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Making Space for Home...the Second Home

The second home has become the space for the practice of leisure and tourism for millions of people. It provides a playground, an oasis and a refuge in a busy touristic world. It is a complex issue within tourism being viewed as 'a space between the ordinary and the extraordinary' (Aronson,2004, p.76). The exploration of how people make time and space for use of the second home, the relation of the first home to the second home, and the impact of the second home on the practice of tourism and leisure are of interest in discussion of leisure/tourism space.

The broader study on which this paper is based argues that tourism, getting away, cannot be considered without reference to home. It draws on the literatures of everyday life, tourism, home, mobility and second home ownership. The paper examines the place of home in the postmodern tourist consumption context; most particularly focusing on the 'compulsion to mobility' (Urry, 2001) and the de-differentiation between first and second homes.
The study builds on the work of Jaakson (1986) who declared the second homeowner to be 'a form of permanent tourist', Chaplin (2000) who concluded that lack of commodification and time out from 'paramount identities' distinguish the second homeowners experience and Müller (2004) who contends that second home tourism 'goes beyond tourism' because it contemporaneously represents the global and the mobile, and the maintenance of tradition.

An emic approach employing an interpretive methodology is most appropriate to the achievement of the overall aims of the study. A total of fifteen depth interviews were completed with research partners (Irish second home owners) during the summers of 2004 and 2005. Initial findings highlight the apparent ease with which second home owners transit (both physically and psychologically) between primary home and second/holiday home. Despite this there is recognition of the difference between homes; one home living experience differs from the other. The general mobility of these tourists is evident in their discussion of holiday taking both in connection with, and outside of, their holiday homes. Life in the second home is purported to allow more time to enjoy the minutiae of 'home' life. This fieldwork will inform the development of the proposed paper. The materials gathered comprise interview transcripts, field notes and observations.

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