

## **Leisure as a Cultural Phenomenon**

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### **PhD Thesis**

#### **Abstract**

The main aim of the PhD. thesis is to provide the complex view of leisure from the culture studies perspective. It is expected that leisure behaviour takes always place within the framework of the specific sociocultural system. In accordance with Kelly (1987) an attempt is made to prove that leisure is always in and of its particular culture.

The thesis focuses on three main topics. After introductory explanation of the main terms “culture” and “leisure” attention is focused on discussion about their relation. This discussion is based on theoretical analysis of studies that concern of leisure and approach it from the perspective of cultural studies, sociology or anthropology.

Value system is an important part of all cultures. Also leisure can be seen as a part of the value system of specific society. After brief introduction to approaches of leisure and work in historical perspective, attention is focused on the explanation of the position of leisure in the value system of the Czech society and its changes.

The third part is devoted to leisure in the Czech society, while the Czech society is seen as a specific sociocultural system and attempt is made to explore leisure in a complex way within the framework of this system. At first, the view of the Czech social sciences academy on leisure is explained, than the attention is focused on amount of leisure in the Czech society, its perceived functions and finally on its content - leisure participation.