

LOS EFECTOS SOCIALES DEL OCIO Y LAS INDUSTRIAS CREATIVAS Y CULTURALES. UNA MIRADA DESDE DIVERSOS ÁMBITOS, COLECTIVOS Y CONTEXTOS

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For at least two decades, much of the research encompassed in Leisure Studies internationally has recognised the concept of experience as the privileged theoretical basis on which to study the phenomenon of leisure in its various manifestations. Thus, in 1998 the prestigious *Journal of Leisure Research* devoted a special issue to the understanding of leisure as a multi-phase experience (Stewart, 1998) and already four years earlier Lee, Dattilo and Howard (1994) spoke of the transition from an objective paradigm to a subjective one and showed the abundant use of the expression “leisure experience” in the literature of the time. The main advantage of the experiential paradigm was its ability to enrich with subjective inputs a traditional approach to the leisure phenomenon that seemed to limit its study to the objective and measurable variables of time and activity. If the objective approaches were supportive of a methodology of a positivist tradition and quantitative nature, the dissemination of the experiential paradigm allowed to rehearse, first, and to settle, then the most varied qualitative techniques, real ways of doing research into the meanings attributed by individuals to their forms of leisure.

This approach has allowed a remarkable transdisciplinary growth of the Leisure Studies field in recent decades. One wonders, however, if there are certain aspects of the leisure phenomenon that the concept of experience has helped to hide. No matter the effort we make, it is difficult not to make uniqueness, unrepeatability and the radical subjective anchorage of the leisure experience a pivotal point in this theoretical construct. To counterbalance this approach, the experiential paradigm has been accompanied by extensive research in the field of leisure benefits. While it is true that social benefits figure prominently in many types that have tried to sort out this field of study, the psychological affiliation of this area is evident, as it focuses on the personal returns of leisure practices. Thus, there are certain aspects of the leisure phenomenon whose presence in research has been overshadowed by the predominance of the experiential paradigm, as they are less compatible with the ephemeral and subjective nature of the experience.

There is growing interest in the effects of various practices of cultural, sports or tourist leisure on the social, geographical and economic contexts in which they occur. This field of interest, at the crossroads of diverse disciplines, would not lie perhaps too far from the research into the benefits of leisure, and yet, it has gradually consolidated around different terminological options: we speak of the impacts of cultural and creative industries, community returns of sport or the social effects of tourism or the arts. The choice of words, never innocent, reveals here an intention to enlighten what was overshadowed in the experiential paradigm. While *benefit* seems to refer to the effects of the repetition of an experience on the individual, the *return* or the *impact* denote a willingness to focus on the *end* of the experience and *outside* the individual to whom it is attached. We are experiencing the outsourcing and spatialisation in the pursuit of the leisure effects that are not seen as much as transformations of the individual but as experience permeating in various ways into the surrounding social fabric. Thus, the question of the effects of leisure brings to the fore some questions about the responsibilities of tourism, culture, sport and recreation in the results of our forms of coexistence.

The research studies included in this volume contribute to these research horizons. Its distribution in three parts aims to address the various subject areas concerned, the various fields of leisure and varied social and geographical contexts in which case studies are framed. The first part presents the reflections on the impacts of cultural and creative industries, seeking a balance between methodological approaches and approaches with a more critical intent. As a whole, a transdisciplinary state-of-the-art is offered, highly valuable as the issue concerning the social impacts of culture is gaining international outreach. The second part deals with the traces of leisure education in various groups. Educational intervention continues to be one of the main ways in which the leisure experience ensures a lasting effectiveness in the community and provides specific responses to social concerns and demands. Finally, the third part of the volume includes several contributions that explore the social effects of sport, tourism and the arts, from an international and transdisciplinary perspective. Finally, it should be noted that the texts by Isabel Verdet and Lora Markova, which open and close the volume, respectively, received *ex aequo* the best paper award at the 2015 Ocio-Gune Forum; this recognition is possible thanks to the sponsorship of Banco Santander.

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