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Leisure and the social reproduction` narratives of 12 immigrants in Greece

The social meaning of the practices of social objects inside the spaces and times of their leisure remained the guiding interest of this research – whose findings will be presented- while it was carried out.

The way the individuals assign significance to the relation between their particular leisure behaviours and the structural context within which these behaviours take on their various dimensions, constitutes the core question, which we try to answer. In so far as the relation between the leisure behaviours and their structural context of realization is constructed on the progressive effort of the individuals to improve their negotiating abilities, is revealed that people do not remain passive receivers of each time powers of control, that regulate the conditions of their social reproduction.

Through the interviewing of twelve persons, who live in Greece under the more or less distinct label of “the immigrant”, emerge issues of integration, distinction, culture and identity, that question the politics that the European Union implements to control immigration. The process and form of the interviews as well as the -essential for the conduction of the research- part of their analysis afterwards, is founded on the principles of the ethnomethodological approach, which allows for the human action to distinguish itself instead of being described as the mere effect of institutions and systems that stand out of handling, uninfluenced by the human reaction. The sociological aspects that so far have framed the leisure studies seem to have underestimated this view and to their most part have focused on the production of categories, regarding recreational activities, which have limited or no application in the case of immigrants who appear to develop the cultural characteristics of their leisure practices guided by economic planning that bridges the different ways of living and thinking with which are acquainted with but not always socialized in.

The narratives analysed in the research show that via the experiences and encounters of their everyday life the social objects develop their knowledge with reference to the hierarchical structures, through which the consisting parts of these narratives are elaborated. This knowledge dictates the strategies that individuals adopt, regarding their leisure practices as well as working practices, aiming at the improvement of the conditions of their social reproduction either in Greece or back to the country where they migrated from.