

'The Weekend': A Special Issue of *Leisure Studies*

Call for Papers – EXTENDED DATE FOR SUBMISSION – **Monday 7th January 2013**

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Despite a social life, which, as Swyngedouw (2004) and Harvey (1996) concur, is characterised by perpetual change, transformation and refiguration, the weekend has remained an important and pervasive institution. It is also a British cultural export, as the French 'la semaine anglaise' (and 'le week-end'), and the Spanish and Portuguese 'semana inglesa' indicate a meaning that has shifted from being merely 'the end of the week', to 'the weekend', a separate time and space with a life of its own. There are a number of ways in which this 'quasi autonomous' time/space might be understood: as an imaginary and as a lived practice, as a time for leisure or increasingly as a time for work. Empirical research (Ebrey, 2005) seems to suggest that it is significant in British everyday lives, a pivotal temporal and spatial moment even, but that there is some evidence that it is being 'lost'. Does this matter? Who is losing most? In what ways is the loss being experienced? What would more comparative analysis shed on these questions? This special issue of *Leisure Studies* invites papers that address these important questions.

We hope that contributions to the special issue might consider the centrality of time in discussions around leisure and the weekend and since as Harvey (2009: 134) suggests, 'Space cannot be considered separately from time', then papers which also consider the spatial dimensions of the weekend (the weekend cottage, the weekend break, other weekend displacements or disruptions of quotidian routine) would be welcome. A fundamental question might revolve around the implications for leisure times and spaces if the weekend continues to be eroded in the neo liberal move towards greater 'productivity' and concomitant maximisation of profit or 'output', perhaps drawing out the contradictions inherent in the spiralling 'sweating' of people as well as assets, in pursuit of the maximisation of 'shareholder value', and the need to sustain popular consumption of commodified 'leisure' as well as goods and other services.

The BBC Radio Programme *Thinking Allowed* featured an interview with one of the guest editors about her research on the weekend in April 2010 (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00rykll>) and in several European countries a discussion is beginning. The current debate over Bank Holidays in the UK is also pertinent, given the historic and continuing importance of this extension of the weekend. The changes in, and pressures on, working (and leisure) times, mean that debate is urgently needed about the pleasures or otherwise of leisure at the weekend, and the social implications of not being able to enjoy these due to work or family commitments. Potential disciplinary points of departure include sociology, anthropology, history, geography, psychology, literary studies and economics. We look forward to papers that can make a contribution towards this enquiry.

Special Issue Themes

The following list is not exclusive, but themes might include:

- Time, space, leisure and the weekend
- Gender, class, ethnicity and age at the weekend
- Working at the weekend: what happens to leisure?
- Religion and the weekend
- Sport and the weekend
- The right to the weekend, the right to leisure?
- The 'long' and the 'short' of the weekend: St Monday, 'puentes' (the Spanish practice of extending the weekend to meet a midweek public holiday) and snatched time
- Mobilities and leisure at the weekend
- Leisure, rituals and the weekend

Key deadlines:

Full Papers (8000 words maximum including references, notes, etc.) and/or Research Notes (3000 words maximum) should be submitted by no later than **Monday 7th January 2013** via Manuscript Central. Please include a note with all submissions that the paper is for consideration in the special issue on 'The Weekend'.

[For details see the *Leisure Studies* webpage](#)

All submissions will be blind peer reviewed in line with journal protocols.

It is anticipated that the special issue will comprise part of volume 32 and be published in late 2013.

If you wish to discuss a potential submission please contact the guest editors John K. Walton (john_walton@ehu.es) and/or Jill Ebrey (jill.ebrey@btinternet.com) directly.

For other general information relating to submissions please contact the journal administrator, Dr Donna Wong (DSYWong@uclan.ac.uk) or one of the Managing Editors, Professor John Horne (jdhorne@uclan.ac.uk), Dr Beccy Watson (R.Watson@leedsmet.ac.uk), or Professor Scott Fleming (sfleming@uwic.ac.uk).

Paper Submissions

For guidance on paper style, format and other submission information [please consult the *Leisure Studies* webpage](#).

Or the inside covers of the *Leisure Studies* journal.