

**THE IDEA OF LEISURE BY LECTURES OF TOURISM UNDERGRADUATE
Courses of Minas Gerais, Brazil**

*Christianne Gomes
Tatiana Roberta de Souza
Universidade Federal de
Minas Gerais – Belo Horizonte - Brasil*

This article aims to identify and analyze the understandings of leisure by coordinators and lectures in the context of Tourism Undergraduate Courses in Minas Gerais, Brazil, and to see how these academics understand the relationships between leisure and tourism. The methodology was based on literature review, supplemented with 45 interviews (24 coordinators and 21 teachers). The results showed the existence of different understandings of leisure, predominantly related to the “use of free time” and “recreation and entertainment” in tourism facilities. Their perceptions about the relationships between leisure and tourism were divergent. In this research it is shown that leisure and tourism have special characteristics and thin boundaries. Both are social constructs that can represent a time/space of human expression, enjoyment, spontaneity, pleasure and creation of our identities through the contact with new situations, people, landscapes, societies and cultures. It is essential to make a profound multi/interdisciplinary study about leisure in undergraduate in Tourism and review some concepts, in order to increase theoretical and critical consistency to the formation and professional performance in the area.

KEY WORDS: *tourism, leisure, undergraduate, Minas Gerais.*