

The text discusses a fairly recent phenomenon of professional poker. It analyzes its social dimension and tries to understand the reasons and consequences of this career choice for the life of the player. For framing the topic certain parts of marxist theory are used primarily. In this context the text analyzes whether professional playing is more correctly viewed as an escape from system of capitalist work or as an integration into the capitalist system. Conclusions come from reflections of economic model of online poker and 8 interviews. These interviews analyze life and opinions of professional players or prominent figures in czech poker community. The interviews focus on the character of the professional's work, his motives for professional playing, the moral dimension, risks of his choice and social consequences for his life. The analysis demonstrates, that many mechanisms typical for other work apply for professional poker as well. Similarly, the personal necessary predispositions for this kind of living don't seem unusual. Tendencies of modern society captured by Marx can be tracked in professional poker as well. As can be tracked tendencies and mechanisms, that are not in focus of Marx theory. The conclusions show, that if we accept certain marxist view of society, professional playing falls under this view as well and can not be viewed as something outside to it. Certain aspects of the work are different to traditional work though, and the text tries to demonstrate them as well.