

CONTRIBUTION OF LEISURE TO SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN THE PRESENT MOMENT

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This paper belongs to a broader research and its objective is to identify and discuss the perceptions on Leisure that students, professors and workers related to Masters and Doctoral programs dedicated to sustainability and environment on Latin America have. With a qualitative approach, the research methodology has been based on bibliographical study and questionnaire administration on the context of 12 programmes related to the CLACSO Post-Graduation network developed on 7 Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Mexico. The analysis of the results followed the content analysis strategy. Leisure was perceived differently by the 49 volunteers, presenting a variety of meanings: perceived mainly as different from work and daily activities, with different categories (time, attitude, activity and space) to characterize it. This diversity of opinions indicates the importance of enhancing the understanding on the conceptual categories which constitute leisure, once there are several ways to perceive it on Latin America and other contexts throughout the world.

KEY WORDS: *leisure, environment, sustainability, Latin America.*