

Commemorating Tragic Heroes: Statuary of Footballers Who Died Mid-Career

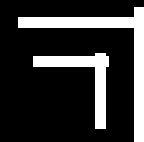
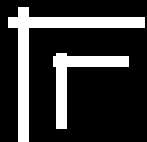


Dr Chris Stride
(University of Sheffield)



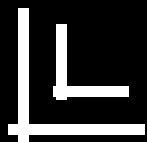
The Sporting Statues Project
www.sportingstatues.com

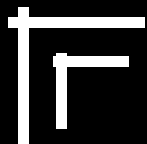




Talk Outline

- (Very!) brief overview of the Sporting Statues Project and of football statuary
- Focus on one subtype of statue subjects: those who died during their career
 - Why might such statues be distinctive?
 - Parallel case studies to examine how different football cultures respond to tragedy, and how the statues they erect interact with time, place and presentation to form collective memory and take on other meanings



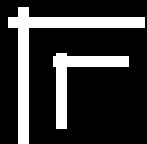


The Sporting Statues Project

Why research sporting statues?

- ⚽ Potentially rich narrative: statues tell us as much (more?) about the society that constructs them as about the subject depicted
- ⚽ Statues can carry multiple messages, offer multiple readings that may change over time, and can be about forgetting as well as remembering
- ⚽ Assumptions to challenge
- ⚽ The joy of collecting!

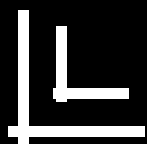


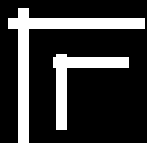


The Sporting Statues Project

Project goals and progress

- Documenting statuary: www.sportingstatues.com
 - Providing context for case studies, a resource for further research collaborations and a site for disseminating research. World football statues database unveiled in April 2014, joining existing databases for UK sport, US baseball, world cricket
- Developing theory around existence and form:
 - Four papers published, three under review, collectively assessing genre history, design, process, motivations, subject selection in football and baseball



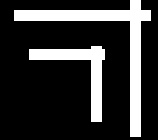
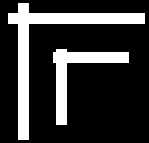


The World's Football Statuary

- Over 250 subject-specific statues or statue groups
- 125 statues with anonymous subjects
- 320 distinct players depicted
- 95% of statues erected since 1995



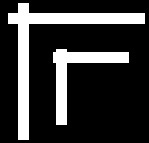
Further information on every statue at
www.sportingstatues.com



Football Statues...

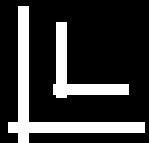
- ⚽ evoke nostalgia
 - ⚽ proclaim authenticity
 - ⚽ boast of success
 - ⚽ create visual identity
 - ⚽ mark territory
 - ⚽ reparations
- and...

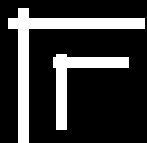




In Memoriam

- ⚽ 18 football statues both depict a footballer who died whilst an active player, and were erected soon after his death
- ⚽ How might such statues differ from the wider statuary?
 - ⚽ Greater influence of player's family?
 - ⚽ Lack of career context?
 - ⚽ Not speaking ill of the dead?



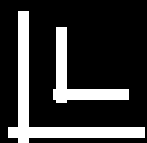


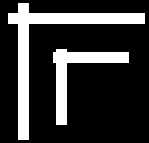
Statue Location?



Stadium? City of birth? City of club?
Museum? Graveyard? Nationally significant site?

Death whilst active player → statue location?





Statue Design?



Action?



Triumph?

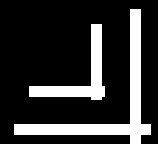
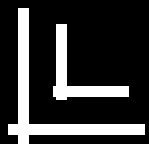


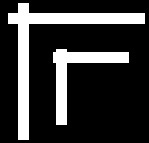
Posed?

Personal (family) memories?

Flashbulb memories?

Death whilst active player → statue design?





Statue Presentation/Interpretative Material?

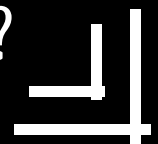
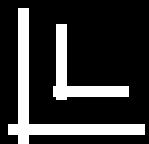


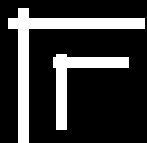
Micro-location? Plinth height? Inscription?

Accessibility vs elevation? Sanctification?

Football achievements vs Personal memories?

Death whilst active player → statue presentation?



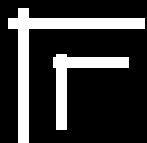


Dragan Mance
1962-1985
FK Partizan Belgrade



Antonio Puerta
1984-2007
Sevilla FC

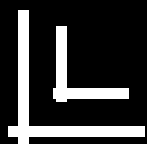


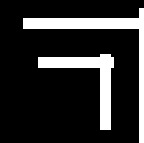
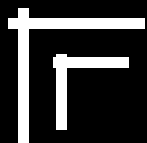


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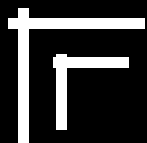
Dragan Mance 1962-1985 FK Partizan Belgrade





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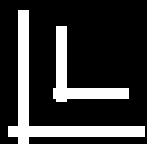
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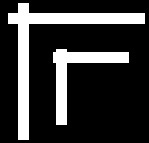


Antonio Puerta

1984-2007

Sevilla FC





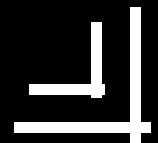
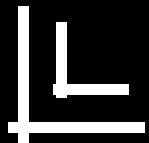
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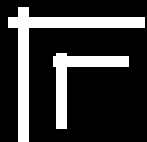


Antonio Puerta

1984-2007

Sevilla FC

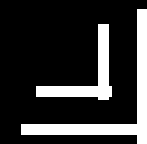
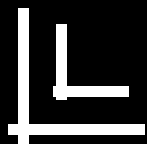


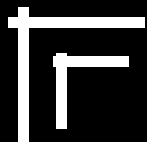


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Dragan Mance: statue unveiling, September 1986

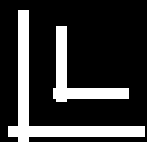


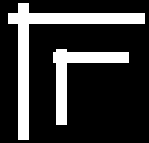


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Antonio Puerta: statue unveiling, April 2010



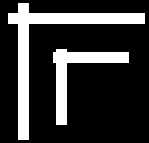


Dragan Mance
Statue Location:
Novo Groblje, Belgrade



Antonio Puerta
Statue Location:
Sevilla FC Training Ground
and Soccer School





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Dragan Mance Statue Design:



*"Na kolenima, klizi po travi, podiže ruke,
golove slavi"*

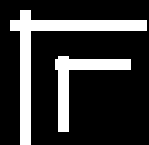
*"On his knees, he slides through the grass,
he raises his hands, celebrates goals"*

Antonio Puerta Statue Design:



*"I was tempted to represent him making
a big effort, but given his dramatic death,
when modelling I consciously walked
away from being too naturalistic, to
represent a player closer to the figure of
a hero who is always idealized"*

Constantino Gañán, Sculptor



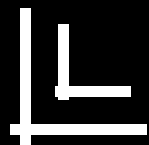
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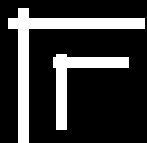


Dragan Mance Statue Presentation:



Antonio Puerta Statue Presentation:

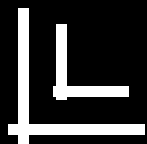




Dragan Mance



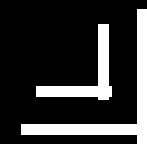
- ✿ Taking football to a place of mourning
- ✿ Celebrating and living for the moment
- ✿ Marking territory
- ✿ An icon for a passionate and spontaneous fan culture

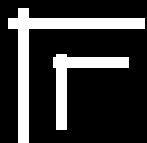


Antonio Puerta



- ✿ Taking mourning to a place of football? Not overtly...
- ✿ Celebrating deep roots and lasting success
- ✿ Inspiring young footballers
- ✿ An icon for a club's organisational ethos





Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Constantino Gañán, Dušan Mihajilovic, James Moor and Dejan Zec for their invaluable help in our research.

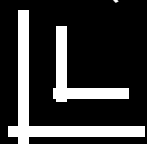
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