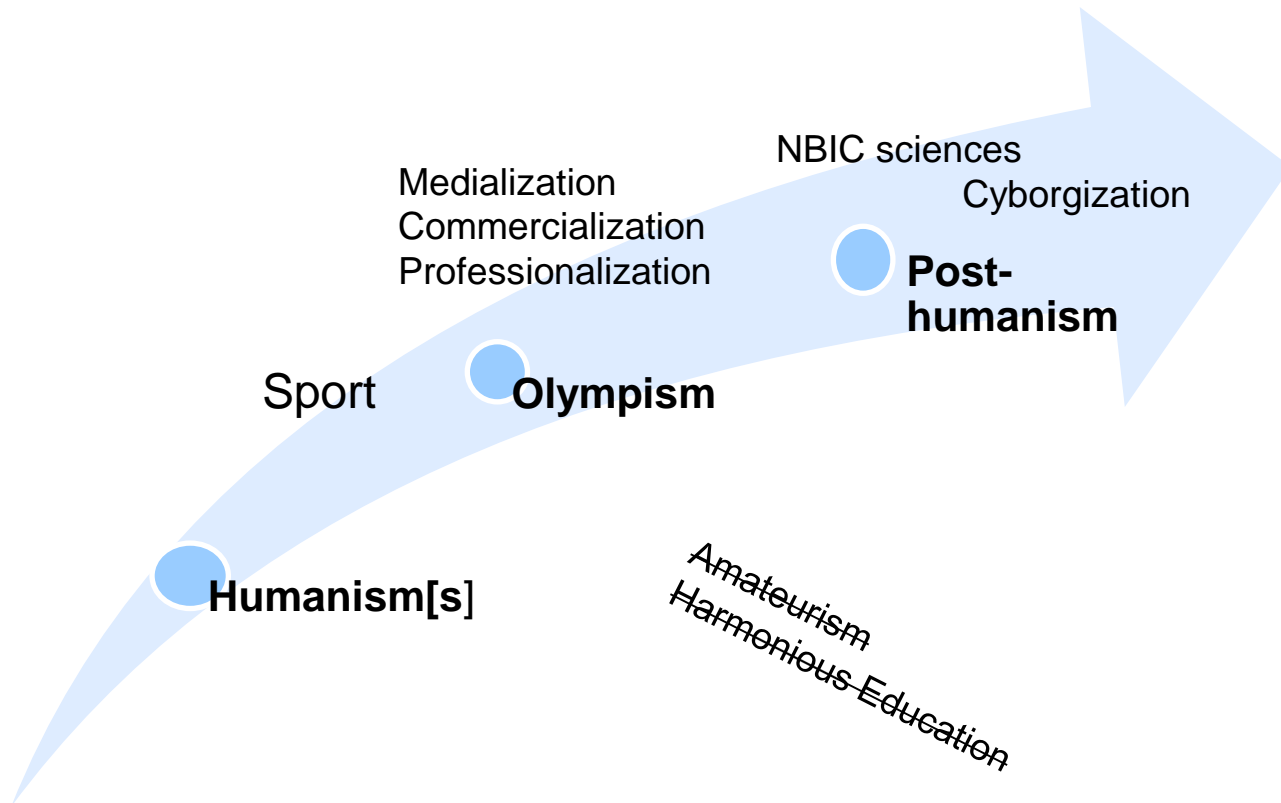
DE L'ADMINISTRATION A LA GOUVERNANCE OLYMPIQUE: DEFIS POUR NOTRE SIECLE
FROM OLYMPIC ADMINISTRATION TO GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES FOR OUR CENTURY
25 et 26 juin 2015/ 25th and 26th June 2015 / IDHEAP- UNIL.



Administration - Governance

- **Governance**
 - Κυβερνάω
Steer, guide, direct, govern,
- **Need of Objectives, Visions**
 - Short- (Agenda 2020)
 - Mid-, and long-term

Towards Post-humanism?



Olympism

- “Attitude de vie” (Coubertin)
- “Protophilosophy”
- “Process philosophy” (da Costa 2006; cf. Hegel; Whitehead)
- “empty form” (MacAloon 1995; 1996)
- “concept valise” (baggage concept)
- “Concept – conceptions” (Rawls 1999; Hart 1994)
- „Interpretationskonstrukt“ (construct open to interpretation; Lenk 1978)

vagueness  Success of the Olympic movement

Contours / principles of Coubertin's Olympism

- Harmonious education
- Sport as a tool
- Adapted to the needs of the time
- Humanist ideas (existentialist)
- Seeking the improvement of humankind

Types of humanism

1. Humanism “takes man as an end and as the supreme value” (Sartre 2007 [1945],p. 51).
2. H. “never consider man as an end, because man is constantly in the making” (p. 52).
“constantly seeking a goal outside of himself in the form of liberation, or of some special achievement, that man will realize himself as truly human” (p. 53).

Eternal progress



- Roman Stoicism

- “O quam contempta res est homo, nisi supra humana se erexerit”(Seneca)

- Quattrocento humanism

- Pico della Mirandola; Marsilio Ficino etc.

- Enlightenment

- Modernity

CITUS – ALTIUS – FORTIUS

Elevation, improvement of the human being

Improvement of humanity in Coubertin's times

- Education
 - exercise, training,
 - personal effort
 - Hygiene
- Eugenics, Biopolitics
 - Eugenic functions of sport and hygiene
 - Lamarckian perspective of the evolution (transmission of physical capacities acquired by sport and hygiene to future generations)

Use of drugs was rather hazardous and uncertain

Post-humanism I

- We have entered an era in that biotechnology will change our world more than any past technological revolution.
(cf. Rifkin, 1998)
- On the way towards post-humanism



Post-human - definition

- A post-human is “a being that has at least one posthuman capacity.”
- A post-human capacity is “a general central capacity greatly exceeding the maximum attainable by any current human being without recourse to new technological means” (Bostrom 2008, p. 107).

Inevitability of post-human enhancement in sports

Convergence of NBIC technologies
Growing acceptance of enhancement

Logic of sport: Citius altius fortius
Totalization of sport (Heinilä 1982)

Financial interests, economical stakes
nationalism/national pride

Post-human enhancement

Existing technologies

- **Reproduction**

- Embryo selection by preimplantation (genetic diagnosis)
- In vitro generated gametes
- Cytoplasmic transfer

- **Physical enhancement:**

- doping and performance-enhancing drugs
- surgery, laser
- Prosthetics, exoskeletons
- implants (e.g. pacemaker, magnetic implants), organ replacement

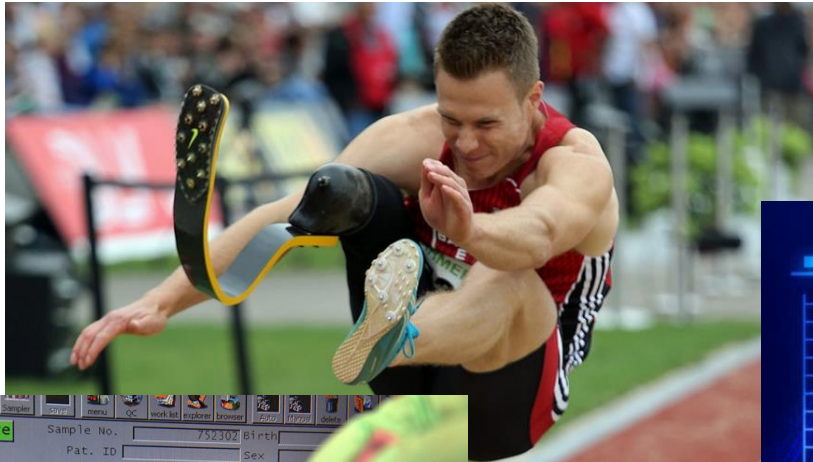
- **Intellectual enhancement**

- Nootropics, drugs, neurostimulation devices, supplements, nutraceuticals, and functional foods
- Computers, cell phones, Internet, technological devices that enhance the human condition

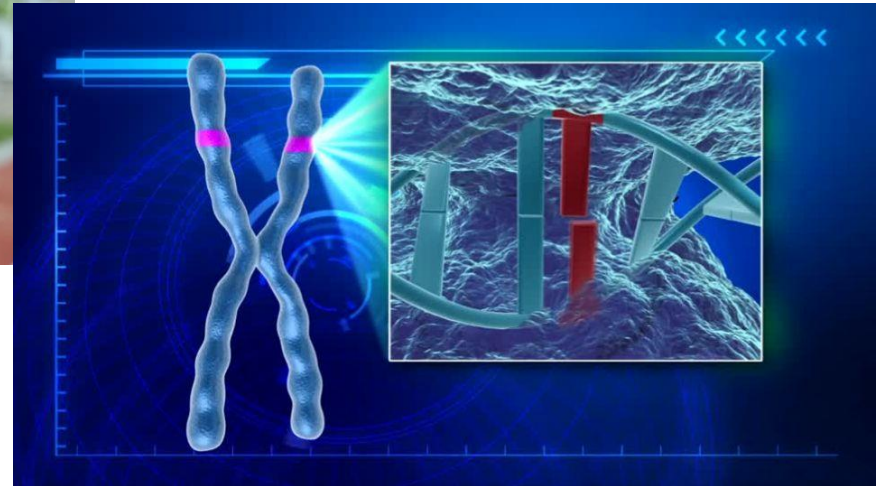
Emerging enhancement technologies

- Human genetic engineering
- Neural implants
- Nanomedicine
- Brain–computer interface
- Neurotechnologies
- Cyberware
- Gene therapy

Signs of change



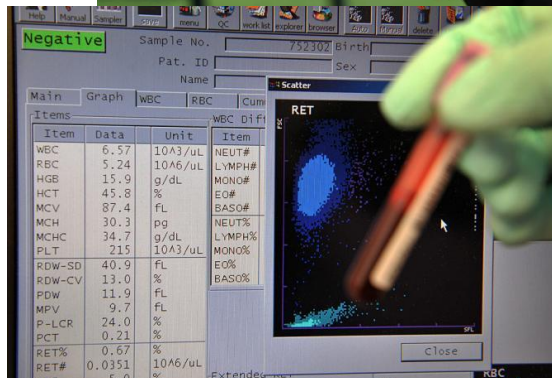
16 May 2015. Markus Rehm jumped 8.29 m



NATURE | NEWS 22 April 2015

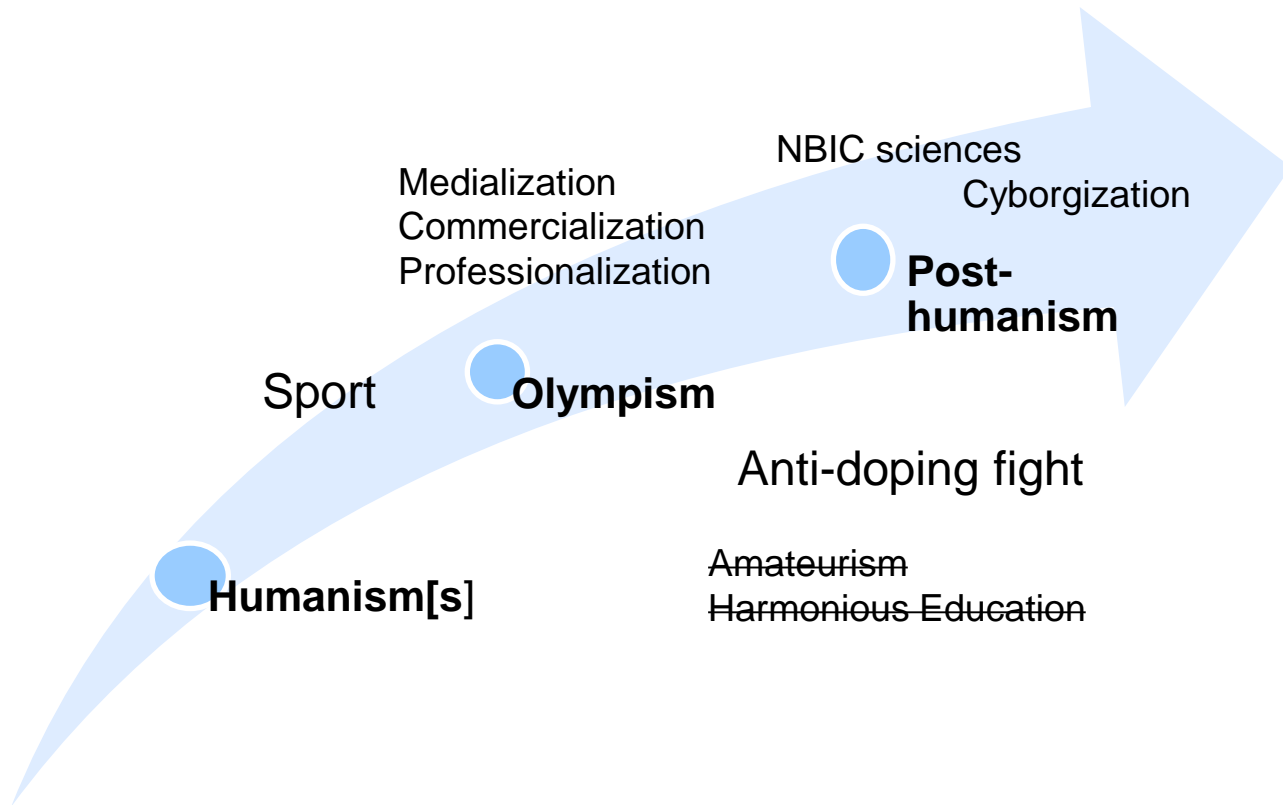
Chinese scientists genetically modify human embryos

Rumours of germline modification prove true — and look set to reignite an ethical debate.



French documentary alleges that micro-doping can beat ABP
May 5, 2015 | Andy Brown

Doping control as moral *raison d'être*



Future of doping control in sport

- Manifold possibilities to enhance sport performances
- Growing public acceptance of enhancement
- Control is going to be impossible
 - Invasion of privacy
 - Exploding costs

Human – post-human

The boundaries between

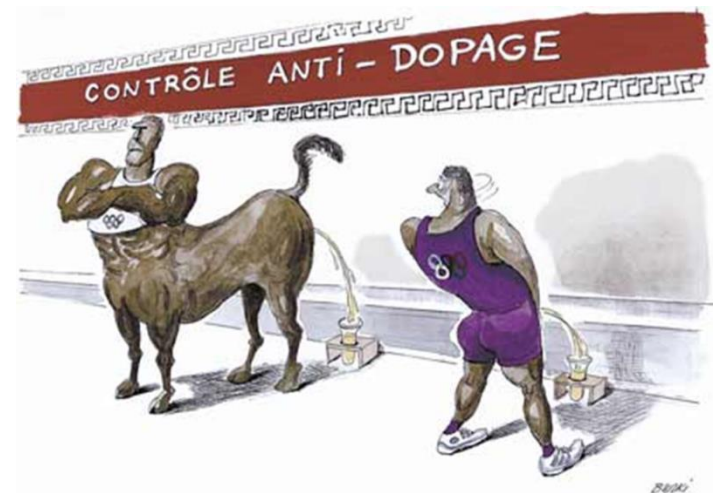
- human - trans-/post-human
- therapy - enhancement
- natural - artificial

are fuzzy and
contingent (time, culture)

Future of sport

Risks of the enhancement race:

- **Personality - Autonomy**
 - Alienated cyborgs
- **Social Justice**
 - Widening gap between poor and rich countries
- **Social cohesion**
 - Widening gap between
 - Average citizen and Olympian
 - Sport for all and elite sport
- **Human nature?**



Solutions for the Olympic games?

Coubertin's general principles

- Harmonious development
- Pendulum Principle
- Principle of adaptation to the needs of the time

Future of the Olympic Games

Olympic Games	Olympic Games 3.0
Competition	Cooperation
Citius – altius – fortius	Sustainability Harmonious development
Binary oppositions Olympic - Paralympic Men – women rich – poor; old - young	Diversity Access for all inclusion Mixed events
International; Eurocentric	Cosmopolitan
Exclusion	Inclusion
Exploitation	Well-being
Body cult	Body - Mind – Moral

Competition - Cooperation

2014

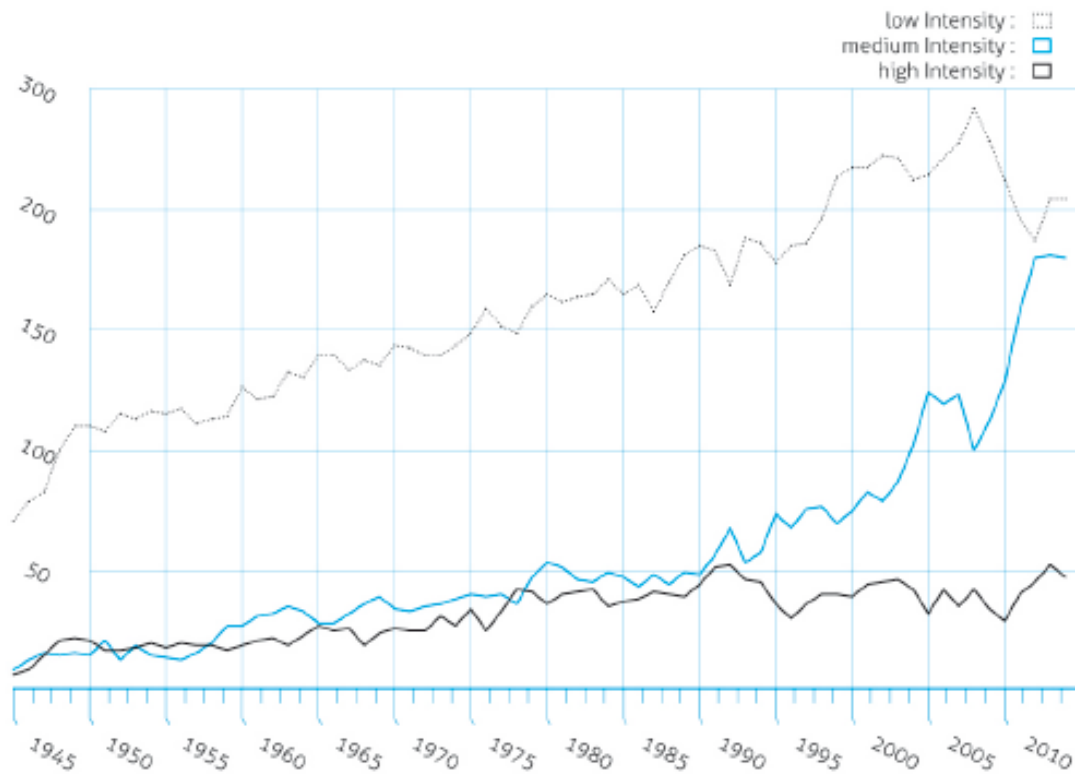
- 112 disputes
- 89 non-violent crises
- 177 violent crises
- 25 limited wars
- 21 wars
- A total of 424 political conflicts worldwide



(Institute for international conflict research in Heidelberg, 2015, 15)

A World of growing conflicts

GLOBAL CONFLICTS OF LOW, MEDIUM AND HIGH INTENSITY 1945 TO 2014



(Institute for international conflict research in Heidelberg, 2015, 15)

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Future directions

- Celebrate Humanity and its diversity!



- Perhaps we should optimize sports for 21st century humans not humans for 19th century sports!