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Home-based Work and Leisure Spaces: Settee or Work-Station?

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Abstract

The range of paid work carried out within the home suggests that a growing number of home-working individuals will find themselves in distinctive positions in relation to the flows and interconnections of the space–time compression. This has potentially significant consequences for their experience of leisure. This article discusses how space and place within the home are contested issues that manifest in different ways across time. Consideration is made on the fluid nature of the spatial boundaries within the home environment and the impact this has upon the notion of the home as a site of, and for, leisure. The article explores how the home represents a physical setting and a matrix of social relationships, and discusses how this matrix proves especially complex for individuals engaged in home-based work, particularly when aligned with notions of leisure choices and constraints.

Keywords:

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Notes

1. The Times Magazine, 31 May 1997; Independent on Sunday, 30 November 1997; Good Housekeeping, May 1998.

2. For a particularly useful discussion on home-based work, time and the public/private couplet, see Mirchandi (1998, 1999).

3. These are often termed teleworkers; for a full consideration of what constitutes home-based work, see Felstead and Jewson (2000).

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