

**Abstract:**

The thesis discusses the importance of leisure as a part of an individual's everyday life for the formation of social relationships and ties influencing whole society. In fact, leisure is understood as a sample of practices and activities with underlying social and cultural factors. These practices are allocated in time and space, having an impact on space. The study is devoted to the use of leisure, its position and importance in the general time framework of a day. There is also a discussion of the trends and shifts in society associated with broader cultural and institutional processes (transformation of the labour market, globalisation, individualisation, differentiation, post-communist transformation, and the gender question). In addition, the study empirically examines the importance and potential of leisure activities for the formation of place attachment and associated processes of the creation of social capital, contact networks and knowledge transfer. Through these effects, leisure can contribute to the endogenous development of distinct types of area. In fact, attention is focused on two ways of leisure time activities with a considerable local tie and potential for the creation of social capital. These are the second home tourism and activities performed within voluntary associations. In the former case, previous research is widened by the impacts of the second home tourism in specific areas. The part of the thesis devoted to voluntary associations follows up the research into social capital as an endogenous development source.

The thesis consists of two parts. The first part introduces the general perspectives of the study, outlining various definitions and concepts of leisure and summarising the development and basic approaches to the leisure geography research. Attention is also paid to the relationship between man and space, which provides a framework for the research into the impacts and conditioning of leisure. This is followed by the chapter discussing the causes and consequences of quantitative and qualitative changes in free time spending in modern and late modern society and their impact on people's everyday life. The first part of the thesis concludes with a discussion of importance of leisure in the process of formation and reproduction of social capital and territorial identities, which it sets into a broader cultural and social context. The second part of the study consists of five publications. The first is devoted to the time use as a whole. Along with a paper comparing the trends in leisure in Czechia and Germany, it provides a basic overview of the topic. The remaining three papers are empirical studies focusing on the topic of importance of leisure in the process of formation and reproduction of social capital and local identities.

Keywords: geography of leisure, social capital, local identity, voluntary associations, second homes, Czechia