

Abstract

The investigation “Hippodromes as metropolitan leisure facilities” is located in the geography of leisure-time behaviour and thus in a rather recent branch of socialgeography. Therefore methods of different sciences were purposefully combined in order to obtain scientifically valid results.

This paper is based on three main steps of research, which were applied to two exemplarily selected Hippodromes. Firstly, the profile of the hippodromes was defined by means of an image analysis and the hippodromes were positioned in relation to the general leisure-time opportunities of the respective city. Secondly, the range of leisure-time opportunities offered by the hippodromes was determined in view of its respective visitors. This was conducted via an analysis of visitor-satisfaction, showing both the importance of and the satisfaction with different leisure-time opportunities offered by the respective hippodrome. Finally, the patch of the hippodromes was identified. Here, the regional distribution of visitors, the identification of influencing factors and a possible connection with areas characterized by a general affinity for horse racing were especially emphasised.

Due to the –as of now -little research conducted concerning hippodromes as metropolitan leisure-time facilities, most of the required data had to be generated empirically. Thus, a random survey was carried out for both hippodromes and their respective cities. In total approximately 1,800 interviews were conducted, which were utilized by means of statistical methods. This resulted in the identification of hippodromes as leisure-time facilities and in the identification of their relevance in the respective metropolis.