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Child, Woman, Athlete: An intersectional feminist approach to the gender and body history of Swiss Women's Artistic Gymnastics.

In 2020 several journal articles in Switzerland led to a social outcry about the abuses in Swiss Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) and brought the associated body images and gender norms into public discussion (Gertsch and Krogerus 2020). It is remarkable that the history of WAG in Switzerland has been historically a terra incognita, which is even more surprising given the rich sources and the thriving (inter)national research.¹ My dissertation project is the first to research the history of Swiss WAG.²

By combining historical hermeneutic source analysis, historical iconography and oral history, I research the gender and body history of WAG with a multi-methods approach. For the upcoming conference, I want to put intersectional feminist research at the center of my presentation as I am sure this is needed in the field of gender and sport research to tackle the problems of the past and present and find solutions for the future.

Taking into consideration the current discussion of abuse and sexism within WAG and the huge research gap, it is evident, that sport history and WAG in particular must be researched with a feminist intersectional approach (Griesebner 2012; Gurr and Kelly 2019; Müller and Steuerwald 2017; Purvis 1992).

¹ Such as: (Barker-Ruchti 2009; Barker-Ruchti et al. 2016, 2020; Cervin 2015, 2021; Cervin and Nicolas 2019; Günter 2020; Kerr et al. 2006, 2019; Kerr and Obel 2015; Klein 1997; Meier 2020; Pfister 2002, 2008; Pfister and Hartmann-Tews 2003; Pfister and Sisjord 2013).

² Learn more about my research funded by Swiss National Science Foundation:
<https://data.snf.ch/grants/grant/207208>.

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