

ABSTRACT

The study of everyday life has become a new challenge in contemporary society. Over the last few decades there have been significant changes of temporal and spatial relationships, which now come in many different forms, some of which are relatively new phenomena (e.g. virtual relationships). The society differentiates also socially and culturally. People with different attitudes and values, habits and behaviours, people of different lifestyles meet at one place and encounter everyday lives of others. These facts demonstrate the importance of everyday life research. Everyday life is routine and self-evident for a man or group of people in a given space and time but otherwise it is variable and differentiated phenomenon. New issues arise in the context of contemporary changes that encourage the questioning the definitions of everyday life and also finding new methods of research.

The thesis searches for the position of geography in the research of everyday life and thus contributes to the formation of a subdiscipline of geography that is not yet fully developed. Responding to approaches influenced by Time geography, which tend to reduce the daily lives of people on a path through time-space and create models of human behaviour, the thesis tries to "humanize" the path using concepts that reflect the subjective perception and experience and the sense of place. Everyday life is studied in the broader context of current development in transportation, information and communication technologies and differentiated society. The emphasis is on empirical research and the importance of micro-level analysis.

The thesis consists of two parts. The first part presents theoretical and methodological input into the issues of everyday life and its spatial aspects. It introduces the theoretical approaches in geography, which explores the different ways of the relationship between man and space, and together they provide a framework for the study of everyday life and its conditionality in subjective and objective level. The thesis also tries to define the position of geography in everyday life research and presents its spatial aspects. The first part concludes with a discussion of methodological approaches. The second part consists of four publications that deal with various aspects of everyday life and places. The first presents theoretical and methodological contribution to the concept of place rhythm. The other three publications are empirical studies of the city centre, suburbs and peripheral municipalities.

Key words: everyday life – rhythm – spatial aspects – time geography – phenomenology – perception – representation