

Perception of the sport-politics relationship from the functions of political economy Percepción de la relación deporte-política desde las funciones de la economía política

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Abstract. The aim of this article is to analyze the perception to the relationship of the functions of political economy in sports as an economic sector. Quantitative research was using a sample of 321 persons the sports sector in the departments of Córdoba and Sucre in Colombia. The measured variables included functions of political economy, production relationships, means of production, and productive forces associated with the sports sector. The structured questionnaire applied consisted of closed-ended Likert scale questions. For data analysis, the statistical package SPSS 28.0 was used, applying descriptive statistics, factor analysis, and linear regression. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was found to be 0.815, indicating good reliability of the scale used. The main results show that the variables mostly meet the criterion of one-dimensionality. In conclusion, it was determined that production relationships, productive forces, and means of production in the sports sector in the sample departments can generate economic problems and contradictions, but their impact is moderated by the functions of political economy. The Perception of the Sport-Politics Relationship (SPR) is positively affected by the Ideological Function (IF), Cognitive Function (CF) and the Practical Function (PF), while it is negatively affected by the Methodological Function (MF).

Keywords: Economic sector, sports entrepreneurs, cognitive function, methodological function, practical function, ideological function.

Resumen. El objetivo de este artículo es analizar la percepción de la relación de las funciones de la economía política en el deporte como sector económico. La investigación cuantitativa utilizó una muestra de 321 personas asociadas al deporte en los departamentos de Sucre y Córdoba, Colombia. Las variables medidas incluyeron funciones de economía política, relaciones de producción, medios de producción y fuerzas productivas asociadas con el sector deportivo. El cuestionario estructurado aplicado consistió en preguntas cerradas en escala Likert. Para el análisis de los datos se utilizó el paquete estadístico SPSS 28.0, aplicándose estadística descriptiva, análisis factorial y regresión lineal. El coeficiente Alfa de Cronbach resultó ser de 0,815, lo que indica una buena fiabilidad de la escala utilizada. Los principales resultados muestran que las variables en su mayoría cumplen con el criterio de unidimensionalidad. En conclusión, se determinó que las relaciones de producción, las fuerzas productivas y los medios de producción en el sector deportivo en los departamentos de la muestra pueden generar problemas y contradicciones económicas, pero su impacto es moderado por las funciones de la economía política. La Percepción de la Relación Deporte-Política (SPR) se ve afectada positivamente por la Función Ideológica (FI), Función Cognitiva (FC) y la Función Práctica (PF), mientras que se ve afectada negativamente por la Función Metodológica (MF).

Palabras clave: Sector económico, emprendedores deportivos, función cognitiva, función metodológica, función práctica, función ideológica.

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Introduction

How are sports and politics related? Political economy is one of those bridges where these two categories come together. Sports, as a social and cultural phenomenon, establish countless types of relationships, and economics is precisely a social science that studies the relationships of production with scarce resources, in this case, sports resources. These resources are often perishable, scarce, and necessary, requiring investment, labor, knowledge, infrastructure, and access. Therefore, economics, politics, and sports are three scientific categories that have always been related in all countries. Ruiz (2009) emphasizes that even sports have been capable of marking social and political elites, depending on the prevailing ideology.

Football in Brazil, Spain, Germany, Colombia, and England, baseball in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Panama, sumo in Japan, boxing or wrestling in Mexico, cricket in India, athletics in Jamaica and Kenya, artistic gymnastics and wrestling in Russia, among others, are more than just sports, they are national identity, and that makes them a political tool. In a

Scopus 2024 analysis, under the search criterion TITLE ("political economy") AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "Spanish")), a growth rate of publications on the topic of 23% on average per year from 2017 to 2024 is shown, with a total of 96 documents in Spanish and 7,720 in English. This exposes that it is still a topic of interest for the scientific community. Pérez Martínez (2019) emphasizes that political economy is important in all social spheres.

The functions of political economy, according to Berenguer Ungaro et al. (2019), constitute a guide for studies in different contexts. Díaz (2014) defines the Cognitive Function as the set of knowledge that is collected on a field of action, the Methodological Function as the set of necessary tools within an area of knowledge, the Practical Function is undoubtedly the criterion of truth of that field of action, and the Ideological Function is divided into the ideological current followed by the group that influences the object of study. Bermejo-Salmon (2016) highlights how these functions can coordinately explain the competencies that professionals can develop. Among the main keywords are state, development,

criticism, underdevelopment, inflation, ideology, financing, governance, globalization, football, among others. Then, when the term "sport" is added to this equation, the search is simplified to 11 articles that relate political economy to sport TITLE ("political economy" AND sport) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "Spanish")) OR LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")), with 2017 being the year with the greatest scientific production.

The first article on this topic referenced in Scopus dates to 1995, in which corporate sports slogans and the political economy of illustrated racism are associated (Mckay, 1995). This background highlights the contradictions that exist in sports, in each context and towards an ethnic group that was disadvantaged at the time. It highlights some interesting research categories: race, sport, and political culture.

Fernández-Souto et al. (2023), Troncoso Robles Dri Manfiolete et al. (2023), Alonso Delgado and Medina (2019) in their respective investigations demonstrate the need for the intervention of the public administration as a political body in sports. Related to this, we can refer to the research of Flores Fernández (2020), which analyzes the paradoxes and inequalities caused by the sport-media-gender complex that drive global sporting events. Carvalho et al. (2023) reaffirm a contemporary concept such as sports cities through the implementation of municipal sports policies.

There is evidence of political intervention in sports management, one of which is the annual public sports expenditure, which various institutions access through tenders or contract awards (Rodríguez Vela, 2023). Without a doubt, the economy is also present in the different types of competitions (Silva et al., 2021), not only in the sporting event itself, but also in other activities such as accommodation, food, transportation, among others (Redondo Castán et al., 2023) and the health (Anjos and Silva, 2021).

In Colombia, according to Ruiz (2009), sports were politically institutionalized in the 20th century, when public sports institutions began to be created in the country to regulate this activity at the national level. Since then, there has been a growing trend in the construction of sports institutions and areas (Figure 1). Figure 1 included in the introduction is intentionally to put into context the trend that the sports sector is having in Colombia, with the construction of new facilities for its development, with the expansion of infrastructure being one of the criteria for economic growth.

It reflects the need for the state to intervene in the empowerment of sports at the national level. This allows us to formulate the following research problem: How do the functions of political economy affect the sports sector in the departments of Córdoba and Sucre in Colombia? The aim of this research is to analyze the perception to the relationship of the functions of political economy in sports as an economic sector.



Figure 1. Trend of sports facilities construction in Colombia up to 2022. The figure shows the trend of sports facilities construction in Colombia from 2008 to 2022. The y-axis represents the index value, while the x-axis shows the years. The graph indicates a growing trend in the construction of sports facilities over the given period. Source: DANE - IPOC (Civil Works Production Indicator)

Methodology

The generation of scientific knowledge for the sports sector is one of the fundamental platforms in many countries where it is considered the main economic source. The proposed methodology has its antecedents in the authors' minimum doctoral examination in political economy and is therefore considered unprecedented (Silveira-Pérez, et al., 2022). It was the result of an exhaustive investigation of basic texts related to political economy, relating them to knowledge of sport. References subsequently published by other authors were also used, which supported the results of the aforementioned minimum adapted to their themes (Bermejo-Salmon, 2016; Díaz, 2014; Berenguer Ungaro et al., 2019).

The presence of political economy in the sports sector, with its object and method of study, offers professionals from different sciences the study of the social relations of production as the fundamental relations established by men in society; of the laws that determine the development of the relations of production in the different stages of social development and the economic aspect of these relations of production. The functions of political economy serve as a guide for research, in this case business-related, carried out in the sports sector, allowing for a critical and well-argued analysis in the fulfillment of the proposed objectives:

- Cognitive (The theory): Scientific knowledge obtained from reality to reach a theoretical body; how and why production modes arise. Its content facilitates the construction of the theoretical framework that supports the research to be developed.

- Methodological (The method Philosophical foundation): Political economy recognizes the primary character of the material in the surrounding world and the universal concatenation of objects and phenomena in the world. It considers movement and development due to the internal contradictions of economic phenomena. In this research, analyze the principles methodological that support the production relations developed in the sports sector.

- Ideological (The foundation of ideology): Influences the system of political, philosophical, and moral ideas in society; influences the formation of ideological convictions. Allows the identification of the social character of the

production relations carried out in the departmental sports sector.

- Practical (The scientific argument of practical action): Serves as a scientific basis for the conscious practical action exercised by members of society when designing and applying their forms and methods of management, leadership, strategy, and economic policy. Facilitates the understanding in the application of management and business performance tools proposed to the sector, specifically in the sport.

Instrument for data collection

Applying a Likert scale where 1 is strongly disagree, 2 is disagree, 3 is neither agree nor disagree, 4 is agree, and 5 is strongly agree, for 9 items:

1. Cognitive Function (CF) - Knowledge of the sport:

CF1= To what degree do you know the main rules of the sport you teach, coach or practice?

CF2= How familiar do you feel with the history of the sport you teach, coach or practice?

2. Practical Function (PF)- Applications of the sport:

PF1= How often do you participate in sports activities during the week?

PF2= Do you consider that participation in sports events enriches the sport you teach, coach or practice?

PF3= Do you consider the sport as an effective form of physical exercise?

3. Methodological Function (MF)-Methods and techniques of the sport:

MF1=How would you rate your ability to execute the basic techniques of the sport you teach, coach or practice?

MF2=How do you consider your methodological preparation regarding what you teach, coach or practice?

MF3= How many common tactical strategies do you use in the sport you teach, coach or practice?

4. Ideological Function (IF)-- Manifestation of political ideology

IF1= How do you consider the relationship between sports and politics?

IF2= What is the level of knowledge of the laws that regulate the development of sports?

IF3= Have you participated in political activities in the last 12 months?

5. Perception of the sport-politics relationship (SPR)

SPR1=Do you believe that politics has a significant impact on the world of sports?

SPR2= In your opinion, how are sports and politics related in today's society?

6. Productive Factors (PFD)

PFD1=How much money do you spend monthly on sports-related activities?

PFD2=How many public sports facilities do you have access to in your local area?

7. Means of Production (MP)

MP1= Do you have the necessary sports equipment to compete?

MP2= Do you consider the sports equipment to be sufficient for sports training?

MP3=Do you have the necessary sports equipment to train?

8. Confidence in Government Institutions (CGI)

CGI1= How much confidence do you have in government decisions related to sports?

CGI2= Do you consider that government institutions are transparent in their management of sports affairs?

9. Contribution to Quality of Life (CQL)

CQL1= How has the practice of sports influenced your overall well-being?

CQL2= Do you believe that sports have positively contributed to your quality of life in terms of health and happiness?

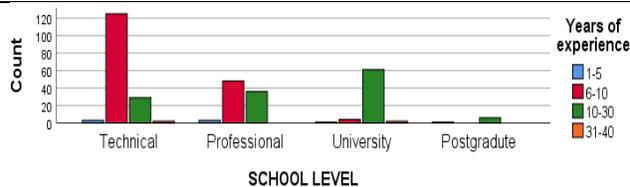
Background and Data

The sample was made up of coaches, managers, executives, presidents of sports leagues, clubs and sports schools (Table 1). The total sample size is 321 participants distributed in seven sports categories: Baseball, Handball, Softball, Volleyball, Skating, Rafting and Cycling, of the departments of Córdoba and Sucre, Colombia. The school level was classified into four categories: Technical, Professional, University and Postgraduate. The variable years of experience has four categories: 1-5 years, 6-10 years, 10-30 years and 31-40 years. The largest groups are:

- Volleyball - Technical - 6-10 years of experience (41 participants - 12.77% of the sample)
- Skating - Technical - 6-10 years of experience (32 participants - 10.28%)
- Rafting - Technical - 6-10 years of experience (28 participants - 8.7% of the sample)
- Cycling - Professional - 6-10 years of experience (29 participants - 9.03% of the sample)

Table 1. Sample description

School level	Sport							Total
	Baseball	Handball	Softball	Volleyball	Skating	Rafting	Cycling	
Technical	15	10	0	43	35	32	24	159
Professional	0	9	26	13	3	5	31	87
University	29	11	25	3	0	0	0	68
Postgraduate	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Total	50	30	52	59	38	37	55	321



The sport with the highest frequency is Volleyball, with 59 participants (18.4% of the total). The sport with the second-highest frequency is Softball, with 52 participants (16.2% of the total). The sport with the third-highest frequency is Cycling, with 55 participants (17.1% of the total). The sport with the lowest frequency is Handball, with 30 participants (9.3% of the total).

Techniques used to understand and develop the research question

1. ANOVA (Analysis of Variance): The ANOVA tested for significant differences between variables.

2. Factor Analysis: The factor analysis allowed us to identify the underlying variables that explain the variability of the data set, allowing us to understand the composition of the political economy functions that affect the sports sector in the regions studied.

3. Linear Regression: Linear regression modeled the relationship between a dependent variable, Perception of the sport-politics relationship (SPR), and the other independent variables.

4. Structural Equation Analysis (SEM): SEM modeled the complex relationships between variables, including direct and indirect relationships. It was the most useful technique used to test the interrelationships between political economy functions and the sports sector. The model represented how political economy variables influence different aspects of the sports sector, allowing for the assessment of both direct and mediating effects.

Each of these methods offers a unique and complementary perspective to analyze how political economy functions affect the sports sector in Córdoba and Sucre. The combination of

these approaches provided a deeper and more robust understanding of the relationship between these variables.

Results

The Cronbach's Alpha value results of 0.815, indicates a high level of internal consistency or reliability for the 9 items measured. Cronbach's Alpha values range from 0 to 1, with higher values suggesting greater reliability. Values above 0.8 are generally considered to represent good reliability, meaning the items consistently measure the same underlying construct. This suggests the 9 items in the questionnaire or scale are closely related and reliably measure the intended concept or variable. Cronbach's alpha allowed us to establish that the instrument and the scale are reliable. This is an unpublished instrument, so this result allows its verification and acceptance for future applications in other contexts, whether within or outside of Colombia.

In table 2, the descriptive statistics of the observed variables are shown. The descriptive statistics provide an initial overview of the general trends and central tendencies in the data, which can help guide further analysis and interpretation of the study findings.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics

	Items	Mean	Std. Deviation
CF	Cognitive Function (CF) - Knowledge of the sport:	3,89	,783
PF	Practical Function (PF)- Applications of the sport:	3,30	,535
MF	Methodological Function (MF)-Methods and techniques of the sport:	3,08	1,219
IF	Ideological Function (IF)-- Manifestation of political ideology	3,75	1,034
SPR	Perception of the sport-politics relationship (SPR)	3,02	,443
PFD	Productive Factors (PFD)	2,59	,493
MP	Means of Production (MP)	2,59	,493
CGI	Confidence in Government Institutions (CGI)	3,54	,680
CQL	Contribution to Quality of Life (CQL)	3,36	,968

Source: SPSS 28.0

The descriptive statistics show that Cognitive Function (CF) and Ideological Function (IF) has a mean of around 4, indicating an average score of "agree" on the scale used. For another items Practical Function (PF), Methodological Function (MF), Perception of Sport-Politics Relationship (SPR), Productive Factors of Sport (PFD), Means of Production (MP), Confidence in Government Institutions (CGI), and Contribution to Quality of Life (CQL) has a mean of around 3, indicating an average score of "neither agree nor disagree"

on the scale used.

ANOVA Perception of the sport-politics relationship (SPR factor)

In other analyze the ANOVA results show that there are statistically significant differences between the groups (p<0.05). The results indicates that the perception of the sport-politics relationship (SPR factor) has a significant impact on these variables. The groups with different levels of SPR

perception exhibit different mean scores on these constructs. However, the Methodological Function: Methods and techniques of the sport variable does not show a significant difference between the groups, suggesting that the SPR factor does not have a significant effect on this variable. Overall, the

ANOVA results highlight the importance of the sport-politics relationship perception in understanding the various functional, ideological, and practical aspects related to sports (Table 3).

Table 3.
ANOVA Perception of the sport-politics relationship (SPR factor)

		Sum of squares	gl	Root mean square	F	Sig.
Cognitive Function (CF) - Knowledge of the sport:	Between groups	21,415	2	10,707	19,507	,000
	Within groups	174,548	318	,549		
	Total	195,963	320			
Practical Function (PF)- Applications of the sport:	Between groups	2,283	2	1,142	4,060	,018
	Within groups	89,405	318	,281		
	Total	91,688	320			
Methodological Function (MF)-Methods and techniques of the sport:	Between groups	,351	2	,176	,117	,889
	Within groups	475,543	318	1,495		
	Total	475,894	320			
Ideological Function (IF)-- Manifestation of political ideology	Between groups	126,136	2	63,068	92,881	,000
	Within groups	215,927	318	,679		
	Total	342,062	320			
Productive Factors (PFD)	Between groups	15,840	2	7,920	40,700	,000
	Within groups	61,880	318	,195		
	Total	77,720	320			
Means of Production (MP)	Between groups	15,840	2	7,920	40,700	,000
	Within groups	61,880	318	,195		
	Total	77,720	320			
Confidence in Government Institutions (CGI)	Between groups	94,634	2	47,317	283,211	,000
	Within groups	53,129	318	,167		
	Total	147,763	320			
Contribution to Quality of Life (CQL)	Between groups	7,352	2	3,676	3,993	,019
	Within groups	292,729	318	,921		
	Total	300,081	320			

Source: SPSS 28.0

Factor analysis of the functions of political economy in relation to quality of life

Performing a factor analysis, it was initially obtained that the four functions form a single factor, with the ideological function having the highest factor load in the sample studied (Table 4). The results of the KMO (Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin) and Bartlett's sphericity test provide important information about the suitability of the data for performing a factor analysis. The KMO (Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin) Measure of Sampling Adequacy has a KMO value equal to 0.621. This value is in the range of "mediocre" to "acceptable" (between 0.6 and 0.7), indicating that the sample is moderately suitable for performing a factor analysis. The approximate Chi-square value is 438.402, the degrees of freedom (df) are 6, and the significance level (Sig.) is 0.000 with a total explained variance of 60%. This means that the Bartlett's sphericity test is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$), indicating that there is a significant correlation between the variables included in the factor analysis. Therefore, there is a significant correlation between the variables, which justifies the application of factor analysis to identify the underlying structure of the data.

To improve the factor analysis, sub-equations were made based on assumptions according to the variables studied (Table 5). Hypothesis for the sample with:

H1: Political economy functions have a positive and

predominant relationship with high quality of life. For this factorial analyze are used only cases for which contribution to quality of life (CQL) = 5 is strongly agree. With Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy to 0,762, and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity: Approx. Chi-Square=109,339, $df=6$, Sig.=0,000, and total variance explained to 93% obtain two factors of functions of political economy.

H2: Political economy functions have a relationship with moderate trust in government institutions. For this factorial analyze are used only cases for which Confidence in Government Institutions (CGI) = 4 is moderate. 2 components extracted. The variable is not one-dimensional

H3: When the means of production are scarce, political economy functions complement each other. Only cases for which Means of Production (MP) =2, 1 component extracted. The variable is one-dimensional

H4: When productive factors are scarce, political economy functions complement each other. Only cases for which Productive Factors (PFD) =2, 1 component extracted. The variable is one-dimensional

H5: When the perception of the relationship between sport and politics is moderate, political economy functions complement each other. Only cases for which Perception of the sport-politics relationship (SPR) = 3, 1 component extracted. The variable is one-dimensional.

Table 4
Component Matrix^a

Items	Component 1
Ideological Function (IF)- Manifestation of political ideology	,884
Methodological Function (MF)-Methods and techniques of the sport	,819
Cognitive Function (CF) - Knowledge of the sport	,754
Practical Function (PF)- Applications of the sport	,599

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a. 1 components extracted. Source: SPSS 28.0

Table 5.
Component Matrix for factor

Factorials analyze	Items	Component	
		1	2
H1	CF	-0,8	0,54
	MF	0,78	0,56
	PF	0,77	-0,58
	IF	0,77	0,57
H2	IF	0,95	0,15
	MF	0,82	-0,13
	CF	0,47	0,86
H3	PF	0,65	-0,67
	CF	0,91	
	PF	0,84	
H4	IF	0,79	
	MF	0,74	
	CF	0,91	
H5	PF	0,84	
	IF	0,79	
	MF	0,74	
H5	IF	0,94	
	MF	0,89	
	CF	0,69	
	PF	0,69	

Source: SPSS 28.0

A step-by-step factor analysis was performed using the principal components method and Varimax rotation for each of the variables according to the scale, to determine at which point of them the one dimensionality of the latent variable functions of political economy was fulfilled. As a result, it was obtained that there is only one dimensionality in the cases where the Means of Production (MP) and Productive Factors (PFD) is equal to 2 disagreement, and Perception of the sport-politics relationship (SPR) is equal to 3, neutral. When the people in sport agree with the government and the quality of life, the functions are divided into two factors.

The first factorial equation obtained when the variable is not one-dimensional, indicates that knowledge of sport and its practical applications have a positive and predominant relationship with quality of life, when the latter is high (CQL = 5). This suggests that, when quality of life is high, the manifestation of political ideology and the methodological aspects of sport have a more secondary relationship with quality of life, compared to cognitive and practical aspects. This could mean that in environments with high levels of quality of life, people tend to value more the concrete and practical benefits that sport brings, compared to its ideological implications or the methods used.

In the second equation, when the variable is not one-dimensional and trust in government institutions is moderate

(CGI = 4), the ideological and practical aspects of sport appear to be more closely related to each other. On the other hand, sport knowledge is inversely related to practical applications, which may indicate a tension or disconnect between the cognitive and practical aspects of sport in these contexts. This may reflect that, in environments of moderate government trust, people tend to link the ideological and practical aspects of sport more closely, while sport knowledge is perceived as more distant from its concrete applications.

Linear regression analysis

The main findings of the regression are shown in model six. The value of the constant is 3.053, which would represent the value of the dependent variable when all independent variables take the value 0. Ideological Function (IF) - Manifestation of political ideology has a standardized beta coefficient of 0.666, which indicates that it has the greatest relative weight in predicting the dependent variable. In addition, the t value (10.073) and the significance level ($p < 0.001$) show that this variable is statistically significant.

On the other hand, Confidence in Government Institutions (CGI) has a standardized beta coefficient of -0.326, which means that it has a negative effect on the dependent variable. It is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). The other variables (Methodological Function, Contribution to Quality of Life, Productive Factors, Practical Function) are also statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) but have a lower relative weight in predicting the dependent variable:

$$SPR = 3,053 + 0,286 IF - 0,213 CGI - 0,100 MF - 0,077 CQL + 0,182 PFD - 0,079 PF (1)$$

Structural equations

The results of the structural equations show that the model has an excellent fit to the data, with very high goodness-of-fit indices (χ^2). This indicates that the model adequately represents the relationships between the study variables. The minimum fit function Chi-Square value is 25.25 with 10 degrees of freedom and a p-value of 0.0049. This indicates that the model does not fit the data well, as the p-value is less than the commonly used significance level ($p < 0.05$). However, the Satorra-Bentler Scaled Chi-Square is 0.00 with a p-value of 1.00, which suggests a perfect fit of the model to the data.

The RMSEA value is 0.0, which indicates a perfect model fit. The 90% confidence interval for RMSEA also falls between 0.0 and 0.0, confirming the excellent fit. The p-value for the test of close fit ($RMSEA < 0.05$) is 1.00, further supporting the perfect fit of the model. All fit indices, such as NFI, NNFI, CFI, IFI, and RFI, have values close to 1.0, which indicates a very good fit of the model. The Goodness of Fit Index (GFI) and the Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index (AGFI) also show values close to 1.0, suggesting a good fit of the model. Structural equations interpretation using standardized coefficients:

$SPR = 0.28*CF + 0.10*PF - 2.58*MF + 2.73*IF$, Errorvar= -1.34, $R^2 = 2.35$ (2)

The Perception of the Sport-Politics Relationship (SPR) is positively affected by Cognitive Function (CF) and Practical Function (PF), while it is negatively affected by Methodological Function (MF) and positively affected by Ideological Function (IF). The error term is -1.34 and the R^2 is 2.35, indicating a good model fit.

$PFD = 0.90*CF + 0.53*PF - 0.94*MF + 0.73*IF$, Errorvar= -0.10, $R^2 = 1.10$ (3)

The Productive Factors (PFD) are positively affected by CF, PF and IF, and negatively affected by MF. The error term is -0.10 and the R^2 is 1.10, indicating a good model fit.

$MP = 0.90*CF + 0.53*PF - 0.94*MF + 0.73*IF$, Errorvar= -0.10, $R^2 = 1.10$ (4)

The Means of Production (MP) are affected in the same way as the Productive Factors (PFD), as this equation is indicating a good model fit.

$CGI = 0.85*CF + 0.67*PF + 0.18*MF - 1.02*IF$, Errorvar= 0.45, $R^2 = 0.55$ (5)

The Confidence in Government Institutions (CGI) is positively affected by CF and PF, and negatively affected by IF. The effect of MF is positive, but small. The error term is 0.45 and the R^2 is 0.55, indicating a moderate model fit.

$CQL = 1.12*CF + 0.67*PF - 0.29*MF - 0.82*IF$, Errorvar= 0.46, $R^2 = 0.54$ (6)

The Contribution to Quality of Life (CQL) is positively affected by CF and PF, and negatively affected by MF and IF. The error term is 0.46 and the R^2 is 0.54, indicating a moderate model fit.

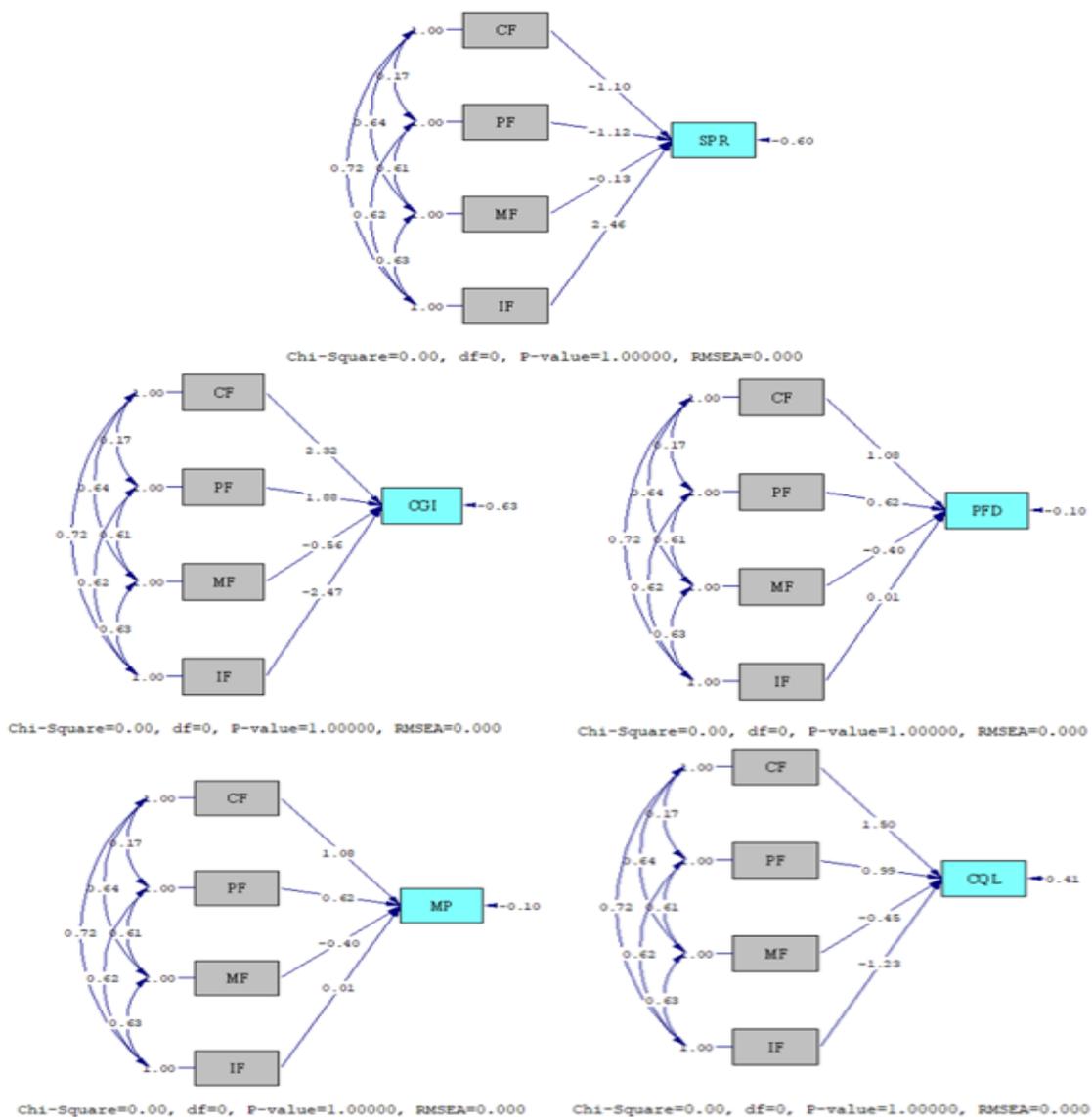


Figure 2. Model structural equations using p-value. Source: Lisrel 8.0

Discussion

Sport is a right (Vinícius Almeida Vargas et al., 2024) but there is an elite that directs it (Ruiz, 2009). Ruiz (2009) in his historical study analyzing how elites used sport to build national identity in Colombia over a period, complements the findings obtained through structural equations by showing how political and ideological factors (PI) have played an important role in the perception of the relationship between sport and politics (SPR) over time.

Troncoso Robles et al. (2023), although dealing with a different environment than Colombia, qualitatively highlights the role of practical factors (PF) in the promotion of sport and its link with sustainability. Their gender perspective can complement the analysis of how different factors (PF, MF, PI) affect perceptions and attitudes towards sport.

Carvalho et al. (2023) by demonstrating the importance of the impact of sports infrastructure (SI) on the development of sport at the local level, supports the importance of the cognitive factor (CI) found in the structural equation for the perception of the sport-politics relationship. This, related to the ideas of Vinícius Almeida Vargas et al. (2024), focuses on the need, the role of educational institutions and sports programs (CF, PF) in fulfilling the right to sport. Fernández-Souto et al. (2023) addresses the impact of the pandemic on the communication of sports federations, which can affect cognitive factors (CF) and practical factors (PF) related to sport. It adds a current and relevant perspective on how external factors can influence the dynamics analyzed in the results obtained.

The tests of the hypotheses are closely related to the research question. H1: Political economy functions and quality of life addressed how political economy functions positively influence quality of life. By analyzing only cases where the contribution to quality of life is high, a direct connection was established with the perception of quality of life in the sports context. This suggests that improving political economy functions could have a significant impact on quality of life in the sports sector, which directly answers the research question.

For its part, H2: Political economy functions and trust in institutions, examined a moderate relationship between political economy functions and trust in government institutions. The extraction of components helped to understand the complexity of this relationship. This could find similarities and theoretical-empirical support in the studies of Ruiz (2009), if it is identified that government organizations are part of power groups. The findings could indicate that trust in institutions affects how the functions of political economy in sport are perceived, which is relevant to the research question. H3 and H4: Scarcity of means of production and productive factors, both hypotheses analyze how the scarcity of

resources affects the complementarity of the functions of political economy, relating in the supports of Carvalho et al. (2023). The identification of unidimensional components suggests that these functions can operate in an interrelated manner in contexts of scarcity. In this context of hypothesis H5: Perception of the sport-politics relationship, it identified a moderate perception of the relationship between sport and politics that can influence the complementarity of the functions of political economy, this is related to the studies of Rodríguez Vela (2023), Redondo Castán et al. (2023), Silva et al. (2021), Anjos and Silva (2021), Gonzalez Cano et al. (2022), Benito Colio and Solanellas (2022), Jannata et al. (2024) and Avalone Athayde and Figueiredo (2024).

Table 6 shows several studies from which it was possible to identify elements of the functions of political economy, being able to find points in common with the research carried out, despite the geographical difference:

1. Ideological Function (IF) - Manifestation of political ideology: The studies analyze the role of the State and public policies in the sports field, addressing issues such as transparency, public-private cooperation, the economic weight of different sports practices and the legacies of mega sporting events. They also address issues such as political socialization and the subjectivation of children through sport, as well as the evaluation of the role of the State in the economy.

2. Methodological Function (FM) - Sports methods and techniques:

The studies use various methodological approaches, such as the descriptive analysis of variables related to the public procurement of sports services, the analysis of the economic impact of small and medium-sized sporting events, and the development of instruments to analyze the commercial policy of centers and clubs. sports. They also address the need for articulated planning between different institutions for the implementation of sports policies.

3. Cognitive Function (CF) - Knowledge of sport: The studies generate knowledge about the economic effects of sporting events, the efficiency and economic rationality in the management of sports services, and the impacts of public sports policies at the local level. The need for more participatory planning aligned with local needs is evident, as well as the importance of independent curricula and the resolution of conflicts of interest in government or business contexts.

4. Practical Function (FP) - Applications of sport: The studies analyze the implementation of public sports programs and policies, including health promotion through public gyms, sports programs in public educational institutions and the regulation of sports. Nacional level. There is generally a lack of specific qualification requirements for professionals providing sports services.

Table 6.
Discussion of results regarding the functions of political economy in sport

Author	Ideological Function (IF)- Manifestation of political ide- ology	Methodological Function (MF)-Methods and techniques of the sport	Cognitive Function (CF) - Knowledge of the sport	Practical Function (PF)- Ap- plications of the sport	Country
Rodríguez Vela (2023)	Transparency and fair com- petition in public procure- ment. Public-private cooperation.	Descriptive analysis of varia- bles related to the awarding of service contracts and sports service concessions	Efficiency and economic rati- onality in the management of sports services	Lack of requirement of spe- cific qualifications for profes- sionals who provide services	Spain
Redondo Castán et al. (2023)	Economic weight of different competitive sports practices. Importance of public institu- tions in the phenomenon of sporting events, beyond merely sporting interest.	Economic impact of small and medium-sized sporting events	This research provides knowledge about the eco- nomic effects of this type of sporting events.	Typologies of sporting events (competitions, tournaments, championships and leagues) to understand their economic impact on the regional econ- omy	Spain
Silva et al. (2021)	Role of the State and public policies. Legacies of mega sporting events.	It did not have a methodolog- ical approach from political economy despite analyzing public policies.	Emphasis on the need for more participatory planning and alignment with local needs	Analyze the implementation of public sports programs and policies	Brazil
Anjos and Silva (2021)	The restricted role of the Federal Government, limited to financing the program. Planning stage for qualitative maintenance of the program.	The need for articulated plan- ning between the Federal Government and associated institutions in the implemen- tation sport process.	Social demand attended by this public policy	Study of health promotion policy through public gyms	Brazil
Gonzalez Cano et al. (2022)	They analyze the political so- cialization and subjectiviza- tion of children in a context through ludo-luctatorio art. Depoliticize	Analysis of the social and en- vironmental impacts of eco- nomic activity.			Colombia
Benito Colio and Solane- llas (2022)	Evaluation of the role of the State in the economy	Instrument to analyze the commercial policy of sports centers and clubs	This methodological devel- opment allows generating knowledge about commer- cial strategies in the sports sector.		Spain
Jannata et al. (2024)	Understanding of socioeco- nomic inequalities. Educational policy.	Design of the National Sports Policy	Independent Curriculum. Two different policies is of- ten necessary in government or business contexts to re- solve conflicts of interest or opposing objectives	Analysis of the implementa- tion of physical education policies from a critical per- spective.	Indonesia
D'auria et al. (2024)				Analysis of sports programs in public education institu- tions	Brazil
Avalone Athayde and Fi- gueiredo (2024)	Guarantee the regular prac- tice of sport and improve its standard quality.	Description and comparative analysis of the organizational structure of public sport	Plan, formulate, implement and evaluate public policies, programs and sports actions at different levels of govern- ment.	Promotion, development and regulation of sport at the national level, both in the participatory and high-per- formance dimensions, seek- ing to guarantee universal ac- cess and the well-being of citizens through coordinated public policies	Portugal
Silva et al. (2022)		Provides methodology about the implementation of public sports policies in the univer- sity environment.	Generates knowledge about the impacts of large sporting events at the local level.	Analyze the implementation of public sports programs and policies	Brazil

In Colombia, politics has a significant impact on physical education and sports (Gonzalez Cano et al., 2022), this is related to and reinforces the results of the research conducted. In practical terms, it is evident that public institutions regulate and provide financial support to sports leagues, even though these are private entities. However, the process is not efficient, as there are delays in payments, in the purchase of sports equipment, the hiring of coaches, the transportation to competitions and other sporting events. The results of the

ANOVA suggest that the Cognitive Function, Practical Function, Ideological Function, Productive Factors, Means of Production, Confidence in Government Institutions, and Contribution to Quality-of-Life functions have a significant impact in the analyzed context, and could therefore be key areas for the development of policies or interventions in the sports sector. While the methodological function does not present significant variability between the evaluated groups, it could therefore be considered a future line of research to observe

and analyze the differences in this area, or if there are other factors that could be influencing it. If this is related to factor analysis, it is possible to determine that the methodological function is precisely the second variable with the highest factor load.

The previous research studied as references complements and enriches the analysis carried out by providing different approaches, contexts and dimensions related to the perception of the relationship between sport and politics, as well as the factors that influence it. They allow a more holistic and contextualized understanding of these phenomena.

Conclusions

The descriptive statistic results means that the participants tend to have a more positive or agreeable perception towards the Cognitive and Ideological of Political economic function, about aspects of the sport-related factors measured, while they are more neutral or indifferent towards the other practical, methodological, political, and quality of life related factors. Another important conclusion is that the factor analysis revealed that the one dimensionality of the variables related to the political economy functions depends on the levels of agreement/disagreement with the government and the perception of the relationship between sport and politics. The regression model suggests that the dependent variable is strongly influenced by the Ideological Function (manifestation of political ideology) and Trust in Government Institutions (which has a negative effect).

By comparing the results of the factor analysis with the structural equations, the study suggests that the factor structure of the latent variables may vary depending on the characteristics of the sample, which may explain the different effects found in the structural equation. This means that the environment may moderate the perception of the relationship between politics and sport.

The relationship between sport and politics is a complex interaction that deserves to be analyzed. Sport has historically been used by governments and political parties as a tool for propaganda, nationalism and projection of power. High-profile sporting events, such as the Olympic Games and World Cups, have become platforms for countries to show their economic, social and political strength. The allocation of resources, facilities and sports development programs often respond to political interests and not necessarily to the real needs of sport.

Political decisions can directly affect the operation, rules and organization of different sports disciplines. Geopolitics and international tensions have led to boycotts, suspensions and exclusions of athletes and teams in sporting events. Corruption and political interests have negatively impacted the governance and integrity of some sports organizations.

In turn, sport moves enormous amounts of economic

resources at local, national and international levels. Governments and companies see sport as an opportunity for investment and to generate economic benefits. However, this relationship between sport, politics and economy does not always translate into true development and benefit for sports practice and its actors.

Although political influence in sport is undeniable, it is important to look for ways to protect the integrity and autonomy of sport. To seek a balance between political and economic interests, and the real needs of athletes, coaches, clubs and sports federations. To promote transparent and democratic governance in the sports field that limits undue interference from politics.

As a future line of research and based on the complex relationship between sport and political economy, it is relevant to analyze how the potential of sport can be used to benefit society, without being exploited by political or economic interests.

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