**TOPIC**    
**1st day**: From ancient Olympia to Modern Times: The History of military sports

**TITLE**

**Sports and military (training) in Hellenistic Egypt**

**AFFILIATION**

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**INTRODUCTION**

This paper aims to give some answer to the question of the relationship between sports and military in Hellenistic Egypt (3rd -1st cents. BC). In order to do so, particular issues are being considered: the gymnasia in the cities and the country; gymnasiarchs and their military background; gymnasia and gymnasiarchs in Ptolemaic military possessions outside Egypt; military training in the gymnasia; the institution of *ephebeia*; the great military parade in Alexandria as given by Atheneaus (25-36, 196A–203B) during the first athletic festival of *Ptolemaia* (c. 280 BC); military presence in Alexandrian poetry.

**METHODS**

The method followed is based on the model of analytical historical research, the progress based on the logic of synthesis (synthetic method), in a combination between the descriptive and the explanatory or interpretive type.

**RESULTS**

Non applicable

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

The athletic competitions in Pharaonic Egypt -that is before the foundation of the Ptolemaic kingdom- took place during royal celebrations, and competiveness was not a prerequisite because they aimed at the glorification of the king and not the winner. There was no overall sports training system. On the other hand, in Hellenistic Egypt, we can talk about an “athletic culture” that played an important role in the state’s politics. The involvement of military officials with gymnasia in the Ptolemaic regime is proven immense. As it comes to the role of the gymnasia in the military training, based on the evidence, it is not clear whether all soldiers were trained in them.

**PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR CISM**

Non applicable

**REFERENCES**

-Stavrou, Dorothea: *The Gymnasion in the Hellenistic East. Motives, divergences and network of contacts*. PhD Thesis. School of Archaeology & Ancient History, University of Leicester. Leicester 2016.

-Samara, Aikaterini: *Sport and Power in the Hellenistic era: Egypt of 3rd cent. BC*. PhD Thesis. Democritus University of Thrace, School of Physical Education & Sport Science

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**FIGURES AND TABLES**

Non applicable

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The declaration of potential conflicts of interest is the responsibility of the corresponding author.

**PRESENTATION TYPE**

Oral

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