

**Talent Identification and Development in Women's Football:
Integrating Australian Insights in Jordan**

By

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Abstract

This thesis investigates the possibilities for sustainable girls' and women's participation in football in Jordan. These possibilities are explored with insights gained from fieldwork in two cultural contexts: Al ramtha, Jordan and Canberra, Australia. The research reported here uses a mixed methods approach to data collection about talent and identification systems. It combines desk study, semi-structured interviews with teachers, coaches and administrators and participant observation in teaching and coaching contexts. There were two phases in the research process. Phase 1 explored talent identification and development pathways in women's football and involved preliminary fieldwork in Canberra and Al ramtha. Phase 2 investigated the teaching of football in two Jordanian schools with the context of the King Abdullah II Award for Physical Fitness. This phase included fieldwork in Canberra with my participation as a volunteer coach in a community football club. The thesis concludes with a discussion of sustainable talent identification and development in women's football in Jordan and considers opportunities to integrate insights gained from women's football in Australia.

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Table of Contents

	Page
Abstract	iii
Certificate of Authorship	v
Acknowledgements	vii
Table of Contents	ix
List of Tables	xiii
List of Figures	xv
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Developing sustainable women's football in Jordan	10
1.3 Cultural contexts	14
1.4 Aims of the research	18
1.5 Research questions	18
1.6 Structure of the thesis	19
Chapter 2: Themes From The Literature	21
2.1 Introduction	21
2.2 Gender	23
2.3 Putting girls and women in the foreground	25
2.4 Talent identification and development	28
2.5 Relative age and relative age effect	33
2.6 Test protocols	36
2.7 Contextualising the literature in an emerging women's football system in Jordan	39

	Page
Chapter 3: Methods	41
3.1 Introduction	41
3.2 Fieldwork	47
3.2.1 Canberra, Australia	47
3.2.2 Jordan	48
3.3 Topics discussed with teachers and coaches in both countries	49
3.4 Topics discussed with administrators in both countries	49
3.5 Data analysis	50
Chapter 4: The Canberra Experience	61
4.1 A brief history	62
4.2 National context	65
4.3 Women's football in Canberra	72
4.3.1 Capital Football	73
4.3.1.1 Heather	75
4.3.1.2 Aroon	81
4.3.1.3 Rae	86
4.3.2 Becoming a qualified coach	91
4.3.3 Observations as a volunteer coach	93
4.4 Issues to consider for football in Jordan	97
Chapter 5: Jordan	101
5.1 Fieldwork	102
5.1.1 Phase 1	102
5.1.2 Phase 2	111
5.2 An introductory coaching project	116

	Page
5.2.1 Background	116
5.2.2 The introductory program	119
5.2.3 Data	124
5.3 Current practice and opportunities for development	129
Chapter 6: Sustainable Development of Women’s Football in Jordan	133
6.1 Thinking globally acting locally: literature and fieldwork	135
6.2 Teachers and coaches	136
6.3 Governance	139
6.4 Identifying athletes	140
6.5 The art of the possible	141
Chapter 7: Conclusion	143
7.1 Aims and research questions revisited	143
7.2 Sustainability	151
7.3 Making visible women’s football in Jordan	153
7.4 Conclusion	159
References	163
Appendices	183
A Ethics Approval University of Canberra	185
B Participant Information Sheet	187
C Participant Consent Form	191
D Letter of Introduction from the Ministry of Education, Al ramtha Directorate	193
E Semi-structured Interview Questions for Jordanian Coaches	195
F Semi-structured Interview Questions for Heather Reid, CEO Capital Football	197
G A transcript extract from a semi-structured interview in Canberra	199
H An interview transcript from a national football coach	201

List of Tables

Table	Title	Page
1	Place in birth year for national league players	108
2	Place in birth year for national team players	108
3	Scores in the kicking and running tests	125
4	Scores in the timed running with the ball test	125

List of Figures

Figure	Title	Page
1	The geographical location of the city of Al ramtha in Jordan	4
2	Ready for football. Schoolgirls in the Year 3 class at the Al Bowaida School, Al ramtha	6
3	An example of a research diary entry from 2012	57
4	Notes made during an interview with a national coach in Jordan	58
5	Building Blocks of the National Football Curriculum	69
6	Girls' football in Canberra	74
7	My first Australian coaching qualification	92
8	A playground football lesson at the Al Bowaida School, Al ramtha	102
9	Teaching football skills at Al Bowaida School, Al ramtha	115
10	Dribbling the ball 6 metres at Al Bowaida School, Al ramtha	118
11	Dribbling and shooting at Al Bowaida School, Al ramtha	118
12	Penalty on its way at Zainab School, Al ramtha	119
13	A football lesson in a mixed class during the Award scheme at Al Bowaida School	120
14	Dressed to play at the Al Bowaida School, Al ramtha	120
15	A physical education football lesson at Al Bowaida School, Al ramtha	130
16	A playground football lesson at Al Bowaida School, Al ramtha	134
17	In the playground at Al Bowaida School, Al ramtha	141
18	Women take to the pitch as female footballers wow Jordan	154