

TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF INTERGENERATIONAL BLACK COLLEGE ATHLETE ACTIVISM IN THE UNITED STATES

RESEARCH FROM THE FRONT PORCH

“THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SPORT ACTIVISM TYPOLOGY (AASAT) AND AFRICAN AMERICAN RESISTANCE TYPOLOGY (AART) ARE INSIGHTFUL TOOLS FOR ANALYZING THE COMPLEX AND INTERSECTING WAYS IN WHICH RESISTANCE MANIFESTS AT THE MACRO, MESO, AND MICRO LEVELS.”

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Institutional activism via the emergence of athletic programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and hybrid resistance among Black college athletes (e.g., pioneering, agentic activism, and scholarly activism) at Historically White Institutions (HWIs) were the primary forms of resistance centered on access, representation, and opportunity in the early 20th century during the New Negro era.
- Grassroots, symbolic, and mass mobilization activism at HWIs focused on institutional and structural changes for equitable treatment were the preferred forms of resistance in the mid-20th century during the Civil Rights Movement.
- Grassroots, mass mobilization, symbolic, and legal activism for securing college athletes’ rights on campus and in society more broadly were the central methods of resistance in the early 21st century during the Black Lives Matter (BLM) era.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

- What types of activism among college athletes should be supported by my institution’s athletics department and university administration?
- What role does, can, and should activism play in improving equity in intercollegiate athletics and at institutions of higher education?
- How can my department foster cross cultural and collaborative forms of resistance centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion?



Joseph N. Cooper

Dr. J. Keith Motley Endowed Chair of Sport Leadership and Administration, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Black Life, and Associate Professor
University of Massachusetts Boston
josephn.cooper@umb.edu

Read the Book: A Legacy of African American Resistance and Activism Through Sport

Additional Resources:

- Advancement for Blacks in Sport (ABIS)
- San José State University Institute for the Study of Sport, Society and Social Change
- College Sport Research Institute (CSRI)
- Athletes & Advocates for Social Justice in Sports

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