

**Abstract:**

The aim of the work was to introduce Stephen Lyng's concept of voluntary risk-taking called edgework, and to find a different answer to the question, why in postmodern society individuals need to excite emotions elicited by edgework activities such as recreational drug use. Thesis thus explains what is the cause of the need to excite such edgework elicited emotions. Stephen Lyng based his concept on the synthesis of Marx and Mead, the so-called macro and micro levels of social structures, in which individuals are frustrated by work and seek their own self through extreme leisure activities. From the viewpoint of Gilles Lipovetsky, these activities can be perceived as part of individualistic hedonism. Individuals lose their own identity in a consumer society and try to find their own self through the need of satisfaction of their ego, the sense of pleasure and affluence. It is the edgework activity of recreational drug use, which helps individuals to satisfy all of these needs. Upon this very activity we can demonstrate the consequences of the consumer society. From the point of view of Gilles Lipovetsky, the voluntary risk taking then may not be a question of choice but the necessity.