Although discourses in and around sport suggest ‘fair play’ as a cornerstone value to the ethics of sport, this dissertation demonstrates that the practices of the regulatory regime aimed at preserving it reinforce exclusionary practices often not directly related to the preservation of this ideology. Drawing upon research conducted in Europe, New Zealand, and California, I explore how the development and deployment of regulations around gender verification and doping in sport reveal an attempt to protect an ideal of elite “athlete-citizenship” that reflects—and (re)invents—the traditions of sport and their ethics. My analysis suggests that these regulations, although reliant upon standardized protocols and scientific procedures, uphold a myth of purity that athlete bodies cannot achieve. These regulations thus reflect a Latourian purification project in which their jurisdictional claims render athletes as a transnational caste of subjects that delineates its boundaries on the basis of physical attributes. The findings presented here indicate a need to reconsider anthropological understandings of “biological citizenship” so as to include spaces, such as sport and its regulations, that transcend the boundaries of the nation-state, and biopolitics beyond those of bare life to confront those linked to nosopolitics, the politics of health. As this dissertation aims to do both, it describes the
shifting particularities of “athlete-citizenship” and explores the significance of athletes outlawed by the international regime’s regulations alongside the postcolonial, gendered, and nationalistic conditions, including those sometimes extraneous to the regime’s claims to eliminate “cheats” in sport, that can preclude them from becoming athlete-citizens. I argue that these alien bodies are significant, because they mark the boundaries of the transnational sports community. The examination of the nature and contexts of their offenses is therefore integral to understanding how these regulations uphold and reconfigure barriers to participation in elite sport and intersect with other dilemmas of citizenship as they intertwine with those of globalization and the nation-state.