

**The change of gender patterns in self-representation of riders in equestrian sport.**

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Introduction:

Analyzing different resources of information: magazines, programs, ratings and so on, it is seen that more and more women are involved in equestrian sport. Is that due to men are not interested in it or they are tend to have lack of desire? It is interesting to know whether it is a simple case will or a movement of changing in gender patterns. Such picture was seen in Europe in the beginning of XX century. As we are developing the same script, based on theory and history, now we are feeling the same movements in the sport as were in Europe. No articles had been written about this in Russia. No scientists are interested in it, while in Europe there are a lot of debates around the problem.

This paper is written to shed a light on the gender displacement within the sport and to help sportsmen behave in the right way due to the history and theory

The results of the 1st year course paper are made with the help of Vos Viewer and Cit Net :

There are three main approaches to make the question be solved. Each side is based on great world's researchers within the gender question.

- 1) ***The theory of social learning*** by ***Albert Bandura*** is one of the major approaches ever be made. It's a special cluster in this paper which explains why women and men are differently presented on the sport arena. By this approach gender is different by the environment experience around it. "In such an environment, the effectiveness of doing should be seen through the tasks interdependence" [Jowett and Lavallee, 2007]. People are used to model behavior of other people. In other words, women within equestrian sport replicate behavior of men-riders by coping their life style, habits and manners. So, sportsmen have more stable gender differences" [Marsh and Parker, 2015].
- 2) An approach based ***on masculinity or male dominance*** is written by ***Pierre Bourdieu***. Sport here originally builds the difference between women and men, making different requirements for each sex. Bourdieu [U+02BC]'s relational thesis of masculine domination consists of a three-part process of observation, somatization, and naturalization. All of them divide sportsmen on foxes and lions: dominated and dominant. "In the sport body is a product and as a symbol of social - cultural representation of yourself now and then" [Brown, 2006: 167]. Women can ride a horse only in the "Lady" style while man have all rights to ride in an everyday position, which is historically a sign of masculinity dominance. "There are different types of male dominance, each of which has different amount of power" [Коннелл, 2003].
- 3) A focus ***on social status*** has been made in works of ***Messner*** and colleagues. They used some knowledge from the other sides and focus on the position in the society. First of all, due to the high price of the equestrian sport, it initially was an elite sport for rich people with good social position. Is it the same today? It is supposed that the answer is

yes. People from middle and higher social class can afford themselves to be involved in riding. “Differences in social status and position in the society is made by sport” [Messner, 2013]. The second aspect here is that riding acts as a social elevator, that help to move within the social structure. Frequently, it is needed to win an Olympic medal to reach an elite class. “Sometimes men need to be at the top of sport ranks to be successful in social life” [Messner, 2013].

Hypothesis:

This theoretical approaches lead to the main hypothesis:

- 1) Women are tend to copy men’s behavior in life and in sport by demonstrating their masculinity instead of femininity.
- 2) There is a self representation of women, based on the three processes of masculine domination
- 3) Successful riders are from higher social classes.
- 4) Equestrian sport presents as a social elevator in the structure of society.

Methodology:

All methodology is separated into two parts. One of which is going to take needed information by asking people, related to the equestrian sport, about their behavior, habits, manners, preferences, and the second will be founded on analyzing social network sites of successful riders.

At first, there have been made a qualitative research based on content analysis of questionnaire. Riders different age, social statuses and ranks are being asked to answer several simple questions by internet. This questionnaire was spread through groups in Vkontakte, that are about equestrian sport. There was used simple random sampling. Sample was about 50 people.

Second part is made by prepositive sampling.

There is a list of sportsmen ranged by their success on the sport’s arena made by Federation of International Equestrian Sport (FEI). Rating is made on the results of the sportsmen, riding different horses within one rating group, featured on international and national competitions.

Four top sportsmen of each gender of each equestrian discipline were selected to participate in this research. That’s why there will be 12 sites of riders.

Analysis was through Instagram, Facebook, Vk and twitter, where post, likes, texts and photos were explained.

After some work, there can be made first conclusions:

There were some open questions, where riders need to write their phrases and emotions in different cases. Practically all female respondents in the questionnaire frequently use in their speech initially male phrases, as it is argued due to the theories, such as “determination”, “competitiveness”, “aggressiveness”.

*“Equestrian sport is very cruel and any difficulties, changes and movements can “throw” a rider on the sideline of the world ranking”.*

*“What is needed to be a successful rider is your own determination”*

*“You are fighting against yourself”.*

*“The main competitor in your sport-life is you. This is a strong reality of my being”*

The same is about a male-rider. This can be the preliminary finding about the fact that women are tend to replicate male’s behavior, using the same language as male do.

Conclusions are under the work.

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## Иллюстрации



Рис. 1. The foundation of theory