STADIUM DESIGN AND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE SHAPE CROWD BEHAVIOR AND HELP MAKE A SPORTING EVENT A SUCCESS

ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND STADIUM DESIGN ON SUCCESSFUL SPORTS EVENTS

What is the role of urban infrastructure in allowing a crowd to express its passion and emotion while avoiding unruly behavior and undue disruption to residents? Is it possible to find solutions that address these unique situations yet can be implemented on a permanent basis?

The crowd takes on a life of its own as a result of the shared experience and excitement created by an event. The magic of the stadium kicks in and contributes to the event’s success. But for the experience to be positive, the party atmosphere needs to meld harmoniously with life in the surrounding city. A good understanding of the psychology of crowds and supporters is vital to identify how best to lay out stadiums. Careful thought also needs to be given to urban planning, transport systems and street furniture in and around stadiums. Any oversights may create tension, triggering unruly behavior with potentially catastrophic consequences. EPFL’s Laboratory of Urban Sociology (LaSUR) possesses techniques and expertise enabling it to study these kinds of situations and make recommendations to the various parties involved.