

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

Authors: Arsenio VILLAR LAMA, Miguel García MARTÍN

Title: Decoding escape rooms from a tourism perspective: A global scale analysis

pp. 2–14

Abstract: There has been a spectacular growth in the escape game sector over the past decade. The extraordinary global impact of escape rooms, their implications for tourism, and the limited literature provide grounds for this research. This paper examines such phenomena using an empirical methodology based on a geographic analysis of business repositories and a global survey. Tourism plays a significant role in the escape room industry: approximately one of every three customers is a tourist. Escape roomer-tourists have even been detected: people who essentially plan their trips with the sole intention of playing these games. A significant contrast exists between business-owners and countries, however, as to the role given to foreign customers and the opportunities that all the above implies. Indeed, the connection between escape room narratives and the local culture has been shown to be weak in a majority of cases. Thus, this contribution seeks to feed into an emerging and increasingly relevant debate that has been little addressed in tourism geography: linking experiences, creative economies, authenticity and cultural heritage, etc. – through escape rooms.

Article history: Received 30 April 2020, Accepted 20 October 2020, Published 31 March 2021

Authors: Piotr ROSIK, Sabina PUŁAWSKA-OBIEDOWSKA, Sławomir GOLISZEK

Title: Public transport accessibility to upper secondary schools measured by the potential quotient: The case of Kraków

pp. 15–26

Abstract: The spatial differences in public transport accessibility to upper secondary schools are examined in this article, using the potential accessibility model, and based on the example of the city of Kraków. In order to achieve this goal, the potential quotient index has been used, taking into account both the demand for educational services operationalised with the population aged 15–19, and the supply of services depicted by the supply of places for pupils in different types of upper secondary school. A supplementary objective is to present recommendations for transport and educational policy implemented in the city in the context of potential locations of new upper secondary schools based on, among other parameters, the mean centre of the potential accessibility distribution and the potential accessibility dispersion index. We conclude that to better balance access to different types of schools throughout the city in the future, a new location for a general upper secondary school could be considered in the southern or eastern parts of Kraków.

Article history: Received 25 March 2020, Accepted 30 October 2020, Published 31 March 2021

Authors: Jiří-Jakub ZÉVL, Martin OUŘEDNÍČEK

Title: Measuring the morphology of suburban settlements: Scale-dependent ambiguities of residential density development in the Prague Urban Region

pp. 27–38

Abstract: The academic debate on methodological approaches to the measurement of urban sprawl, particularly its most cited dimension, the density of residential settlement, is discussed in this article. The methodology of point pattern analysis, and its benefits in comparison to land-use data analysis, especially for researching the morphology of residential development, is examined. This empirical study was conducted in the hinterland of Prague and is based on point data from 2007, 2010 and 2016. The paper contributes to the scholarly discussion of suburbanisation in Central and Eastern European countries, including the morphology of suburban development. The role of scale is also emphasised, given our observation of two ambiguous means of development, namely spatial dispersion at the regional scale and increasing density at the local scale. The findings support claims regarding the crucial role of micro-scale research in understanding suburban form. The largest Czech suburb of Jesenice serves as a case study, where the morphology of built-up areas is analysed in the local context.

Article history: Received 18 December 2019, Accepted 30 October 2020, Published 31 March 2021

Authors: Jan ŽENKA, Simona ŠŤASTNÁ, Adam PAVLÍK

Title: The role of manufacturing in the development of rural regions: Evidence from a highly industrialised Moravian region

pp. 39–52

Abstract: Various types of manufacturing firms located in rural municipalities are identified in this paper, and we determine the intensity of their economic linkages at the local and regional levels. We also examine the factors affecting the intensity of local/regional sourcing and purchasing. Due to the unavailability of detailed economic data at the municipal level, our research draws on a case study of 26 rural manufacturing small/medium-sized enterprises located in the Zlín Region in the eastern part of the Czech Republic. As a highly industrialised region, Zlín should theoretically provide a very favourable environment for the development of local/regional productive linkages of rural manufacturing firms. Several non-parametric tests have been employed to test the effects of firm size, age, industry and location, on the intensity of local and regional purchasing/sourcing. We found the most common firms are those that purchase and sell mostly on a regional (NUTS3) level rather than on the local level. Small firms source and sell more locally than larger firms. Effects of the firm age, industry and location, on the intensity of local/regional sourcing and purchasing were not confirmed.

Article history: Received 20 April 2020, Accepted 25 September 2020, Published 31 March 2021

Author: Michał KONOPSKI

Title: The role of administrative borders in determining regional identity: The case of Podlasie, Poland

pp. 53–70

Abstract: The borders of voivodships in Poland today are not consistent with those of historical regions. The current administrative division is largely based upon imposed

boundaries, dividing initial regions. This research topic arises from the dichotomy between the toponymy applied to voivodships because of the administrative reform of 1999 – and the names of historical regions. Implementing such a toponymy, although detached from historical and cultural contexts, has contributed to establishing attachments with current administrative regions, which surpasses identification with historical units. This paper presents the results of empirical research employing a questionnaire survey of the inhabitants of 71 communes (LAU2 units) in north-eastern Poland. The main objective was to examine the impact of recent administrative reform on territorial identity, with particular emphasis placed on the region of Podlasie. The surveyed communities are to the highest extent attached to national and local levels than to the region, which was only ranked third in the hierarchy of identification with a given area. The regional identity of the population living in north-east Poland is related primarily to the contemporary administrative borders. There are, however, explicit differences in perceptions of the region of Podlasie depending upon respondents' place of residence, which is an indication that relict borders persist in the residents' social consciousness.

Article history: Received 26 February 2020, Accepted 27 November 2020, Published 31 March 2021

Authors: Gabriel KOPÁČIK, Antonín VAISHAR, Eva ŠIMARA

Title: The dynamics of population distributions in cities based on daily mobile phone operations: A case study of some Moravian cities

pp. 71–86

Abstract: Analyses of the changes in the presence of persons in different central and residential parts of urban areas are subject to evaluation in this paper. Case studies of the cities of Brno, Ostrava and Zlín during the day and night are highlighted. Data from a provider of mobile phone services were used for the analyses. It appears that the data can be important for the comparison of different urban structures. The results demonstrate that the organisation of urban structure affects the number of visitors and thus the area attractiveness. It was confirmed that the number of mobile phone users in the city cores is higher than the number of permanent residents. The greatest differences between the day and night in the city cores were found in Brno, a concentric city with the most important central functions among the cities studied. Differences between the day and night in residential areas were not as large as expected. City neighbourhoods in Brno showed some specific rhythmicity.

Article history: Received 27 May 2019, Accepted 1 December 2020, Published 31 March 2021