

The summary of PhD thesis:

„The role of organisation of urban recreational space in developing outdoor creative recreation. The example of Łódź”

Recreational activities carried out in urban space take new forms and take advantage of changing development. Thus, contemporary recreational functions are undergoing transformations. In the dissertation, the author suggests extending and deepening the understanding of recreation to include creative recreation, using both the assumptions of human geography and psychopedagogical theories explaining the phenomenon of creativity. The work uses an original operational definition of creative recreation, developed on the basis of the definitions of recreation established on the basis of the geography of tourism and geography of recreation, with the use of psychopedagogical theories of creativity. Thus, creative recreation includes all types of recreation, as long as they are innovative and valuable. The dissertation analyzes the events organized in open space, classified as creative recreation, as well as the participants and organizers of these events.

The main subject of the research is the organization of urban recreational space for the development of outdoor creative recreation. This means that the activities analyzed were organized by various entities in their leisure time, of creative nature, in the open space of Łódź. At the same time, the role of the organization of the recreational space in Łódź was analyzed for the development of the indicated activities. Therefore, the author was looking for an answer to the following main question: How to organize the recreational space of the city for the development of outdoor creative recreation? This question is a research issue.

In light of the research problem undertaken, the following research hypotheses were constructed.

- I. The distribution of events in the field of outdoor creative recreation in urban recreational space is dominant in green areas and in post-industrial spaces.

- II. The main reason for participating in outdoor creative recreation is the search for forms of recreational activity that serve self-development and outdoor recreation.
- III. The main determinants of the organization of outdoor creative recreation in urban recreational space are: the availability of urban recreational spaces, favor of local authorities, cooperation of creative people and social recognition for creativity and the creator, strong identification of the organizers with the city, the possibility of obtaining subsidies.

The main purpose of the dissertation is to verify the research hypotheses. Moreover, the author has set the following partial goals:

- identification of events in the field of outdoor creative recreation in the urban recreational space on the example of Łódź, their distribution and organization methods,
- construction of a model of urban recreational space conducive to organizing creative recreation,
- formulating recommendations for local authorities on the use of the potential of urban recreational space for the development of creative recreation.

In view of the adopted theoretical framework, adequate research methods were selected to fully answer the main and detailed questions as well as to verify the hypotheses. The planned research process made it possible to comprehensively collect data using both quantitative and qualitative methods, and to compile the results through the use of methodological triangulation. The research procedure contained the following elements: 1) Expert interviews (7 respondents), to which respondents with extensive professional achievements and knowledge of the subject of the research were invited and could present interesting analytical proposals or development forecasts concerning a given fragment of social reality; 2) A query of events in the field of outdoor creative recreation in Łódź in 2019; 3) A survey study of participants in outdoor creative recreation (n = 430); 4) Casual interviews with the organizers of the events in Łódź (10 respondents); 5) Ethnographic visual study with selected organizers (5 respondents) supplemented with interpretative interviews of photos on "my creative places" indicated by the respondents and justification of the choice during an additional interpretive interview.

The research process planned in this way allowed the author to collect a rich set of quantitative and qualitative data. The collected research material, source data, and their statistical and

qualitative analysis turned out to be sufficient to verify the hypotheses and achieve the objectives of the dissertation.

- I. The first hypothesis was confirmed: the distribution of events in the field of outdoor creative recreation in the urban recreational space was dominant in green and post-industrial areas.
- II. The second hypothesis was partially confirmed: The main reason for participation in outdoor creative recreation is the search for such forms of recreational activity that serve self-development and outdoor recreation. As a result of the conducted research, it was indicated that the main reasons for participation are the search for an original form of outdoor recreation and the perspective of self-development.
- III. The third hypothesis has been partially confirmed: the main determinants of the organization of outdoor creative recreation in urban recreational space are accessibility of urban recreational spaces, support for local authorities, cooperation of creative people, and social recognition of creativity and the creator, strong identification of organizers with the city, the possibility of obtaining a subsidy. Thanks to the conducted analysis of the research, it was found that the most important determinants are accessibility of urban recreational space, cooperation of creative people, and strong identification of the organizers with the city. The remaining determinants were determined to be important or less important.

The analysis of the collected results allowed to broaden the discussion on the understanding and function of recreation in geographical research, with the use of psychopedagogical theories of creativity in the aspect of its external determinants. The elements of the organization of the urban recreation space were related to the features of a creative city, a creative environment, and stimulators and inhibitors of creativity. Due to this, the most important determinants of the development of outdoor creative recreation have been distinguished. Recreation thus turned out to be a phenomenon requiring interdisciplinary studies. It is important to update the meaning of the concept, adapt its occurrence, and forms to the changing external conditions.