The purpose of the presented study is to understand and describe the processes for generating social capital in the groups of devoted football supporters in Poland and mechanisms of transfer of the social capital to other than stadium spheres of social life. The out-of-stadium social capital can be observed in three main collective activities of football supporters: a) organized activities of hooligan groups, b) action of supporters’ associations, c) organized activities focused on football clubs. Moreover, supporters’ relations from the stands are often transferred to their private lives where supporters benefit from them.

The book consists of methodology section, seven chapters, and ending. The first chapter presents the main theoretical conceptions of social capital based on traditional diversification of this concept, referring to two different traditions: starting respectively from James Coleman and Pierre Bourdieu. The second chapter describes the history of football and the history of football fandom. The third chapter explores football supporters’ structures. Drawing on Coleman’s concept, the study identifies the presence of specific forms of social capital and internal factors facilitating maintenance of this ‘source’ in the structures of supporters’ groups. The fourth chapter focuses on evolution of hooligans’ social capital. Starting from ‘traditional’ hooligan groups, through specialized in football violence, professional
groups of fighters to social capital being used for organized criminal activities. The fifth chapter explores the phenomenon of supporters’ associations. The sociogenesis of these organizations and analysis of their activities are presented there. In the sixth chapter the focus is shifted to the analysis of football supporters as a source of social capital for their clubs. In this section the mechanism of social capital conversion to economic capital is described. The final chapter is a summary of presented analysis. Drawing on the neo-institutional paradigm, I will try to capture the historical evolution of the forms of Polish football supporters’ social capital by connecting it with the wider academic debate on the social change of Polish society.