

VIII INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GYMNASTICS FOR ALL

This forum was started in 2001 as an international project involving the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), represented by the Gymnastics Research Group (GPG) and Grupo Ginástico Unicamp (GGU), and the Social Service of Commerce (Sesc-SP), and encouraged by the successful edition of the Brazilian Forum on General Gymnastics conducted in 1999.

As of 2001, the support of the International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA) consolidated the participation of groups, speakers, and attendees from several countries. This contributed to the recognition of this forum by the international community as a reference event in Gymnastics.

The following editions were conducted in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, and 2014 in the facilities of Sesc Campinas and the Physical Education School at Unicamp. The program was created based on three main approaches that are crucial to the understanding and development of Gymnastics for All:

- Scientific approach: with conferences, round tables, and presentations of scientific papers (as posters, photographs, or videos);
- Pedagogical approach: training sessions, educational sessions, workshops for school students and training of public school teachers, among other professionals involved with GfA in other social environments;
- Artistic approach: festivals and the performance tent (spontaneous performances during the event).

In addition to its intense program, the Forum also opens space for parallel meetings of organizations like ISCA, the São Paulo Gymnastics Federation (FPG), and the Brazilian Gymnastics Federation (CBG), as well as thematic groups, like the Group of Higher Education Teachers. It is also worth mentioning the book launches that have contributed to the appreciation and dissemination of publications in the field of Gymnastics.

The Forum also conducts Preparatory Meetings in several units of Sesc-SP throughout the year of the event. Lectures, courses, and festivals are offered to teachers and the public in general, delivered by members of GPG-Unicamp and by professionals who work with GfA in the SESC network.

Each edition was assigned a theme to guide the creation of a well-balanced program to foster the discussion of trends and meet current needs:

2001 – General Gymnastics: from professional education to the workplace

2003 – The World of General Gymnastics in the General Gymnastics of the World

2005 – Body Rights

2007 – General Gymnastics: Individual and Collective Identities in Group Practices

2010 – Culture of Gymnastics: concepts and practices

2012 – Sport for All: possibilities in Gymnastics education

2014 – Gymnastic: moving people, building citizenship

The presence of international guest groups in all forum editions have encouraged the practice of GfA and fostered the exchange between groups and professionals. In addition, it has shown infinite possibilities of practice in various cultures and encouraged creativity in several choreographic aspects. In the past seven editions, the Forum has welcomed 23 international groups from countries like Argentina, Germany, Belgium, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Peru, Sweden, and Uruguay.

The figures below provide an overview of the size and scope of the event:

Year	Number of pages of the annals	Scientific papers	Courses/workshops	International groups	Festivals	Groups participating in festivals*	Speakers
2001	202	33	12	3	2	20	8
2003	218	44	22	3	4	45	6
2005	268	45	35	3	4	56	7
2007	312	77	24	5	4	68	6
2010	393	81	24	1	3	55	7
2012	473	94	24	5	4	47	7
2014	416	83	33	3	6	56	8
Total	2.282	457	174	23	27	347	49

*Brazilian and international groups

In 2016, we celebrate 15 years of this event. In its eighth edition, the forum gets a new (?) and it has changed its name from International Forum on General gymnastics to International Forum on Gymnastics for All.

The decision to change its name was carefully considered and discussed in the Gymnastics Research Group of FEF-Unicamp (GPG). It was based on the decision made in 2007 by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) to change the name General Gymnastics to Gymnastics for All.

Among the reasons that made GPG, supported by Sesc, to change the event name were: to foster international communication and dialogue related to scientific production; to recognize this international trend, given the size of the forum, in addition to its contribution to the legitimization of Gymnastics for All in Brazil and in Latin America. The use of two different names can be an obstacle to understand and recognize this sports practice, especially in sports, school, and media environments.

VIII International Forum on Gymnastics for All!

May people from all over the world meet here, having Gymnastics as a link to promote new ideas, projects, contacts; may this be an inspiration to foster the practice of Gymnastics among the highest number of people possible, respect differences and benefit from its infinite possibilities.