



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Members: CORAK Sanda, CALLAN Michael, GALEA Envic, HOSOKAWA Shinji, KOZSLA Tibor, LASCAU Florin Daniel, MERIDJA Mohamed

Introduction

The IJF Scientific Committee (SC) was established in 2021. During the period 2023–2024 the members of the Scientific Committee were: Mohamed Meridja, Florin Daniel Lascau, Envic Galea, Sanda Corak, Shinji Hosokawa, Tibor Kozsla and Michael Callan.

The main duties of the SC are to conduct and supervise the scientific development of the IJF and to co-operate with the main judo stakeholders to share and promote scientific research for the benefit of coaches and athletes. Members of the Committee continued to serve on the advisory board of the IJF and the IJF Academy scientific journal – “The Arts and Sciences of Judo.”

The ASJ Journal – Activities and Progress

The IJF launched a first volume of the ‘**The Arts and Sciences of Judo**’ in 2021 as a biannual scientific journal. Four volumes, a total of 8 publications, were published online, available to readers both on the IJF website (Scientific Committee documents) and on the IJF Academy platform.

We aimed for the journal to be a medium for research papers on topics that are relevant to development of judo and would help to bridge the usual gap between academic research and the needs of practical work in judo.

The general aims of the ASJ journal are the same as in the last reported period:

1. **Raising awareness** – as the ASJ is still not known among researchers all over the world (more visibility); 4 Volumes are published and are available at this link: <https://academy.ijf.org/journal/>
2. **Driving new submissions** – as we need more high quality submissions coming from different institutions and world regions (researchers’ collaborations and joint projects; special issues)
3. **Increasing readership** – as we would like the ASJ to become a more relevant source of information with more citations of the published papers (more academic relevance and relevance for practitioners).

The quality of journals is usually measured by databases that index the journal and number of citations. Two databases are reporting the articles from the ASJ: ERIH PLUS and Google Scholar.

Using 15 journal quality control items, self-evaluation was conducted that illustrated the areas that need to be improved in the future (more original scientific papers per year; more authors that are not members of the editorial review board; more citations and DOI for each article).

The last issue of the ASJ journal (Volume 4, No 2) is dedicated to a **special theme**, “**The Invention of Olympic Judo**” (guest editor – Michel Brousse).



Scientific Collaboration

Since October 2021, members of the IJF Scientific Committee have led an academic collaboration between the IJF Academy and the University of Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom, established through a Memorandum of Understanding. The aims include the promotion of co-operation and positive academic relations towards mutual benefit.

The MoU will be renewed in 2025.

The partnership has enabled a pathway for IJF Academy students to progress to post-graduate provision through master's and doctoral degrees at the university. Prior to the establishment of the partnership, there were already six PhD students at the university exploring judo-related research topics. There are a total of 11 students currently (9 enrolled, 2 graduated).

The status of the students:

1. Graduated with a PhD: Dr George Bountakis (GRE), Dr Slavisa Bradic (CRO).
2. Likely to submit in 2025: Daniel Lascau (ROU), Geert Claes (BEL), Darren Warner (GBR), Nicolas Fletcher (GBR).
3. Making good progress: Envic Galea (MLT), Orkhan Orujzade (AZE), Franciscus Tandean (AUS).
4. In the enrolment process: Duncan Jack (NED), Tomasz Wybranowski (POL).

The research outputs are disseminated through the IJF Arts and Sciences of Judo journal.

Judo Research Induction Course

A judo research induction course (J-RES) was established, hosted on the IJF Academy learning platform. Eleven students, in two groups, have been supported to continue to postgraduate study. A third group will commence in 2025.

The partnership seeks to create a pool of suitably qualified IJF Academy experts who can contribute to the supervision teams of those students. This will be a valuable pool of experts who can also later contribute to the supervision of undergraduate projects within the IJF Academy.

This work has begun and Mr Teo Pop is a member of the supervision team for one student. The research topic is 'To what extent are the International Judo Federation Safe Sport (safeguarding) policies, procedures and operational practices able to meet the responsibilities of an international federation?' Through this approach, the work of the IJF Safeguarding Officers can build on research-informed decision-making.

New Areas of Research

Some new areas of research will be open in the future, such as gender equality aspects (sport management) in collaboration with Dr Etsuko Ogasawara (IWG Women and Sport) from Juntendo University, Tokyo, Japan. We will collaborate with PhD students, so they can conduct research with the research questions that are important for the IJF Gender Equality Commission in order to help attract and retain more women in judo.