

TERRITORIAL PRODUCTION AND TRANSFORMATION

An Analysis of Food as Tourist Attraction

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Territorial Production and Transformation: An Analysis of Food as Tourist Attraction. The production of food can be considered as an element that interacts with the natural and social environment and may be perceived as a factor which influences the production and transformation of regional space. The aim of this research was, thus, to analyse the culinary diversity of the Campos Gerais of Paraná, Brazil, as a possible tourist attraction, with the municipality of Castro as its central focus. This study tried to link gastronomy to tourism by means of the valuation of the intangible cultural heritage and through the recovery of regional food habits that can appeal to the tourist. As actors involved in the study were investigated the regional civil society and state, the state and local third sector, the tourism industry of the municipality and analyzed state and local government, commercial power in Castro, as well as consumers residents and nonresidents in the municipality. The work is part of a broader research project, and is based upon the results of the research for a doctoral dissertation in geography that used a methodology of analysis of gastronomy as a tourist attraction in the region. Research results are presented as issues relating to territorial changes intourism and culinary diversity in the study area, bearing in mind that the appreciation of culinary diversity in the region may be used by tourism as an important diferencial and attractive, always considering the aspects historical and cultural region.

KEY WORDS: food, tourism, territorial transformation