TOLGA OZYURTCU, PH.D.

Department of Kinesiology and Health Education | The University of Texas at Austin

Curriculum Vitae | Updated September 2026

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Kinesiology (Physical Culture and Sport Studies), The University of Texas at Austin 2014

Dissertation: Flex Marks the Spot: Histories of Muscle Beach. Advisor: Jan S. Todd.

M.Sc., Kinesiology (Sport Management), The University of Texas at Austin 2011

Thesis: The Role of Parents in Sport Specialization: A Grounded Theory of Soccer Parents. Advisor: B. Christine Green.

B.A., Political Science, Haverford College 2005

Senior thesis: Popular Democratic Reform: Winners and Losers in California's Initiative Process. Advisor: Sidney Waldman.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

Professor of Instruction, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2026–present

Associate Professor of Instruction, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2020–2026

Assistant Professor of Instruction, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2014–2020

Faculty Affiliate, Center for Sports Communication and Media, Moody College of Communication, The University of Texas at Austin 2020–present

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEADERSHIP ROLES

Associate Chair, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2026–present

Program Director, Sport Management and Physical Culture and Sport Studies, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2026–present

Assistant Director, H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports, The University of Texas at Austin 2022–present

Undergraduate Coordinator and Chair, Undergraduate Advisory Committee, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2018–2026

Member, Department Management Team, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2018–present

Non-Voting Member, Budget Council, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2018–present

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Fellow, American Kinesiology Association Leadership Institute 2027

L.H. Cullum Endowment Award, The University of Texas at Austin ($4,000) 2026–2027

Maxine Foreman Zarrow Endowed Faculty Fellowship in Education, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin ($3,000) 2026–2027

Participant, American Kinesiology Association Leadership Workshop, Atlanta, Georgia 2026

Aspiring Leaders Academy, Office of the Provost, The University of Texas at Austin 2025–2026

Dean's Distinguished Professional Track Faculty Award, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2024

Graduate Educator of the Year, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2024

Faculty Development Award, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin ($10,000) 2023

Provost's Teaching Fellow, Center for Teaching and Learning, The University of Texas at Austin 2022–2025

Dean's Leadership Fellow, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2021–2022

Undergraduate Educator of the Year, Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin 2015–2016

SCHOLARSHIP

Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=YqGPQikAAAAJ&hl=en

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Reviews

Ozyurtcu, T. (2022). Review of Tony Hawk: Until the Wheels Fall Off. *Journal of Sport History*, 49(2), 165–167.

Murtha, R. T., & Ozyurtcu, T. (2022). From stroke to stoke: The multiple sporting legacies of the Southern California home swimming pool. *International Journal of the History of Sport*, 39(1), 92–110.

Murtha, R. T., & Ozyurtcu, T. (2021). Untangling the differences between live and filmed sport, or why are sports movies bad? *Aethlon*, 37(2), 79–89.

Ozyurtcu, T., & Todd, J. (2021). Critical mass: Oral history, innovation theory, and the fitness legacy of the Muscle Beach scene. *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, 37(16), 1696–1714.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2019). "Living the dream": Southern California and the origins of lifestyle sport. *Journal of Sport History*, 46(1), 20–35.

Bowers, M. T., & Ozyurtcu, T. (2018). Reducing bias to shift demand: A model for reforming youth sports in America. *Sport & Entertainment Review*, 4(2), 33–40.

Ozyurtcu, T., & Todd, J. (2015). A prelude to big-time football: H.J. Lutcher Stark and the 1910 University of Texas football season. *Iron Game History*, 13(2/3), 65–78.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2015). Review of No-No: A Dockumentary. *Journal of Sport History*, 42(3), 402–403.

Other Scholarly Publications

Ozyurtcu, T. (2023). The wheel of pain keeps on turning: Human potential at the Arnold Sports Festival. *Iron Game History*, 16(2), 1–3.

Book Chapters

Schelfhout, S., Ozyurtcu, T., & Todd, J. (2020). Streaming, Spectatorship and the Sportification of E-Sports. In A. R. Hofmann (Ed.), *Das Phänomen E-Sports* (pp. 158–185). Aachen, Germany: Meyer & Meyer Verlag.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018). Shaping the Boom: Los Angeles Surfing from George Freeth to Gidget. In W. Wilson & D. K. Wiggins (Eds.), *LA Sports* (pp. 219–238). Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press.

Book Reviews

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017). Dodgerland: Decadent Los Angeles and the 1977–78 Dodgers, by Michael Fallon. *Sport in American History*.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2016). The Battle for Paradise: Surfing, Tuna, and One Town's Quest to Save a Wave, by Jeremy Evans. *Sport in American History*.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2016). Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life, by William Finnegan. *Sport in American History*.

Manuscript Submitted

Murtha, R. T., & Ozyurtcu, T. Physical counterculture: Frisbee in the sixties and seventies. Manuscript submitted to *The International Journal of the History of Sport*.

Public Scholarship and Commentary

Co-editor and contributor, "Geopolitics of Sports," Stratfor.com, 2017–2019.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2019, July 10). Why the Women's World Cup flies under the geopolitical radar. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2019, February 11). The plight of a Bahraini soccer player highlights the connection of state and sport. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2019, January 7). Of soccer and separatism: Why the Basque decision to seek FIFA membership matters. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, December 5). The 2018 gift guide for the geopolitically curious sports fan. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, October 29). The sports world wrestles with the Khashoggi scandal. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, September 17). Playing games with the Russian military. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, August 20). Two years later, the NFL's anthem issue plays on. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, July 23). The World Cup: Looking ahead from 2018. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, June 25). In the World Cup, 'nationality' is a relative term. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, May 14). The presidential fitness message can't seem to connect. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, April 27). Play by play: A water dispute spills into cricket and a rich offer for FIFA. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, April 16). As the British Empire evolved, the 'Friendly Games' endured. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, March 26). Play by play: Russia faces another scandal and the world wises up to "techno-doping." Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, March 13). Tracing the evolution of the Paralympic Games. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, February 26). Play by play: Does the Korean Olympics détente have staying power? Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, February 19). Camouflage and Lycra: Olympic athletes and the military. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, February 12). Even the cold-weather games can be a geopolitical hotbed. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, January 29). Play by play: A cultural opening in Saudi soccer; an Olympics détente. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, January 15). Hat tricks and halos: How athletes become politicians. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2018, January 1). The rather surprising and sometimes Cuban history of holiday bowl games. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, December 25). An enduring fable on the Western Front. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, December 18). Play by play: Looking ahead and looking back. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, December 4). Gifts for the geopolitically curious sports fan. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, November 27). Play by play: Plumbing the depths of FIFA and having a ball with a Twitter war. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, November 20). A short history of Thanksgiving Day football in America. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, November 6). Riding the waves of military innovation. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, October 30). Play by play: Trump tackles the NFL and Turkey sidelines traveling athletes. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, October 2). From a ghost town to the global stage. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, September 4). Pro sports and protest: Players put their mouths ahead of their money. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, August 28). Play by play: Of international spectacles and national identities. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, August 7). Formula E: Racing to stay on the cutting edge. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, July 31). Play by play: Some hard truths about both flavors of football. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, July 17). The America's Cup: A high seas expression of pure capitalism. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, July 10). Wrestling with tradition: Mongolia, Japan, and the changing face of sumo. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, June 26). Play by play: A World Cup prep test and the dawn of Olympic skateboarding. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, June 5). How an all-American game went global. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, May 29). Play by play: Turkey's long arm, the straight dope and medal fatigue. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, May 15). Why China's ban on golf is par for the course. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, May 1). Play by play: Gender gaps and global games. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, April 27). Remembering Pat Tillman. Stratfor.com.

Ozyurtcu, T. (2017, April 3). How Japan got baseball. Stratfor.com.

Media Appearances and Interviews

Featured in and/or appeared on CBS Austin,Texas Monthly, The Dallas Morning News, The Daily Texan, NPR "All Things Considered," KUT "The Texas Standard," Canadian Broadcasting Corporation "The Current," South By Southwest Sports, Stratfor Geopolitics Podcast, BuzzFeed, and The Beaumont Register.

FUNDED PROJECTS

History of Women's Rowing in the United States, Rowing History Project / ZLAC Rowing Club — Co-PI and Stark Center Project Lead; PI: Jan S. Todd; gift commitment up to $50,000 (expected total $30,000–$35,000) — 2025–2026

Signature Course Supplemental Teaching Funds, Signature Course Advisory Committee, The University of Texas at Austin — Principal Investigator ($750) — 2024

Signature Course Development Grant, Undergraduate Studies, The University of Texas at Austin — Principal Investigator ($1,500) — 2023

Longhorn Mindfulness Project, Provost's Teaching Fellows, The University of Texas at Austin — Principal Investigator ($7,500) — 2022–2025

Faculty Innovation Grant, "Expanding the Playbook: Introducing Gamification Elements into the Sport Management Internship Course," Faculty Innovation Center, The University of Texas at Austin — Co-Principal Investigator with Emily Sparvero and Matthew T. Bowers ($1,500) — 2017

SCHOLARLY AND PROGRAMMATIC PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Co-organizer and Host, "Sport, Technology, and Innovation," Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. — 2024

Conference Organizer, "Playing the Long Game: A Symposium on the Future of the Sports Industry," 2021–2022
Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, The University of Texas at Austin

PRESENTATIONS

Invited and Public Talks

Ozyurtcu, T. (March 2025). Forty Acres, Five Rings: A historical celebration of Longhorn Olympians. Westminster Senior Citizen's Home, Austin, Texas.

Ozyurtcu, T. (October 2024). Forty Acres, Five Rings: A historical celebration of UT Olympians. The 2024 Clyde Raab Littlefield Lecture, The University of Texas at Austin.

Ozyurtcu, T. (January 2023). Big Hits and Big Bucks: Longhorn Football from Stark to Sark. Austin Founders Lions Club, Austin, Texas.

Ozyurtcu, T. (February 2021). The Super Bowl and American Culture. King Abdullah University of Science and Technology Program at The University of Texas at Austin.

Ozyurtcu, T. (December 2015). B-Movies and Bad History: Football [Panel discussion]. Bob Bullock Texas History Museum, Austin, Texas.

Conference Presentations

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2026). The Fascination of What's Difficult: A Tribute to Jan Todd. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Austin, Texas.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2025). Hustlers, Jughead, and SpongeBob: Muscle Beach in popular culture. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Gatineau, Québec.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2025). Albert Almanza: The first international Longhorn Olympian. Alliance for Texas History Annual Conference, San Marcos, Texas.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2024). The Stark Center at 15: Reflections on preserving the history of physical culture [Paper session & panel with Jan Todd, Charles Stocking, Kim Beckwith]. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Denver, Colorado.

Ozyurtcu, T. (August 2022). Faking it and making it: On teaching sport philosophy as a non-philosopher. International Association for the Philosophy of Sport Conference, State College, Pennsylvania.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2021). Class interference: Hip-hop, gang culture, and the ban on Raiders gear in schools. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Virtual.

Ozyurtcu, T. (October 2020). Waves of innovation: Surfing, technology, and nature. Society for the History of Technology Conference, Virtual Meeting.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2019). Black and white and shred all over: Skateboarder Magazine and the invention of a sport. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Boise, Idaho.

Ozyurtcu, T. (June 2018). The Look-Ma No Hands Olympics: The birth and rise of the ESPN X Games. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2017). 'Living the dream': Southern California and the origins of lifestyle sports. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Fullerton, California.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2016). In defense of the Endless Summer: Assessing the role of place in surf cinema. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Atlanta, Georgia.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2015). The short goodbye: Scandal, politics, and the end of Muscle Beach. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Miami, Florida.

Ozyurtcu, T. (April 2015). From the sand to the screen: Muscle Beach goes to the movies. Pop Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2014). California dreaming & scheming: Joe Weider, bodybuilding, and the myth of the Golden State. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2013). Hunter S. Thompson at ESPN. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2012). Theory and physical culture studies [Panel: Physical Culture Studies and Sport History: A Panel Discussion]. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Berkeley, California.

Ozyurtcu, T. (September 2011). Secret spots: The sacred spaces of surfing. International Association for the Philosophy of Sport Conference, Rochester, New York.

Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2011). Reinventing the wheel: Polyurethane wheels and the evolution of skateboard technology and culture. North American Society for Sport History Conference, Austin, Texas.

Bowers, M. T., Giraldo, J. S., Kessler, S. A., & Ozyurtcu, T. (May 2009). Understanding adult sport participation and community: A multi-national inquiry – Perspectives on formal and informal sports structures. North American Society for Sport Management Conference, Columbia, South Carolina.

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP

Doctoral Dissertation Committees

Oguzhan Keles, Ph.D. in Sport History, Western University (London, Ontario) — Member 2026
Eugene Kwon, Ph.D. in Physical Culture and Sport Studies — Member 2025–present
Mackenzie Pike, Ph.D. in Communication Studies — Member 2024
Ryan Murtha, Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Co-chair 2023
Assistant Professor, Minnesota State University
Emalee Nelson, Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Co-chair 2023
Assistant Professor of Instruction, The University of Texas at Austin
Sam Schelfhout, Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Co-chair 2023
Assistant Professor, Sacred Heart University
Sabine Wass, Ph.D. in Germanic Studies — Member 2023
Tanya Jones-Wilson, Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Co-chair 2021
Adjunct Faculty, California State University Fullerton and Saddleback College
Daniel Rosenke, Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Member 2020
Lauren Osmer, Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Member 2019
Kyungun Kim, Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Member 2016
Di Wu, Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Member 2016

Master's Thesis and Report Committees

Ryan Timothy Murtha, M.A. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Co-chair, thesis 2018
Mu Li, M.A. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Co-chair, master's report 2017
Jeffrey Robert Farr, M.A. in Kinesiology and Health Education — Co-chair, master's report 2016

Undergraduate Honors Theses

James McGinley, Plan II Honors — Second reader 2023
Bryan Berry, UT Polymathic Scholars — Supervisor 2022
Cole Coerver, Plan II Honors — Second reader 2022
Jane Buell, Plan II Honors — Supervisor 2020
Mehul Gore, Plan II Honors — Second reader 2019
Kristen Moore, Plan II Honors — Second reader 2018
Hubbard Uhlhorn, Plan II Honors — Second reader 2017

Program Advising and Mentee Recognition

Academic advising for graduate students in Sport Management; typically 3–6 students per cohort and 6–12 students total at any given time 2014–present
Ryan T. Murtha, Dissertation Prize, North American Society for Sport History 2025

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND EDITORIAL SERVICE

Editorial Service

Co-Editor-in-Chief, Iron Game History 2019–present
Ad hoc Reviewer, The International Journal of the History of Sport 2019–present
Ad hoc Reviewer, Journal of Sport History 2018–present
Ad hoc Reviewer, Business History Review 2019
Ad hoc Reviewer, The Journal of Urban History 2017

Professional Service

Conference Host, North American Society for Sport History Annual Conference, Austin, Texas 2026
Chair, Membership Committee, North American Society for Sport History 2024–present
Panelist, Graduate Student Orientation, North American Society for Sport History 2025
Guest Speaker, Stanford University Athletic Department 2025
Member, Membership Committee, North American Society for Sport History 2022–2024

Executive Council Member-at-Large, North American Society for Sport History	2019–2021
Member, Information Technology Committee, North American Society for Sport History	2019–2021
Member, Time and Site Committee, North American Society for Sport History	2017–2019
Member, Program Committee, North American Society for Sport History	2016–2018

Professional Memberships

North American Society for Sport History	2011–present
Society for the History of Technology	2020–2022
Popular Culture Association	2014
American Studies Association	2014
International Association for the Philosophy of Sport	2011–2012; 2022–2023
North American Society for Sport Management	2009–2010

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

University Service

New Faculty Launch Mentor, The University of Texas at Austin	2026
Member, Faculty Advisory Council, Division of Textiles and Apparel, School of Human Ecology, The University of Texas at Austin	2022–2026
Guest Speaker, Student Athlete Advisory Committee, The University of Texas at Austin	2025
Eyes on Teaching Docent, The University of Texas at Austin	2024
Member, C-3 Faculty Council Curriculum Committee, The University of Texas at Austin	2021–2024
Member, B-4 Student Athletes and Activities Committee, The University of Texas at Austin; Chair, 2020–2021; Chair-elect, 2019–2020	2019–2022
Member, Independent Inquiry Flag Committee, The University of Texas at Austin	2017–2020

College of Education Service

Chair, Additional Contributions Subcommittee, Profession-Track CAC	2026
Professional Track CAC Member	2024, 2026
Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee	2018-2026
Presenter, THRIVE Summer Mentor Institute	2025
Professional Track CAC Member	2024
Member, Consultative Committee for Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Search	2024
Host and Moderator, MVP film screening with Nate Boyer	2023
Member, Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award Committee	2022–2024
Member, Undergraduate Scholarship Committee (Dean's Promising Scholars)	2019–2023

Department of Kinesiology and Health Education Service

Chair, Professional-Track Activity Course Annual Review Committee	2026
Member, Graduate Studies Committee	2020–present
Member, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Accreditation Committee	2018–2026
Member, Search Committee, Physical Culture and Sport Studies / Sport Management position	2026
Member, Search Committee, Physical Culture and Sport Studies / Sport Management position	2025
Chair, Fitness Institute of Texas Faculty Steering Committee	2023–2025
Chair, Search Committee, Applied Movement Science half-time professional track position	2023
Member, Search Committee, Physical Activity, Culture, Race, and Gender position	2023
Chair, Search Committee, Sport Management and Physical Culture and Sport Studies position	2022
Faculty Advisor, Sport Management Club	2021–2023
Chair, Undergraduate Strategic Planning Committee	2020–2021
Co-chair, Essay Awards Committee, Stark Center Physical Cultures of the Body Conference	2020–2023
Host and Moderator, Clyde Raab Littlefield Lecture	2019; 2022
Faculty Advisor, Kinesiology Club	2019–2024
Member, Non-Tenure Track Faculty Merit Review Committee	2017–2018; 2020–2022
Member, Search Committee, Physical Culture and Sport Studies position	2018
Chair, Alderson Lecture and Awards Ceremony	2018
Member, Ad hoc Committee on Non-Tenure Track Faculty	2018
Member, Search Committee, Exercise Science position	2017

Undergraduate Advisory Committee, Sport Management Program Representative 2016–2018
Member, Search Committee, Health Behavior and Health Promotion position 2016