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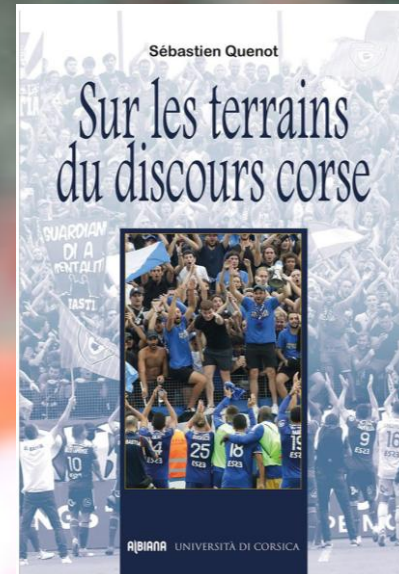
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Football as an agent in the struggle for recognition of national memory: the case of Sporting Club de Bastia

Sébastien Quenot, Reader



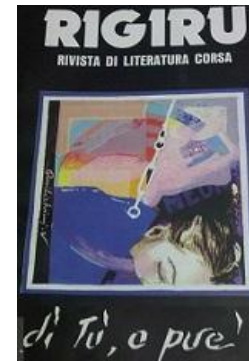
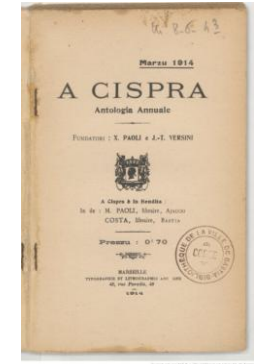
What and where is Corsica?

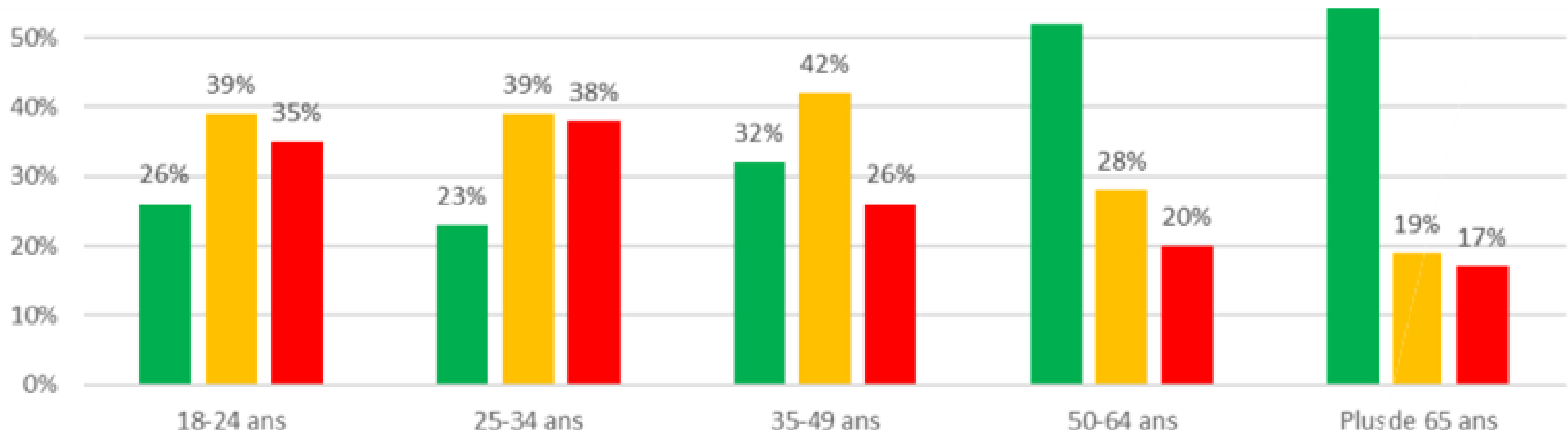
- Island in french republic
- Mediterranean sea
- 350 000 people
- Particularly status in the french republic but not ultra-marine territory
- Politic conflict with France with armed struggle
- Tourism represents 39% of GBP
- Local power leaded by autonomists
 - 2024: draft constitutional revision aimed at approving "the recognition of an autonomous status for Corsica within the Republic, taking into account its own interests linked to its Mediterranean insularity and to its historical, linguistic and cultural community, which has developed a unique bond with its land".



Corsican language
uses to be the main
feature of the cultural
community

Since 1896, the Corsican langu
age became a leitmotiv of
the corsican speech





Still an endangered language

Vitality of Corsican language?

- Primary schools
 - Compulsory subject for the State since 2002
 - 53% of pupils in bilingual schools
 - Youth people are globally unable to speak
- Secondary schools
 - 15% of bilingual schools
 - optional subject
- In society
 - Singers and bands
 - Literacy
 - Bilingual TV and Radio
 - Language of identity, of nationalistic claim



To supporterism like a space for the consumption of emotional commodities?

- Does the expression of a sense of belonging lead to a shift towards supporterism by a process of modalization?



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- Does the expression of a sense of belonging lead to a shift towards supporterism by a process of modalization?



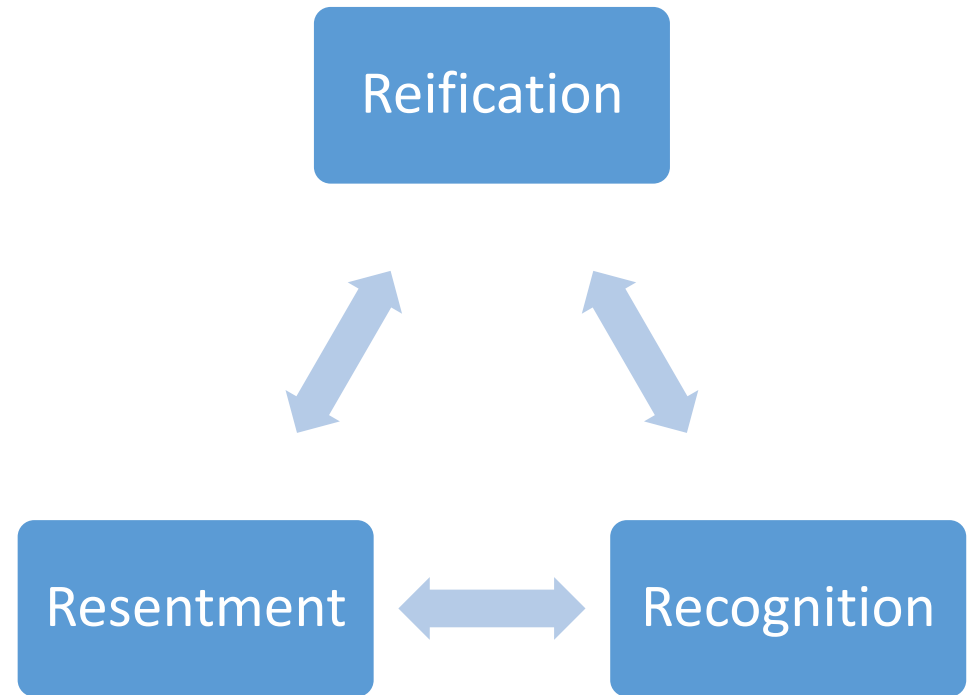
To supporterism like a space for the consumption of emotional commodities?

- In the context of an minorised cultural identity, has consumerism become the mode of acquiring a cultural identity?
- Authenticity
- Imagined communities
- Power of the Emotions
- Weekly update of the conflict



The football match as a struggle for recognition or time for reification/ verdinglichung?

- The football match appears to be the moment when not only a meeting between two teams is played out, but a form of national liberation struggle, for recognition, where resentments and reifications are actualized in new transactions.



3 contemporary events between football and politics

- The struggle of the collective for the sacralization of May 5, 1992
- French national anthem La Marseillaise, 2002 and 2015
- The Corsican flag /La Bandera in 2014



The drama of Furiani, the 5th of may 1992

LA FÊTE BRISÉE





05/05/1992



Un ci nè scurderemu mai

The struggle for the sacralization of May 5, 1992

- The drama
- The trials
- The celebration of the championship title on the anniversary date.





The struggle for the
sacralization of the 5th
of may



The reparation by Achille Mbembe

- "A new politics of reparation does not only imply a redistribution of the places occupied by each other, by humans on the one hand and everything else on the other.
- It also invites other ways of **negotiating** and **resolving** the **conflicts** that arise from different antagonistic ways of inhabiting the world, a vast **reordering of relationships.**"

Toward a restorative justice?

- The demand for justice extends beyond the court decisions concerning the case and the regulations about the organization of sports events. This is what the collective expresses when it affirms that its :
 - "**objective is** that some actors of this tragedy (State, national authorities of football ...) finally assume, really and publicly, their share of **responsibility** and **work to not forget** what happened on May 5, 1992 in Furiani so **that it does not happen again anywhere.**"

What is the struggle for May 5 1992?



A way to express the feeling of belonging to Corsica and the solidarity of the community by maintaining a duty to remember

A demand for restorative justice to heal the trauma

A demand for recognition of the status of victim

The defense of popular football

The prohibition
of the corsican
flag



La Marseillaise, the french national anthem in the stadium of Bastia after the Bataclan's attacks in Paris in november 2015

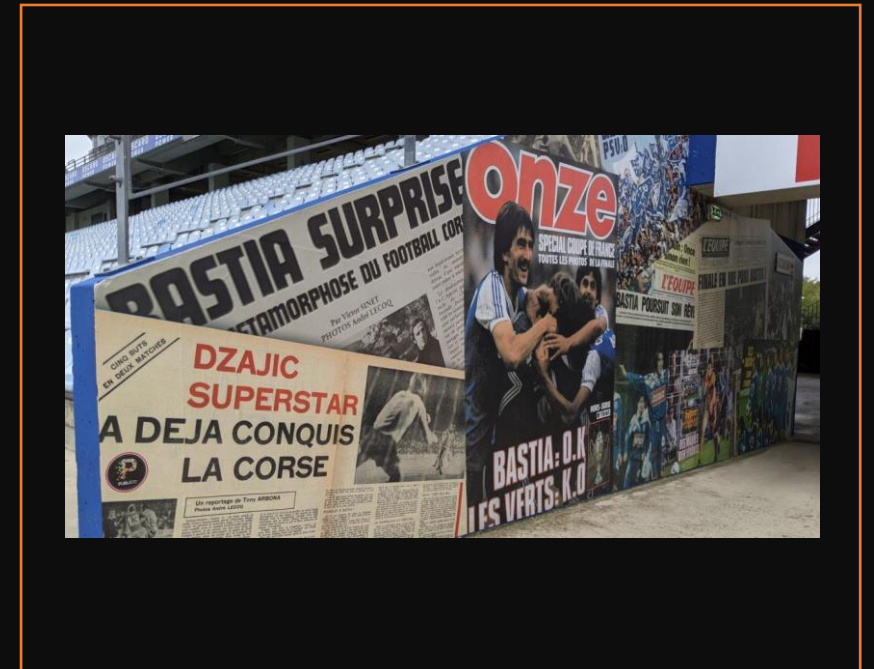


Is the sacredness
of May 5 a
recognition?



Perspectives

- Sportification as a way to build cultural hegemony
- Football as a new way to build a national memory
- Commodities are a collective experience that gives people the feeling of being able to influence the match and beyond.
- The match is an experience of solidarity, empowerment and group capabilities
- Skills developed around football are transferable to other parts of the nation?
- Commodities have they for function to liberate people ?



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