

# Review of: "Uncelebrated Sports Officials in the Middle East & Africa"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The research is commendable for its unique focus and for highlighting the significant role of sports in regions outside the Western world. The author employs qualitative methodology, integrating observational research, ethnography, and analysis of media clips, which is well-suited for the exploratory nature of the study.

However, there are a few areas where the study might benefit from further refinement:

The current methodological approach lacks depth in empirical data collection, which could have provided more objective insights. The use of personal and participant observations, along with media clip analysis, while valuable for qualitative insights, might limit the study's scope in providing a comprehensive picture.

Furthermore, the article does not explicitly address the issues of reflexivity and positionality, which are critical in qualitative research. The absence of these considerations could question the objectivity and comprehensiveness of the research findings.

The article could benefit from a more robust theoretical framework. While it discusses various aspects related to sports officiating, a clearer articulation of the theoretical perspectives guiding the research would strengthen the study. This would help in situating the research within existing literature and in clarifying the contribution it makes to the field.

The paper might have benefited from a comparative analysis with sports officiating in other regions. This would offer a more global context for the findings and help in understanding whether the challenges and dynamics observed in the Middle East and Africa are unique or part of a broader global trend.

While the author has done a commendable job of highlighting the specific context of sports officiating in the Middle East and Africa, it could delve deeper into the broader implications of these findings for sports management and policy. This would help in understanding the practical applications of the research and its relevance to sports governance globally.

In summary, this work is a valuable contribution to the field, particularly for its focus on a largely unexplored area. Enhancing its theoretical grounding and situating the findings in a broader context could further elevate its academic impact.

