

UNDERSTANDINGS OF LEISURE AND TOURISM IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN TOURISM JOURNALS

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This paper is part of a wider research and its objective is to analyze the theoretical and conceptual positioning of the authors about tourism and leisure, in articles published during the period 2006-2010 in five tourism journals: (a) Annals of Tourism Research, (b) Estudios y Perspectivas en Turismo, (c) Pasos, (d) Turismo em Análise, and (e) Turismo: Visão e Ação. The methodology was based on bibliographic and documental sources and content analysis of 21 articles that presented the words lazer/ocio/leisure and/or recreação/recreación/recreation at its title and/or key words. The results showed that, in general, most of the authors clearly set out their understandings about tourism and leisure. They showed several understandings, highlighting the multidisciplinary nature of these objects of study. However, some of their understandings were considered insufficient to explain the complexity of these phenomena. In order to consolidate tourism and leisure as scientific fields of research it is necessary to concentrate efforts in conducting and disseminating relevant research to the construction of knowledge in the area. That will be possible through an academic training on continuous perspective, interdisciplinary and the development of partnerships between researchers of different areas of study, opening new possibilities for further studies on leisure and tourism.

KEY WORDS: *leisure, tourism, scientific article.*