SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

Authors: Ondřej MULÍČEK, Robert OSMAN
Title: Rhythm of urban retail landscapes: Shopping hours and the urban chronotopes
Abstract: Daily rhythmical patterns in the city are investigated in depth in this paper. The city is conceptualised here as a cyclical process and described by a sequence of relatively stable spatial-temporal stages. The concept of a chronotope is incorporated in the analysis of retail opening hours in the middle-sized city of Brno (Czech Republic), in order to identify distinct fusions of specific times and specific retail places and to examine their position within the daily rhythms of the city. There are distinct time-space retail configurations (chronotopes), which play crucial roles in the social negotiation and imagination of basic temporal categories, such as early morning, late morning, lunchtime, afternoon, evening, as being taken-for-granted in the urban context. More generally, the paper offers an example of the ways in which the specific daily rhythms of the city are produced and structured.

Authors: Metod ŠULIGOJ
Title: Characterising the flows of Slovenian tourists within the former Yugoslavia with respect to postcommunist 'nostalgic context'
Abstract: Slovenia represents a key source in the tourist market for the new post-Yugoslavian states, but little is known about Slovenians' tourism practices, especially in relation to the post-communist dimension. The term "Yugonostalgia" came into existence in the 1990s in the post-Yugoslav area, and it illustrates the attitudes of people looking for a life that would be better than their present one. The term is also connected to tourism, although it has been largely neglected in the tourism literature. In this study, a total of 384 appropriately completed questionnaires were recorded and prepared for empirical analyses. Some 83.0% of respondents repeatedly return to a former Yugoslav destination they had visited in the past. Hierarchical and nonhierarchical clustering methods were used to identify clusters. Subsequently, cross-tabulations were employed to profile each cluster based on demographic characteristics, and chi-square tests were performed to validate the clusters and their mutual differences. Significant differences between groups with respect to survey variables were verified by one-way analysis of variance models. Three significantly different clusters were identified: (i) friends of nature; (ii) immigrants and their descendants (from the post-Yugoslav states); and (iii) moderate lovers of nature and culture. None of identified clusters are characterised by Yugonostalgia: group members behave in similar ways to all contemporary tourists with varying individual interests, which is an additional interesting finding.

Authors: Jitka FIALOVÁ, Pavla KOTÁSKOVÁ, Jiří SCHNEIDER, Nikola ŽMOLÍKOVÁ, Pavlína PROCHÁZKOVÁ
Title: Geo-caching for wheelchair users: A pilot study in Luhačovské Zálesí (Czech Republic)

Abstract: An optional leisure activity in the countryside for wheelchair users is subject to discussion b in this article. Geocaching is a leisure activity on the borders between tourism and sport, which appeals to a growing proportion of peoples globally. It can become a prospective part of social tourism as a leisure activity for persons with disabilities: this paper devotes attention to wheelchair users. In this research project we analysed how terrain difficulty and its markings reflect on the availability of caches to be gained by wheelchair users. The aim of the field survey was to verify if the caches indicated by the difficulty of the terrain (terrain level: 1 and 1.5) can be considered available for disabled people. The availability of the caches was also assessed based on the presence (aid) of an assistant. We found that access to most of the easily available caches contains small but critical constraints for wheelchair users – from path bumps to the very cache locations which are unreachable for wheelchair users. Therefore, we have proposed a set of recommendations and pictograms to make geocaching more available for persons using wheelchairs and to expand their opportunities for active outdoor leisure activity. The results will be used to design access to natural sites for wheelchair users.

Authors: Anatoliy MELNYCHUK, Oleksiy GNATIUK
Title: Regional identity and the renewal of spatial administrative structures: The case of Podolia, Ukraine

Abstract: The relationships between territorial identities and administrative divisions are investigated in this article, in an attempt to reveal the possible role of territorial identity as an instrument for administrative-territorial reform. The study focuses on Podolia – a key Ukrainian geographical region with a long and complicated history. A survey of residents living throughout the region showed that the majority of respondents had developed strong identification with both historical regions and modern administrative units. The close interaction between "old" and "new" identities, however, caused their mutual alterations, especially in changes in the perceived borders of historical regions. This means that the "old" historical identities have strong persistence but simultaneously survive constant transformations, incorporating the so-called "thin" elements, which fits the concept of dynamic regional institutionalisation and the formation of hybrid territorial identities. Consequently, although territorial identity may be used to make administrative territorial units more comprehensible for people, the development of modern administrative units based on hybrid identities, which include both thick and thin elements, may be another feasible solution that involves stakeholders in regional development.

Authors: Ján OŤAHEĽ, Vladimír IRA, Zuzana HLAVATÁ, Róbert PAZÚR
Title: Visibility and perception analysis of city monuments: The case of Bratislava city centre (Slovakia)
Abstract: City monuments attract tourists, especially at places with efficient viewpoints. The conditions of visibility of eight historical monuments in the city of Bratislava were evaluated using GIS on a 3D landscape, employing the criteria of distance, impressiveness, size and the number of visible monuments. The visual quality of 15 selected viewpoints was verified by surveying more than 300 respondents about their views of the monuments from similar locations. These approaches allow us to assess the conformity of visual quality analysis conducted in objective and subjective ways. The most attractive viewpoints ranked by observers were remote from the historic town and provided views of several monuments, as well as a comprehensive panoramic view of the centre of Bratislava. The approaches to assessing visual quality analysis presented in this study represent a comprehensive way of defining and verifying which places are the best for effective sightseeing of a city's monuments.

Authors: Martin KEBZA
Title: The development of peripheral areas: The case of West Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland
Abstract: The process of peripheralisation of outlying areas is discussed in this article using a case study of West Pomeranian (Zachodniopomorskie) Voivodeship in Poland. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between these peripheral areas and metropolitan core areas. Scalar and vector data on selected indicators in the years 2005 and 2015 for gminas (communes, territorial units NUTS 5) are presented. The values for both years were observed as well as the change between them. A composite indicator based on the calculated data was developed, and it served as the basis for categorisation of metropolitan, 'semi-peripheral' and peripheral areas, which were further defined on the basis of their intrinsic properties and location in the region. The development of such peripheral areas is assessed more generally in the conclusions.