

Determinants of preferences for spending leisure time by generation Z in Poland and Germany in the context of globalization and cultural homogenization

The aim of the project is to **define preferred leisure time behaviors and forms of spending leisure time by generation Z in big cities in Poland and Germany.**

The adopted research goal and assumed theoretical framework influenced the formulation of the research hypothesis, assuming that in the context of leisure time behaviors, **the generation Z in Poland is converging to the generation Z from Germany.** This is due to the characteristics of the generation Z, which was born and grows up in free Poland, so they do not experience restrictions in the form of censorship and have access to the whole world at your fingertips using the Internet. However, this is mainly due to the results of research on leisure, from which it turns out that the process of globalization and cultural homogenization manifests itself in similar forms of spending leisure time (Gronow, Southerton, 2009).

The project includes the following specific research questions:

- 1) What forms of spending leisure time are taken by generation Z in big cities in Poland and Germany? With what frequency?
- 2) 30 years after the change of system in Poland, does the youth who were born and raised in free Poland (generation Z) become similar in their leisure time behavior to their peers in Germany?
- 3) What are the determinants of choosing leisure activities?
- 4) How much leisure time does generation Z have in big cities in Poland compared to generation Z in Germany?

The obtained results will allow for a discussion on the scale of similarity in the context of spending the leisure time of the generation Z in Poland in big and medium-sized cities against the background of experiences of western countries. It seems that the developed results will introduce an interesting discourse into the geography of leisure and research on leisure.

It is generally accepted that leisure is of fundamental importance for understanding contemporary communities (Caudwell, Browne, 2011). Leisure is of interest to various fields and social science disciplines, including economics (see: Nazareth, 2007; Huang, Deng, 2011; Smith, 2013), psychology (see: Ajzen, Driver, 1991; Taylor et al., 2010; Mynarska, 2012), physical culture and health sciences (Birkeland et al., 2009; Bednall et al., 2012; Galenkamp et al., 2016) or sociology (Bittman, Wajcman, 2000; Mattingly, Bianchi, 2003; Mullan, 2009). Leisure beyond many other dimensions also has a spatial dimension. Geography is the science dealing with these issues, and more specifically the geography of leisure (Mayhew, 2009). Geography of leisure had great importance in the 60s, 70s and 80s of the 20th century when the character of the research was mainly descriptive, and spatial patterns of recreational and leisure-time behaviors were studied (Wolfe, 1964; Lavery, 1974; Patmore, 1983). It was only with time that more attention was paid to social issues and processes that shape spatial behavior. In the early 1980s, Glyptis (1981) was one of the first to study leisure depending on time, place, social environment and perception (Mowl, Towner, 1995).

At present, the geography of leisure in the strict sense is absorbed into leisure studies, which are one of the branches of social sciences. Geography is often an important part of leisure studies (see: Fraser et al., 2017; Rees, 2017; Sichling, Plöger, 2018), however, its significance in the context of a given problem of leisure is not always analyzed.