

New book on the challenges facing the Winter Games in Sochi

2013-10-02

RESEARCH. In preparation for the Winter Olympic Games due to open in February 2014, a new book has now been released focusing on the challenges that surround the Games in Sochi. Bo Petersson and Karina Vamling are the editors of the book that is published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

The Russian seaside resort of Sochi, beside the Black Sea, should have been an improbable candidate for the site of the Winter Olympic Games. There were political, environmental, and security reasons to look elsewhere. Despite this, the Games will be held there in February 2014.

“The Winter Games in Sochi will take place literally within walking distance of the Georgian separatist region of Abkhazia. This means that the political environment is very sensitive,” said Karina Vamling, Professor of Caucasus Studies at Malmö University.

Karina Vamling and Bo Petersson, Professor of Political Science and IMER, are joint editors of the book that is called **The Sochi Predicament: Contexts, Characteristics and Challenges of the Olympic Winter Games in 2014**. This includes an in-depth analysis of the context and the challenges that distinguish the Winter Games in Sochi.

The researchers view the set of problems from a Russian, Georgian, Abkhazian and Circassian perspective. Their analyses cover issues that concern identity, security and inter-ethnic relations.

“Those with an interest in the region, in sports, politics, the environment as well as the security aspects should all read the book,” said Karina Vamling.

The contributors are an international group of leading researchers who represent different viewpoints. As well as Caucasus Studies and Political Science, these represent Sport Science, Ethics and Ethnology involving researchers from Denmark, Russia, Estonia, Finland and the Ukraine.

“This is a truly multinational project having Malmö as its base. It’s a book that shows it is possible to achieve a solid research product for an international publishing company through a burning interest in the subject. And this despite the fact that we received no external funding,” said Bo Petersson. His hope is that this book will serve as a foundation which the research network can then build on.

“What’s really interesting is what will happen there after the Winter Olympics, when the circus has finally left town.”

Text: [Johanna Svensson](#)



The Winter Olympics will take place in Sochi in southern Russia, 7 - 23 February 2014. Read more about *The Sochi Predicament: Contexts, Characteristics and Challenges of the Olympic Winter Games in 2014* from the publishing house [Cambridge Scholars Publishing](#).

Read more

[The Sochi Predicament: Contexts, Characteristics and Challenges of the Olympic Winter Games in 2014](#)

Tuesday October 8, at 13-16 the book will presented at Malmö University: Orkanen, Nordenskiöldsgatan 10, B404. Welcome!

Read more about the participating researchers from Malmö University:

[Karin Book](#)

[Kutte Jönsson](#)

[Emil Persson](#)

[Bo Petersson](#)

[Revaz Tchantouria](#)

[Karina Vamling](#)

Contact

Tel: +46 40 665 70 00

Malmö högskola
205 06 Malmö
Sweden