

LEISURE, SPORTS & SOCIETY, BY KARL SPRACKLEN
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Review by Rahul Pratap Singh Kaurav

Karl Spracklen has earned a reputation globally as an expert of leisure and sports studies. Karl Spracklen is Professor of Leisure Studies at the Leeds Metropolitan University, UK. He has written one other book also titled *The Meaning and Purpose of Leisure*. He has put his work which was much needed, especially by students and researchers of tourism studies in South Asia. The book is a comprehensive work on establishing a societal perspective to leisure and sports activities and its relation with tourism. At least in India there was no similar work available.

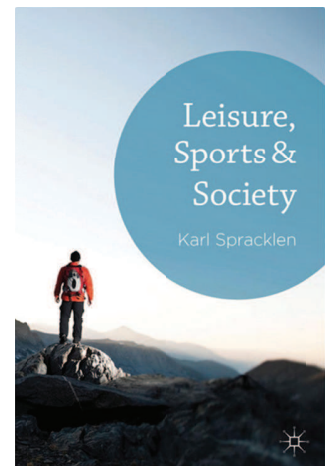
Eighteen chapters of the book are organised into 4 sections which all deal with understanding leisure, leisure sociologies and trends among others. The discussion of his last book on the meaning and purposes of leisure is especially welcome for the readers who wanted to start afresh.

The book is infused with excellent explanations of various theories along with practices adopted by the leisure and sports tourism industry. The comprehensive treatment of leisure and societal theories to tourism sets the book apart from the contemporary literature available in the field which serves its purpose. The text provides its readers with insight which simultaneously serves as a key to understand the leisure and trends in the present business context. It offers the readers a friendly resource which is customised to extract the benefits in a proportional manner.

One would admire the work as the pages unfold where it begins with narrating the definitions, theories and practices. First, part of the book contextualize the sociology of leisure by discussing leisure through different historical periods. It propels further discussion on the concept of modernity and debates on sociology of work. The way Spracklen has presented the concepts and easily understandable to readers with and without exposure of leisure and sports. Second, part of the book has introduced different social theories. Then started with a discussion on how post-Marxist researchers have developed theories about gender and ethnicity – from sociology to leisure studies. Author has highlighted the concept of inequality and their social nature and the way in which modern leisure has essentialized these inequalities. Research trends in leisure studies have explored in simple terms so that he engages the reader and prepare a sound foundation of the theoretical framework for the leisure researchers. The author uses many examples of his own research on rugby league and investigated subcultures and subcultural identities.

Third, section of the book has shown the leisure trends. The theories of globalization, diaspora and hybridity. A discussion on the process of commodification in society and popular culture makes it matter of interest for business readers also.

In short, the work benefits from the extensive experience of the authors and engages and enriches readers. As a measure of the book's value, the book is recommended as the main text for the course on *tourism and leisure management* for postgraduate diploma, master's students, and preferably utilised by the research scholars for understanding basic concepts in global context.



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