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State of the Field: Sports History and the “Cultural Turn”

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At one of the inaugural sessions of the newly minted Sports Studies Caucus at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association (ASA) in 2012, Daniel A. Nathan, author of *Saying It's So: A Cultural History of the Black Sox*

Scandal, stated that “the place of sport in American Studies is radically smaller ... and more marginal, than the place of sport in American culture.” Nathan described the isolation of “sports history” while sitting next to the historians John Bloom, Adrian Burgos Jr., and myself, as well as the literature professor and former professional football player Michael Oriard, whose revolutionary *Reading Football: How the Popular Press Created an American Spectacle* (1993) used a Geertzian analysis to transform the sports page into...

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