



*2nd International Workshop on Lifestyle Migration and Residential Tourism
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***Contested Spatialities of Lifestyle Migration
Public policies, local democracy and global market forces***

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ABSTRACT

**CONCEPTUAL AND ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE STUDY OF
SECOND HOMES IN PORTUGAL**

The expansion of second homes has taken unprecedented proportions in Portugal: in the last inter-census period 1991-2001, their number increased 40%, so that about 930000 second homes in 2001 represented 20% of all dwellings (the number of first home dwellings grew only 16%). Their presence has been evident in diverse parts of the country – from the highly urbanized and dynamic Atlantic coasts to the aged and stagnating rural interior – especially in areas with attractive natural and cultural landscapes and other amenities. The use of second homes as an expression of contemporary "leisure class" formation and recreation-based lifestyles, as well as a constitutive element of post-productivist land-use patterns and landscape changes has not been studied thoroughly in Portugal.

Furthermore, this phenomenon merits to be addressed in the context of the problems that are intrinsic to spatial planning and territorial development as distinct research issue with several interrelated dimensions, such as: (i) type of residents – domestic, foreign immigrants; (ii) legal status of the property: owner or tenant; (iii) the length of stay – weekend only, weekly, seasonally, alternating with the first residence; (iv) location – rural, urban, rurban, in resorts; (v) the purpose of use - recreation and leisure, business or work; (vi) the origins - first homes that became secondary, or vice versa – built, purchased, adapted to be the second home; (vii) the type of construction - new homes or old buildings restored for this purpose. However, although the expansion of second homes represents, increasingly, an important problem from the viewpoint

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of the effects generated in socio-cultural, socio-economic and environmental spheres, fundamentally it is a question of land use alterations and related impacts on development policies and practice of planning and it is indeed surprising how this phenomenon has been marginalized on research agendas in Portugal - especially those related to spatial planning, both theoretical and empirical.

This communication represents an attempt to formulate an analytical framework - inspired by, inter alia, major theories of post-productivist development, formation of a "leisure class", (re)construction and consumption of territorial identities, etc. - aimed at formulating a viable approach to a better understanding of the phenomenon of the second homes expansion, its extent and significance at regional and national level. Also, findings from a currently ongoing major pioneer research project on second homes expansion in Portugal will be presented. This will include a spatial typology of second homes at the national level, which largely confirms the literature on major areas of second home expansion in other countries in Europe and beyond, such as the rural-urban fringe, vacation resorts and the natural and cultural amenity rich countryside. Also, it will be pointed out to what extent positive and negative impacts of second home expansion on land use and local/regional development and related planning issues are similar to those in countries where this phenomenon is older, such as Norway, England, France and Spain. Also, major preliminary field research findings will be presented and discussed.

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