

Global Speakers Series

Co-sponsored by the International Centers and Programs at West and UCLA
Present:

The Ball is Round: Soccer, History & Society

A discussion with David Goldblatt

Thursday, March 10
1 - 3 pm

West LA College

9000 Overland Ave.
Culver City 90230

GC-103

(General Classroom
Building, Room 103)



How does a sport allow us to examine world history as well as issues of nationalism, race and identity? Football – known as soccer in the United States– is the world’s most popular sport. Its global reach and cultural significance is so important that the history of the World Cup provides a powerful lens for examining the course of globalization and global history.

In this talk, football scholar and sociologist David Goldblatt will discuss the history of the World Cup, how it came to acquire such immense cultural importance in societies around the world, and what it says about our global history. He will also discuss the significance of the U.S. hosting the Copa América this year, as well as the influence of FIFA - the sport’s governing body – and its recent corruption scandals.



David Goldblatt is a writer, academic, journalist and broadcaster. In 2006, he published *The Ball is Round: A Global History of Soccer*, now considered the definitive account of the global game. In 2015, he won the William Hill Sports Book of the Year Award for *The Game of Our Lives: The Making and Meaning of English Football* and the Foreign Press Association’s Sports Story of the Year Award for his account of a football league in a Ugandan Prison.

He is currently Visiting Professor at Pitzer College. In July 2016, he will publish *The Games: A Global History of the Olympics* with WW Norton Press.