

# Robert A Stebbins Serious Leisure A Perspective For

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serious leisure offers a comprehensive view and analysis of the current state of the sociology of leisure defining and differentiating the way people use their free time stebbins divides such activity into categories of serious casual and project based leisure that he further separates into a variety of types and subtypes together they comprise what he calls serious leisure in this perspective serious leisure constitutes systematic pursuit of an amateur hobbyist or volunteer activity sufficiently substantial and interesting in nature and requiring special skills knowledge and experience casual leisure though immediately intrinsically rewarding is by contrast a relatively short lived pleasurable activity requiring little or no special training to enjoy it project based leisure is a short term reasonably complicated occasional creative undertaking carried out in free time stebbins sets out the basic concepts and propositions that make up the three forms focusing on their essential elements he takes stock of the serious leisure literature as well as that for casual and project based leisure stebbins sees serious leisure realized by way of a set of foundational concepts organization community history lifestyle and culture and several of their component areas he reviews the history and background of the concept of serious leisure and then adds historical commentary on first casual leisure and then project based leisure finally he examines the future and the importance of the serious leisure perspective in a globalizing world and some of its critical links with other fields of knowledge and practice notably the nonprofit sector and preventive medicine together with its original insights serious leisure offers a single handy coherent comprehensive resource it will be of interest to sociologists labor studies specialists and economists

the serious leisure perspective slp is a theoretical framework that can help us understand the complexities of modern leisure as both an activity and an experience bringing together the study of serious leisure casual leisure and project based leisure it is an essential component of the leisure studies curriculum and an invaluable tool for exploring the significance of leisure in contemporary society this book is the first of offer a comprehensive introduction to the serious leisure perspective from fundamental principles and key

concepts to in depth and wide ranging case studies of serious leisure pursuits the book introduces the history of the slp and its position alongside other social theories that attempt to explain the nature and function of leisure it explores important themes such as consumption gender relations social capital and quality of life and delves deeply into the leisure of amateurs hobbyists career volunteers and occupational devotees every chapter includes a range of useful pedagogical features such as review questions and group exercises to help the student to grasp the importance of understanding leisure as a way of understanding contemporary social life and society combining cutting edge theory and method with an engaging and practical interface this is an essential text for all leisure studies courses and illuminating reading for any student working in tourism events sport recreation sociology or cultural studies

serious leisure offers a comprehensive view and analysis of the current state of the sociology of leisure defining and differentiating the way people use their free time robert a stebbins divides such activity into categories of serious skilled casual unskilled and project based short term leisure that he further separates into a variety of types and subtypes together they comprise what he calls the serious leisure perspective stebbins sets out the basic concepts that make up the three leisure forms focusing on their essential elements stebbins sees serious leisure realized by way of a set of foundational concepts organization community history lifestyle and culture he reviews the history and background of the concept of serious leisure and follows up with historical commentary finally he examines the future and the importance of the serious leisure perspective in a globalizing world and some of its critical links with other fields of knowledge and practice notably the nonprofit sector and preventive medicine serious leisure is a coherent and comprehensive resource setting out the main parameters of what is now widely recognized as an interdisciplinary research area it will be of interest to sociologists labor studies specialists and economists

this study pulls together the findings of dr stebbin s research programme on leisure it presents his basic theory on serious leisure as

well as his analysis of casual leisure identifying deviant leisure as falling into either group

the serious leisure perspective slp is a theoretic framework developed by robert a stebbins in 1973 that brings together three main forms of leisure known as serious leisure casual leisure and project based leisure the slp has evolved considerably since 1973 and this textbook provides a synthesis of the many concepts and propositions as well as the data supporting them in this overview stebbins organizes the entire framework along conceptual lines with careful attention to level of empirical support and validation of each concept presenting an up to date version of the slp that allows interested students and researchers of social psychology sociology and leisure studies to pinpoint exact elements of the theory the empirical base and its application

throughout this project stebbins has built on the work of barney glaser and anselm strauss and their notion of grounded theory first stebbins extensively observed the routine activities of amateurs and professionals in each field studied then as he became more familiar with the life styles of the participants he conducted lengthy unstructured face to face interviews with in most cases thirty amateur or professional respondents each field demanded special methods of observation analysis interviewing probing and reporting as much as possible however stebbins asked similar questions of all respondents in all fields so as to permit generalizations across these diverse fields the result was a substantive grounded theory of each field studied in amateurs professionals and serious leisure stebbins has developed a formal grounded theory of amateurs and professionals based on the research accumulated in all eight substantive fields by transcending a variety of contexts he argues one can gain a more enduring appreciation of the elements that affect peoples experiences in work and leisure pursuits a thorough review of the findings across this wide range of activities including his findings and ideas on hobbyists and career volunteers enabled stebbins to derive better definitions of the main concepts of the project such as amateur the public and serious leisure as well as professional where he distinguishes between client centred and public centred professionals who while sharing numerous ideal typical attributes vary as to the power and control they have over

their work in a democratic society he presents inductive conclusions about careers and the costs and rewards in the eight amateur professional fields considered he examines the external world of amateurs and professionals in the light of such issues as family ties relations among amateurs and professionals and among amateurs and their employers public images critics and journalists community contributions and the question of marginality for amateurs who are caught between the work world of the professional and the casual leisure world of the majority of the population he concludes with an exploration of the future role of serious leisure in relation to predictions of greater unemployment and increased leisure time and longevity

volunteering and its nonprofit organizations have commonly been analyzed in economic terms with volunteering being referred to as unpaid productive work this economic definition has been around far longer than that of volunteering conceived of as leisure which is discussed as the volitional definition by means of a lengthy literature review this book sets out the theoretical and empirical contributions of the serious leisure perspective to understanding volunteer motivation this second approach began more than 40 years ago it answers the key motivational question of why people engage in unpaid productive work laborious or not since in this conception payment in cash or in kind is not an incentive to perform such work what encourages people to volunteer the serious leisure perspective unlike mainstream economics can shed considerable light on this question

using the concept of fulfilment and the framework of the serious leisure perspective this book examines the signposts marking the fulfilment career this career begins with an interest in a serious pursuit leading to an efflorescence many years later in amateurism hobbyism volunteering or devotee work and ultimately deeper fulfilment

the study of consumption has never seriously examined the role of leisure this ambitious agenda setting study provides the most in depth examination of the relationship between the two to date drawing on the serious leisure perspective and outlining a new

conceptual framework for analyzing consumption for leisure

why we love to tour gazing from the serious leisure perspective offers a fresh and nuanced exploration of tourism distinct from traditional industry focused narratives

leisure is often associated with terms such as freedom escape and frivolity and viewed as an antithesis to work this volume explores leisure from an array of perspectives it also includes an introduction by the originator of the serious leisure concept dr robert a stebbins

between work and leisure aims to debunk the prevailing myth that work and leisure are wholly separate and often as not mutually antagonistic spheres of life stebbins shows that a close relationship between leisure and work offers the opportunity for people to find joy in work just as they do in leisure this volume will be of interest to those interested in work and occupations as well as those interested in the quality of their own lives book jacket

a range of thinkers in philosophy religion and the social sciences have argued that thanks to science technology and the organization of society the human condition has improved and will continue to do so people are becoming progressively happier and enjoying an ever improving quality of life they say mostly because they are putting their skills and reason to work the idea of leisure is based on the assumption that leisure also fits into the social order and it provides a singular vector by which to measure progress even though it is rarely mentioned in writings about the idea of progress robert a stebbins believes that leisure fosters positive development in both the individual and community progress through free time activity may sometimes be hard to grasp because of the all too common manifestations of deviant behavior from schoolyard bullying to date rape despite these examples the vast majority of leisure activities often have profound positive consequences for participants and society stebbins makes a solid case for

linking leisure with progress although leisure has huge importance for humanity observations about the idea of leisure as part of the idea of progress have been sporadic it is no accident that the world leisure organization promotes the motto leisure integral to social cultural and economic development nor is it an accident that article 24 of the united nations universal declaration of human rights declares that everyone has the right to rest and leisure including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay for whole nations to find satisfaction and self fulfillment based on leisure would be a true sign of progress stebbins book offers original insight into this basic human requirement

this short book discusses the relatively new concept of project based leisure in leisure research and relates it to individual and community well being and quality of life the book defines pbl as a short term reasonably complicated one off or occasional though infrequent creative undertaking carried out in free time or time free of disagreeable obligation such leisure requires considerable planning effort and sometimes skill or knowledge the book discusses how pbl contributes to subjective well being though doing so more modestly than serious leisure and occupational devotion the book surveys existing field research of the author s own and other studies and provides original insights on how pbl activities can be used to generate community involvement and subjective well being

a thoughtful examination of how we become individuals and how we fit into personal and social life

Isa 2007 what ever happened to the leisure society aims to turn the leisure studies multi disciplinary gaze to the shifts in leisure practices industries cultures and economies over the past 30 years or so the call for this timely reflection aims not only to consider work leisure shifts but also seeks to evaluate developments in the theorising of leisure the conference is aimed at academics including researchers research students and lecturers in leisure studies politics economics history sociology cultural studies cultural

policy social policy and media studies practitioners in the leisure services public private and voluntary will be attracted to the conference by distinctive policy and practice based contributions practitioners from the cultural industries including market researchers industry analysts and cultural commentators will also find the conference of interest

in this edited volume jackson and burton have attempted no less than an assessment of what is known about recreation and leisure at the beginning of the twenty first century in doing this they have drawn on the talents of top scholars in various areas of study and done so from a carefully conceived vision of what was needed jackson and burton have also done the reader the great favor of being both aggressive and meticulous editors a rarity among such edited volumes this book is the only comprehensive statement of what is known about recreation and leisure as the twenty first century begins with its heightened potential to create a world in which such knowledge is critical to well being leisure studies prospects for the twenty first century provides both a retrospective examination of what has been achieved in leisure studies in the twentieth century the last few decades in particular and a look into the future this book offers new perspectives on preexisting and emerging themes and is a significant contribution to the literature

there have been many analyses of leisure drawing on the social historical cultural temporal and geographical contexts in which acts of leisure are pursued yet these studies lack a theoretical framework that can explain how leisure studies interact in various social contexts cultural temporal or geographical or as robert a stebbins conceptualizes it at levels of society here stebbins explores leisure studies at society's micro meso and macro levels he considers all three as they manifest themselves in the everyday pursuit of leisure while focusing on the heretofore neglected middle which he calls the meso side of life stebbins not only draws these perspectives together but does something no one else has he focuses on the big picture of leisure leisure activities in context examines the entire micro macro agency structure dimension using theory and research from leisure studies and the sociology of leisure as the vehicles to accomplish this this book will be a useful theoretical sourcebook on the study of leisure because it provides

a blueprint of issues that scholars and students can use to draw deeper meaning from their own studies and a framework for future research

this text is an introductory undergraduate text on leisure it has a sociological perspective and discusses recent debates and research on topics such as postmodernity consumer cultures and lifestyles while primarily directed at students the book should also be of interest to leisure industry professionals

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