Flint and Kelly's volume *Bigotry, Football and Scotland* sets out to examine bigotry and football in Scotland. The comprehensive introduction by the editors draws attention to the difficult definition and ambiguity of terms such as bigotry and sectarianism. They argue that intolerance for sectarian identities lies at the root of the problem rather than the sectarian identities themselves. For this, Flint and Kelly introduce the term “ethno-religious bigotry.” (p. 4) The introduction also points out the importance of the media discourse, which is taken up by several contributors by analyzing several types of communications such as contributions to Internet fora. Furthermore, governance is introduced as another focus point of the volume. The volume pursues an interdisciplinary approach, although methods and approaches from the social sciences dominate.

After the introduction, which theorizes the concepts of bigotry and sectarianism, the remainder of the volume is divided into three major parts. The first part, “Rethinking Geographical, Historical and Social Contexts,” focuses on the contextualization of sectarianism in Scottish football and enhances the perspective by an historical dimension. The so-called “Old Firm,” the rivalry between Glasgow's two major football clubs, Celtic and Rangers, is taken as a starting point. These two clubs illustrate the potential conflict of sectarianism as the clubs and their supporters have strong religious allegiances. But in his contribution, Kelly can show that sectarianism in football is not limited to Glasgow or the west of Scotland by analyzing Edinburgh's rival clubs, Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian.

The second part, entitled “Constructing and Governing 'Sectarianism' and Football” adds the angle of governance and tries to evaluate policy measures which try to fence bigotry and disruptive behaviour in football. In the third part of the volume, the essays focus on gender and class as neglected social categories for
analysis, which open up interesting angles on understanding sectarianism in Scotland. The volume is enhanced by the inclusion of two essays, written by football supporters rather than scholars, which focus on the fans’ perspectives from within both Celtic and Rangers clubs.

Almost all essays in this collection address the prevalence of bigotry in society. It is questioned whether bigotry and “ethnic-religious” prejudices in football can be regarded as a symptom of a divided society or if this intolerance is limited to the context of a sports rivalry.

Some contributors argue that bigotry is just important in the football stadium rather than in society in general, an opinion which is expressed by the term “90 minute bigots” for football fans. As the twentieth century has been characterized as a rather secular age, the question remains if religious allegiance still has such a polarizing potential. Some essays critically engage with the question whether anti-sectarian measures might paradoxically add fuel to the fire and question the role of the media, which always shows a strong interest in sectarianism. Furthermore, the monetary aspect of football rivalries such as the “Old Firm” and the perception that “sectarianism sells” is repeatedly highlighted. The volume opens up a historical perspective and questions the role of Irish immigration in the establishment of sectarianism in Scotland. It is this generalizing of perspective that makes the essays in this volume interesting reading for any scholar interested in Scotland. Especially in view of the upcoming referendum, the volume aims to relate the issues raised to the national identity of Scotland. In questioning how to deal with sectarian identities, the contributors also question the validity of a homogeneous Scottish identity.

*Bigotry, Football and Scotland* presents a very ambiguous discussion concerning sectarianism and football in Scotland. This makes interesting reading as different positions are argued and represented but the volume would have remained rather incoherent if it were not for the concluding essay by the editors, which summarizes vital discussion points and gives an outlook on further research.

*Jessica Homberg-Schramm*
*University of Cologne*