

Qatar and beyond – labour & human rights in sports events

For years, labour matters and human rights issues were often relegated to the sidelines by the public eye and mass media when it came to major sporting events. More recently however, hardly a week passes without reports of labour rights abuses in Qatar, human rights violations in Sochi/Russia before the Olympic Winter Games or clashes of social movements with police in Brazil. Major sporting events have seemingly evolved from international fan frenzy to crystallisation points of global social struggles and discontent. This newer incarnation reveals these events to be a crossroads of sorts where myriad issues meet: migrant labour, large multi-national companies as sponsors who have a less than admirable track record in labour rights themselves, public procurement policy, corruption and urban development and many more.

As these issues interact and overlap, they provide a wide field of opportunities to explore for strategy development, policy research and case study writing, cross-issue- and collaborative campaigning and can build on previous experience from within GLU research groups.