

Determinants of place attachment between locals and occasional residents: the case of a small rural place Aljmaš in Croatia

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Abstract

This paper focuses on interpreting the determinants of place attachment to a small rural place in Croatia called Aljmaš which is known for a dwelling of local and occasional (weekend) residents. It reports on data that was summoned through quantitative field research conducted from April to June 2017, on a sample of 122 locals and 185 occasional residents. The objective of this paper was to get insight into which determinants and in which intensity effect on the feeling of place attachment among local and occasional residents. The main independent variables that were studied within this concept were (1) local social relations and participation in local organized actions in last year, (2) socio-demographic characteristics, and (3) subjective feeling of attachment to Aljmaš. Multiple regression analysis showed that the variables concerning local social relations and local participation in actions within both occasional residents and locals explained 30 % of variations in place attachment dimensions. Furthermore, socio-demographic variables explained approximately around 20% of the total variation in both groups. This variable among locals was significant only in the dimension of connection and identification with the place while in the other two dimensions this variable was not significant. Concerning subjective feeling of attachment to Aljmaš, that variable explained also a similar percent of the variance in both groups but with some differences in its distribution. As the results show, all observed variables seem to be equally important between locals and occasional residents in the place attachment concept but some variations in its distribution were detected.

Keywords: Place attachment; locals; occasional residents; rural place