



Interview with ICSSPE's Vice-President – Prof. Dr. Beatriz Ferreira

1. You've been an active part of ICSSPE for previous years, most recently serving as Executive Board member. What does this new role as Vice-President mean to you?

I am thankful to all the members who voted for me, trusted me, and believed in my work to serve ICSSPE over the next four years.

Being Vice-President represents recognition, resilience, and the possibility of bringing together the dream of so many members to continue advancing ICSSPE's vision, mission, and values.

My participation in the Development Committee previously, and more recently on the Executive Board, provided me with a deeper understanding of ICSSPE — its demands, its difficulties, and the obstacles to be overcome. In today's world, where we face rapid transformations in areas such as technology, as well as challenges in political and cultural change, we need to stand together — I, you, and all of us — to succeed.

This new role as Vice-President of the Development Committee is both a tribute to the experience gained over these years and a step forward into the future.

2. Can you share a little about your professional background and how your career path connects to ICSSPE's mission?

My background is rooted in two areas of knowledge: Physical Education (undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of São Paulo) and Anthropology (PhD at the University of Texas). I developed my career in teaching, research, and outreach at public state and federal universities in Brazil, and as a visiting professor at KU Leuven in Belgium. Each of these experiences opened new perspectives, but I particularly highlight my time at the State University of Campinas – UNICAMP, where I spent most of my academic career and also served as Head of Department.

Beyond the university context, I have collaborated with several institutions:

- **IAPESGW** – Development projects aligned with the association's mission, event organization, publications, and support for women to share their experiences in Physical Education and Sport.

- **CELAFISCS** – Honorary Member and Board Member of the Health Promotion and Physical Activity programs, Agita São Paulo.
- **ITC (Intertribal Committee on Indigenous Memory and Science)** – Research and publications on Indigenous Peoples' Games, and coordination of joint projects with universities.
- **Norbert Elias Foundation** – Joint projects with Brazilian researchers on Elias' figurational sociology, games, and sports.
- **Dance Confederation of Wheelchair Dance** – Founder and developer of academic and intellectual projects in collaboration with universities.

From the beginning, my participation in national and international scientific events and publications opened institutional doors, built networks, and created friendships that strongly shaped my journey. Gender, inclusion, culture, and society in Sport Sciences and Physical Education have been the driving forces of my career.

This background reinforces my commitment to advancing ICSSPE's mission:

- Integrating research to enhance physical activity and sport;
- Educating for improved quality of life and health for all people through physical activity and sport;
- Promoting policies for active lifestyles, human performance, and good governance in physical activity and sport.

3. What specific areas or initiatives do you hope to focus on during your term as Vice-President?

My priority is to strengthen integration and collaborative work with President Annette Hofmann, the Development Committee, the Executive Board, and the Executive Office. Working together will allow us to reach ICSSPE members and encourage the development of joint projects that reflect our shared vision, mission, and values.

I will promote the establishment of clear objectives and strategies for the Biennial Working Programme, which will be essential to guide our actions. Another focus will be to reinforce existing collaborations



with the UN, IOC, UNESCO, and Erasmus+ while actively seeking new partners, projects, and funding opportunities to ensure the sustainability and expansion of ICSSPE's initiatives.

I also intend to collaborate in the regionalization of ICSSPE, identifying and supporting leaders who can build projects within their local contexts while remaining connected to our global commitments and principles.

The celebration of ICSSPE's 70th anniversary in 2028 will be a milestone, serving to highlight the historical record in different areas of physical activity, encourage the organization of local events, and culminate in a major global gathering. This will not only be a moment of reflection on our history but also a celebration of our resilience, diversity, and collective commitment to the future of sport, physical education, and active societies worldwide.

Another priority is to promote the responsible and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in sport and physical education. While these technologies offer great potential for advancing research, expanding access to knowledge, and developing innovative tools, it is essential to ensure their use is carefully monitored, respectful of ethical principles, inclusive, and attentive to the risks of misuse.

Finally, I will encourage the Perspective Series publication project through the Taylor & Francis Group, Routledge, as an important way to disseminate research, share experiences, and amplify diverse voices in sport and physical education.

4. In your view, what are the biggest challenges ICSSPE faces today in sport, physical education, and physical activity — and how can the organisation best address them?

One major challenge is financial support. We must continuously seek new partners and reinvent approaches to ensure the development of our programmes.

In terms of regionalization, another challenge is the unequal access to sport and physical activity across regions, genders, and communities. To address this, we need to explore innovative solutions such as use of artificial intelligence, podcasts, local media projects with invited experts, joint initiatives with regional partners, and targeted funding strategies.

At the same time, rapid technological changes, global health crises, and political or cultural shifts create both opportunities and risks. ICSSPE can best respond to these challenges by fostering collaboration



between researchers and practitioners, supporting evidence-based policies, and amplifying the voices of underrepresented groups so that solutions are inclusive and sustainable.

5. What inspires and motivates you most in your work with ICSSPE?

What inspires me most is the opportunity to connect with people from different cultures, disciplines, and regions who share the belief that sport and physical activity can improve lives. Seeing how our work contributes to inclusion, gender equity, and intercultural understanding gives me great motivation. It is the sense that, together, we are building bridges between research, practice, and policy for the benefit of all.

6. What advice would you give to students or early-career professionals who aspire to contribute to international sport, physical activity, or physical education?

Be curious, be resilient, and be open to collaboration across cultures. Seek opportunities to participate in international networks, conferences, and projects early in your career. Remember that the field is not only about technical skills, but also about values — equity, respect, and service to communities. If you align your passion with these values, you will find your path to meaningful impact.

7. If you had to describe your vision for ICSSPE's future in just one sentence, what would it be?

Knowledge, inclusion, and innovation for active societies.