THE ROLE OF SOCCER IN THE ADJUSTMENT OF IMMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA: A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CASE STUDY
1947 TO 2013

JUSTIN PETER CIVITILLO
BSoSc, BA (Honours)

Discipline of Geography, Environment and Population
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
The University of Adelaide
South Australia
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ABSTRACT

This thesis brings together both existing and new pieces of research, conducted over a period of 8 years. There are four primary aims. The first is to analyse the role the sport of soccer has played in the adjustment of immigrants to Australia since the Second World War with South Australia as a case study. This thesis lies in the context of immigrant adjustment theory and it is an attempt to analyse the role played by soccer in the lives of both new arrivals and their descendants. The social impact of participation in soccer is a long neglected aspect of settlement experiences in Australian immigration literature. Soccer has been specified due to its position in Australia as a sport played and supported by large numbers of culturally and linguistically diverse immigrants.

The second aim is to examine the influence of participation in soccer on cultural maintenance. Australian soccer clubs formed by CALD European settlers have a reputation of encouraging their members to maintain their ethnic identity while also stimulating anti-social attitudes – this study investigates the degree to which this is actually occurring, and the implications for cultural and social adjustment. The third is to investigate the potential for participation in soccer to influence the adjustment of immigrants from Asia, Africa and the Middle East – groups more representative of Australia’s immigrant intakes since the 1970s and presently. The fourth is to explore the implications of the study’s findings for immigrant adjustment theory and settlement policy in Australia.
DECLARATION

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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I would not have been able to undertake this study, much less complete it, without the support of my family. My parents John and Jan have been especially understanding during my undertaking of this research. I would not have been able to complete my project without their endless support and encouragement, especially while enduring the many difficulties that arose. Thank you for listening to and helping me with my many problems over the past eight years.

Finally, thanks to the representatives of the governing bodies of soccer and Australian Rules football who gave their support to this study, as well as all of the soccer clubs who participated, and everyone who did an interview for donating their valuable time.
### ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>AAP</td>
<td>Australian Associated Press</td>
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<td>ABC</td>
<td>Australian Broadcasting Corporation</td>
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<td>ABS</td>
<td>Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Australian Capital Territory</td>
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<tr>
<td>AEAC</td>
<td>Australian Ethnic Affairs Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFC</td>
<td>Asian Football Confederation</td>
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<td>AFL</td>
<td>Australian Football League</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMIA</td>
<td>Australian Multicultural Affairs Council</td>
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<td>APIA</td>
<td>Associazione Poli-sportiva Italo Australiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASCCEG</td>
<td>Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups</td>
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<td>ASCO</td>
<td>Australian Standard Classification of Occupations</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<td>ASFA</td>
<td>Australian Soccer Federation</td>
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<td>ATT</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>AUS</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<td>BBC</td>
<td>British Broadcasting Corporation</td>
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<td>CALD</td>
<td>Culturally and linguistically diverse</td>
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<td>Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics</td>
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<td>CCS</td>
<td>Complex Case Support</td>
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<td>Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cable News Network</td>
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<td>Fédération Internationale de Football Association</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization of Migration</td>
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<td>Jugoslav United Soccer Team</td>
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<td>Major League Soccer</td>
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<td>National Framework for Settlement Planning</td>
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NSW – New South Wales
NSWFSC – New South Wales Federation of Soccer Clubs
NT – Northern Territory
NZ – New Zealand
OOP – Onshore Orientation Program
QLD – Queensland
SA – South Australia
SAASL – South Australian Amateur Soccer League
SASFA – South Australian Soccer Football Association
SBS – Special Broadcasting Service
SC – Soccer Club
SCOA – Settlement Council of Australia
SES – Socioeconomic status
SWB – Sports Without Borders
TAS – Tasmania
UK – United Kingdom
US – United States
VIC – Victoria
VSF – Victorian Soccer Federation
WA – Western Australia