

Abstract

This thesis is aimed on better geographical understanding of mechanisms in social networks in cyberspace. Cyberspace as a virtual space is colonized by plenty of settlers who create virtually based communities. Such communities compounded of spatially dispersed personalities build new relationships to material space. There is discussed a matter of contextual bounded social relationships. The social landscape is now composed from a mix of material and non-material substances. Information, context and also a concept of narrative as a living substance of linkage is discussed. A scientist's approach from inside of social structure is needed to open a view to inner mechanisms of creation and lasting of social structures. There is emphasized a complex view on integral reality due to a method of scale zooming. From the geographical view there are discussed various meanings of concept of distance - from material space distance to more metaphorical distance.

Next part of this thesis shows the case of virtual communities existing in context of the psytrance. It shows that the global spread of this cultural phenomenon is based on a wide narrative in context of psychedelic culture. Gatherings of people in the context of the psytrance are shown as rituals refreshing community ties. Such gatherings take place in different localities; it also influences these localities and rebuilds its local geography.

Last part of this thesis shows maps of various globally dispersed activities in context of the psytrance. The main focus is to global relationships in peer-to-peer networks. Such maps of networks are compared with maps on Internet usage and Human development indexes based on structural data by the United Nations.

This thesis opens a debate on the role of cyberspace in geographical reality. It shows new qualities of communities and community ties in virtual places. It should also connect interdisciplinary approaches in research on social networks with placed emphasis on spatial variables.