

TRIP AND SCIENTIFIC INTERNSHIP IN BRNO. A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIOLOGY OF TOURISM - MARTIAL ARTS TOURISM AND SCIENTIFIC TOURISM

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- sociology,
- scientific tourism,
- martial arts,
- combatives,
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Abstract:

Background. The study was conducted from the perspective of anthropological-systemic theory of tourism, sociology of tourism and tourism concept of non-entertaining excursion.

Aim. The following study shows different dimensions of scientific tourism and tourism of martial arts. The authors present a case study of a scientific internship.

Methods. Empirical base is an experience of the author in the field of active participation in similar scientific trips. In the logical order it is:

- Type of research – fieldwork;
- Type of a general method – case study;
- Type of data collecting – active participant observation, with references to other similar cases. In addition, a content analysis of the literature is used.

Results and conclusions. Scientific tourism is an interesting example of combining the features of several varieties of tourism. In this case it was mixed with martial arts' tourism. In the interpretation of this type of event tourism one must therefore take into account dimensions of self-realisation.

INTRODUCTION

The theoretical perspective for scientific explorations used here are especially the anthropological-systemic theory of tourism [Obodyński, Cynarski 2006; Ďuriček 2007; Sieber, Cynarski 2010; Cynarski 2010a, 2014b], sociology of tourism [Urry 1990; Rojek, Urry 1997; Misztal 2000; Burns, Palmer, Lester 2010; Edgell, Swanson 2013], and conception of non-entertaining tourism [Cynarski 2012, 2014b]. This is because the participation in the 'scientific tourism' or in the 'martial arts tourism' is realised for purposes other than entertainment.

“Scientific tourism is a part (or a kind) of cultural tourism, with special values. These journeys require extra effort, not only with regards to research or teaching duties. They give traveller opportunities to confront, test and evaluate their own research results and outlook with new listeners in new locations, in different environments. This travel applies especially to the foreign environment, a situation that presents high degrees of professional and scientific challenges, resulting in increased contributions and activity to a specific field of science” [Cynarski, Rut 2014].

Scientific tourism, including trips to scientific conferences, is an interesting example of combining the features of several varieties of tourism. In addition to strictly scientific purposes there are elements of e.g. congress tourism (meeting industry), city (destinations, the place of meeting), cultural (of cultural heritage) [Cynarski, Ďuriček 2014; cf. Cynarski,

Obodyński 2004; Ďuriček 2007: 65-75; Tauber 2008; West 2008; Sieber, Cynarski 2010; Cynarski 2010b, 2014a; Kosiewicz 2011, 2014; Wikivoyage 2014].

Martial arts tourism is generally a “travel for the study of martial arts” [Cynarski 2012b; cf. Sieber, Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2007; Cynarski 2014b]. Both scientific tourism and tourism of martial arts are (special) forms of the cultural tourism [cf. Munsters 2008; Mikos von Rohrscheidt 2009; Cynarski 2014b]. In contrast, the concept of “martial arts” and “study of martial arts” we understand here according the humanistic theory of martial arts and the anthropology of martial arts [Cynarski 2012c].

METHODS

It is a kind of participant observation and “fieldwork”. In the logical order it is:

- Type of research – fieldwork;
- Type of a general method – case study;
- Type of data collecting – active participant observation [Richards, Munsters 2010], with references to other similar cases.

A content analysis of the literature (including reports from a conference – as a source) [cf. Krippendorff 2004; Philimore, Goodson 2004] was included, too.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1. Journey; Nov. 16, 2014

The first leg of the journey: Strzyżów - Jasionka (about 50 km) travelled by car within 50 minutes and by 6:30 the author was in Rzeszow airport. Unfortunately, the plane of LOT didn't land and the flight from Rzeszow to Warsaw was cancelled (weather causes). Ticket was rebooked on a flight via Frankfurt to Prague. An airport employee helped by rebooking of bus ticket Prague-Brno. The Lufthansa flight Rzeszow - Frankfurt was quite modest, and on the route Frankfurt - Prague much better when it comes to e.g. for snacks. Would be treatment of the other people (than travellers between these two major beautiful cities) travelling from Rzeszow explained the sociological concept of "metropolis and periphery" or other considerations? Stages Frankfurt-Prague-Brno cunning already no surprises, but the plane landed in Prague with at least a 20-minute delay. But author managed to catch the bus. Around midnight, the author reached the hotel, which is more than six hours later than it was scheduled.

2. In Brno; Nov. 17

25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, here is a celebration and a day off from work. The author had so time to relax and deal with e-mail. It was also the day for acclimatization (climate typically English) and all-terrain reconnaissance.

Nov. 18

At 8:00 a.m. was a meeting with vice-dean for international cooperation, Dr Michal Vit, and next – a training of basic techniques *naginatajutsu* with students from international Erasmus programme. Later they were teaching self-defense classes for full-time students. Doc. Dr hab. Zdenko Reguli (head the Dep. of Gymnastics and Combatives) presented the planned program of stay. Author met Prof. Willy Pieter, the great scientific fame, working here. They both cooperate through the IMACSSS (International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society) and the Journal "Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology". W. Pieter is here the visiting professor, similarly as the author during the two weeks. *Nota bene* earlier were invited here by this Department: Prof. Dr Weimo Zhu (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA) and Mr Michael de Marco, editor of the „Journal of Asian Martial Arts”, which was here a week ago.



Photo 1. Dr Michal Vit and Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski in the *dojo* – academic club UM in Brno, November 2014.

Author mentions: "This afternoon in a small group (Dr Vit, Doc. Reguli, Prof. Pieter and me) we went to eat lunch together. I was persuaded to dish in Indian. I tasted anything quite so sharp with Indian cuisine. In the evening, I took part in activities - training *aikibudo / kobudo* in academic club [photo 1]. In addition to the forms of classical Japanese samurai weapons (*naginata* gleve, a long stick *bo*), we rehearsed a *tonfa* form created by GM Alain Floquet (9 dan). "

Nov. 19

This day the **European workshops: "The opportunities for sport management within the EU's Horizon 2020"** began (Masaryk University, Brno, Nov. 19-20, 2014). Author was among invited panelists from 8 countries, also among European experts (as sociologist of physical culture). The workshops organiser was Doc. Jana Nova, the leader was EU expert, Mrs Lotte Jaspers from Amsterdam (the Netherlands), and participants of the panel were e.g.: Prof. Leigh Robinson and Dr Brian Manikin (Scotland, UK), Prof. UR Wojciech J. Cynarski (Poland), Dean Martin Zvonar and Doc. Dr hab. Zdenko Reguli (Czech Rep.), Dr Sanela Skorić (Croatia), Dr Stevo Popović (Montenegro), Dr Attila Kajos (Hungary) and Radenko Matic (Serbia) [photo 2]. Deliberations lasted until late afternoon. That evening provided a spiritual feast - a concert at the Philharmonic.



Photo 2. European workshops Horizon 2020. In the foreground – Doc. Z. Reguli, then - from left - Prof. Robinson, Dr Manikin, Prof. Cynarski, Dr Skorić, Dr Kajos, Dr Popović, Mgr Matic.

Nov. 20

Continued workshop was carried out to dinner. It was an excellent opportunity to acquire new knowledge about what supports the EU and how. E.g. The program to Marie Skłodowska-Curie, should support mobility of researchers from the new EU countries, because of such well understood "scientific tourism" [Cynarski, Ďuriček 2014] allows you to explore scientific achievements of other countries. In addition, are preferred approach (research projects) inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary [cf. Cynarski 2014a].

The evening was of course the training at the academic club - with Dr Michal Vitem (3rd dan). With his help, author could remember advanced forms of the *Tenshin Shoden Katori Shinto-ryu kobudo* school of Japanese fencing from the fifteenth century [Otake 2007]. The study of these forms, registered as a cultural heritage of Japan, is also a form of martial arts studies, cultural studies and physical education, which is interesting both from the perspective hopology and anthropology of martial arts [Armstrong 1991, 1997; Cynarski 2012c]. *Nota bene*, these are the oldest form of communication and transmission method taught for centuries [cf. Rosenbaum 2005].

Nov. 21

The Department of Gymnastics and Combatives works, according to the author, exemplary. It performs activities for students in European combat sports (boxing, wrestling), the combat sports who are also martial arts (*judo*, *karate*) and martial arts without competitive sports (*aikido*). Moreover, there are here lessons from various forms of self-defense and intervention techniques, specialized classes with old-Japanese fencing, various courses etc. Students are also taught how to teach self-defense people in wheelchairs and other disabilities.

The author carried out some of the activities and visited by others. He took a very enriching cognitive meetings and discussions, with Prof. Willy Pieter and Assoc. Prof. Z. Reguli, concerning current and planned research activities. They talked for example on fetishisation the indicator of IF (impact factor) in the scientometrics in some countries. W. Pieter pointed out that IF is used (as a tool in scientometrics) only outside the United States; American science still has a great time. Eugen Garfield created IF for the purpose of libraries. What is important, for specialty unpopular in the scientific community IF and H-index will be always low [cf. Seglen 1997; Tsigilis *et al.* 2010; Cynarski, Reguli 2014].

Nov. 22

Continued visitation schedule. Students practice here with various gadgets - pads, helmets, shields, dummies weapons, etc. It was an opportunity to carry out and execute the query library notes. It was also the time that is usually missing for own work by laptop.

Nov. 24

Formalities at the university, shopping, e-mail, and more college classes. A series of lectures on the general theory of martial arts and combat sports, which the author prepared in English, especially for academic training at the Masaryk University.

Nov. 25

Next lectures, discussions, site visits and conducting classes; scientific meetings and conferences IMACSSS arrangements (especially with Doc. Reguli, Vice-President of IMACSSS), EASS (European Association for the Sociology of Sport, especially with Prof. Ales Sekot, sports sociologist at UM), and others. And in the evening - training forms of *naginata* and *ryoto*, i.e. the simultaneous use of two samurai swords fight. This – in the university club, where they practice mainly academics of the University (under direction of *sensei* M. Vit 3 dan, and Z. Reguli 5 dan).

Nov. 26

Another important point of the internship in Brno and honour was that the author was invited to a **meeting of the High Scientific Council** and Dr E. Hurych colloquium

(habilitation). The dissertation concerned the secular spirituality of physical activity in the perspective of kinanthropology, which referred to the philosophical anthropology of sport and physical activity. Habilitant presented his outline, reviewers (Prof. Volkova, Professor Sekot and Professor Oborny) gave their reviews that candidate for an assistant professor replied. The proceedings were conducted in Czech. Habilitant captures the issues widely - from the philosophy of sport, the sociological and psychological issues. On this occasion, the author had the opportunity to meet and talk with Valdimar Smekal, psychology professor who is a great friend of Poland and Polish people.

Habilitation was approved (there's no equivalent of the Polish Central Commission for Degrees). Then the doc. Reguli invited Professors A. Sekot, I. Jirásek and J. Oborny, and Assoc. Prof. Hurych and author to his office. Here it was officially announced and was awarded the Medal of the Twentieth Anniversary IPA (Idokan Poland Association) for Ivo Jirasek, Professor at the University of Olomouc. Prof. Jirasek is a longtime contributor to the journal published by the IPA: "Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology" and recently in volume 14 number 4 was published his new article.

Then there was a dinner - Doc. Reguli proposed a dish typical Slovak cuisine. In the following days the author tasted dishes "Pan-European", Czech, Slovak, Indian, and for example a Chinese *risotto*. Flavoured exploring foreign cultures (i.e. "tourist tasting" [Cynarski, Obodyński 2006]) is an important factor, incidentally, for their reception.

Nov. 27

That day were classes with Erasmus students (an international group) in the field of *karate* and *jujutsu* (*Idokan* style) led by the early hours of the morning [photo 3]. We can be envy of colleagues from Brno the great base – e.g. great hall decorated specially for martial arts and combat sports. The author agreed with Czech colleagues to develop the data from a research project carried out in the framework of IMACSSS. It was held last evening *kobudo* training with Dr Michal Vit - *bojutsu* forms (6), *naginata* (4) and *ryoto* (4).

Nov. 28

That day and the next the author wrote reviews of articles for several scientific journals. And he has already been packed for return.



Photo 3. Classes of karate / jujutsu / self-defence teaching.

3. Back to Home; Nov. 30

Step one: Brno - taxi from the hotel to the bus, the bus - to Prague, there still change to the next one and access to the Airport in Prague. A total of two times were bus rides through Prague gave us the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful city. Stage II and III: flights by LOT to Warsaw and Rzeszów. Next one - by car to the house.

CONCLUSIONS

Passed internship (lectures and practical classes, visits to classes, meetings, agreements, etc.) is the new knowledge and plans for further action. In addition, the author took part in the workshop “The opportunities for sport management within the EU's Horizon 2020”, which was confirmed to him the appropriate diploma. He also took part in the meeting of the High Council of Scientific and habilitation colloquium of E. Hurych (the philosophy of sport). Held His meetings with Professors: Willy Pieter, Ales Sekot, Vladimir Smékal, Josef Oborny and Ivo Jirasek were held. For the project IMACSSS, which he coordinates, are already pre-prepared data for the compilation and publication. In addition, there was an opportunity to repeat the forms of old-Japanese *kobudo*.

The content of the stay and the effects here are consistent with the meaning of an academic internship and exit study of martial arts. The paper presents the case study of martial arts tourism and scientific tourism. This is a special case, because individual studies of martial arts were combined with the teaching of the theory and practice (of these martial arts) students at Masaryk University.

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