Book of Abstracts

Keynote 1

Historical landscapes of tourism in Wakayama
（和歌山の観光の歴史的風景）

Image: Yoshida Hatsuzaburo, "Wakaura Meisho" (Famous tourism destination in Wakaura), 1925.
Used with permission from the Kishu Institute of Economic History and Cultural History, Wakayama University

Part 1 – Prof. Etsuko Higashi
The birth of destination image via Hatsusaburo Yoshida's birds-eye view

In 2020, the world was struck by an unexpected pandemic. Daily life was restricted and the movement of people through tourism was interrupted. Even under such circumstances, new forms of tourism such as online VR tourism and micro-tourism have emerged and are maintaining the desire for travel. Indeed, nowadays travellers have a wide range of platforms from which to gather destination information from, including travel guide books and brochures, to smart phones and a wide variety of travel apps. Looking back nostalgically, there was a tourism boom during the 1920-30's in Japan. What motivated people to travel in those days? How did travellers gather information on destinations they were visiting? Pictorial maps, pamphlets and picture postcards were the primary means of providing information about destinations.

Hatsusaburo Yoshida（1884-1955）was an artist who travelled around Japan and abroad incorporating a 'bird's-eye view' into his travel pamphlets. He created panoramic 'Hatsusaburo-style bird's-eye views' of cities, transportation networks and tourist attractions in beautiful colors. Using the 'Hatsusaburo-style bird's-eye view', the first part of this keynote will focus on the representation of Wakayama Prefecture as seen in the pre-war era of the 1930s. These aerial perspectives were remarkable in their ability to see places, as if floating above it. The historical landscapes of Wakayama Prefecture are breathtakingly and majestically represented in the unique 'Hatsusaburo-style'. While travellers these days use smart phone apps and GPS devices to find their way around touristic places, the maps that Hatsusaburo created gave good insight into the landscapes and sites of interest for travelers.

Part 2 - Ms. Noriko Matsuyama
Trip to Koyasan 2022

In the second part of this keynote, Ms. Noriko Matsuyama, a longtime guide at famed World Heritage Site, Koyasan, one of Japan's venerated holy mountains, will showcase sacred sites and pilgrimage routes in the Kii Mountain Range. In introducing the historical landscape of the Kii Mountain Range with photographs and illustrations, we take participants on a journey one of the most beloved tourist destinations in Japan.

Prof. Etsuko Higashi (Depty-Director, Center for Tourism Research / Professor, Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University, Japan)
Etsuko Higashi is a Professor at the Faculty of Tourism and Deputy Director of Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University. Her research interests include historical studies of immigrants from Wakayama prefecture, elementary school English education and cross-cultural communication. Prof. Higashi's major books and articles include: "*Wakayama wo Manabu－Kishu Chiikigaku Shoho no Shoho*" [Kishu Regional Studies to study Wakayama: The First Step](2017), co-edited, Seibundō; "*Brasil Ijyusha no Tokomae Jyunbi―'Brazil Toko no Shiori (一)' wo Chushinni*" [Pre-Departure Preparations of Japanese Migrants: Focusing on the 'Booklet for Traveling to Brazil(1)'] (2014), Bulletin of the Kishu Institute of Economic History and Cultural History, Wakayama University 35, pp.1-14, etc.

Mrs. Noriko Matsuyama (The Koyasan Cross-cultural Communication Network, Japan)
Noriko Matsuyama is the representative of the Non-profit Organization "Koyasan Cross-cultural Communication Network". In 2008 she set up the Visitor Information Center (VIC) in Koyasan to provide accurate and useful information for all visitors wanting to learn more about Koyasan. She's the National Guide and guiding Koyasan in English for 30 years.

Keynote 2

The "Golden Age" of Contents Tourism: Already Over or Still to Come?

（コンテンツツーリズムの黄金期－もう終わったのか、まだこれからなのか）

Contents tourism is travel behaviour induced by works of popular culture such as manga, anime, dramas, films, and computer games. It has gained considerable attention (along with its siblings film-induced tourism, media tourism etc.) both at the levels of scholarly research and tourism policy particularly since around 2005. However, the increasing awareness among policymakers and contents producers regarding the potential of entertainment works to induce tourism causes a conundrum. Is it possible to generate genuine fandoms around works of popular culture if they smell of tourism PR, and do fans enjoy visiting sites that smell of contents tourism commercialism? In this sense, the explosion in contents tourism promotion and research might have precipitated the demise of the very phenomenon it promotes/researches. In other words, the golden age of contents tourism - in a purist sense as travel by fans wanting to connect more with the works they love - could be over as contents tourism gets increasingly planned and commercialized from the contents production stage. But, in the past two years the Covid-19 pandemic and deepening climate crisis have reset our thinking on travel. With people likely to be more restricted in their geographical mobility from now on, does contents tourism have a bright new future as a means of us enjoying more our immediate localities by connecting with local stories and local places? In this sense, is contents tourism on the cusp of a new golden age as a way of enhancing our enjoyment of socially-distanced and carbon-light travel to nearby destinations in the coming years?

Prof. Philip Seaton (Professor, Vice-Dean, Institute of Japan Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies)

Philip Seaton is a professor in the Institute of Japan Studies, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. He researches war memories in Japan and contents tourism with a particular focus on historical dramas and film. His books on the topic of tourism include Contents Tourism in Japan (Cambria Press, 2017, co-authored with Takayoshi Yamamura, Akiko Sugawa-Shimada and Kyungjae Jang), Contents Tourism and Pop Culture Fandom (Channel View Publications, co-edited with Takayoshi Yamamura), and War as Entertainment and Contents Tourism in Japan (forthcoming, co-edited with Takayoshi Yamamura). He has also guest edited special editions of Japan Forum (2015, 27.1) and Journal of War & Culture Studies (2019, 12.1). His website is www.philipseaton.net

Keynote 3

# Deconstructing the Rural-Urban Divide in Post-growth Japan: Emerging Paradigm Shifts

（ポスト成長期の日本における地方と都市の格差の解体-パラダイムシフトの発生）

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has enforced widespread changes that were already in the making well before 2019. Novel lifestyles and modes of working have been on the increase and rural areas that were previously seen as stagnant backwaters have been perceived as sites of experimentation. Hence, more young individuals have recently been interested in rural moves, and the line between short-term visit, tourism and lifestyle migration is more and more blurred. Hopes for a better work-life-balance coexist with self-exploitation, degrowth and competition all feature in rural communities. I will explore new forms of locality, tourism and entrepreneurship presented in my recent book *Urban Migrants in Rural Japan: Between Agency and Anomie in a post-growth Society* (SUNY Press 2020) and rethink conventional paradigms with regard to mobility, work and leisure in late-capitalist neoliberal regimes. What future awaits rural areas and its communities?

Associate Professor Dr. Susanne Klien (Associate Professor, Modern Japanese Studies Program, Hokkaido University)

Susanne Klien is Associate Professor at the Modern Japanese Studies Program, Hokkaido University. Her main research interests include demographic change and alternative forms of living and working in post-growth Japan, changing local traditions and rituals and transnational mobility. Her recent book Urban Migrants in Rural Japan: Between Agency and Anomie in a Post-growth Society (SUNY Press 2020) was awarded the 2020 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title.
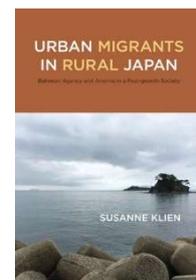
Keynote 4

Island tourism in Japan: can the diversity of islands create diversity in tourism? （日本のアイランドツーリズム：島の多様性は刊行の多様性を生む出せるのか？）

Islands offer some of the most attractive destinations in worldwide tourism through their unique combination of natural and cultural factors. This holds especially true for "Southern" islands with their lure of eternal summer. In Japan, Okinawan islands certainly fall into this category. On the other hand, the countless other islands surrounding the "mainland" (=Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku, Okinawa main island) from North to South play a less prominent role on the tourism map. Research on islands in Japan traditionally focuses on two aspects: the uniqueness of each island and the challenges they face as less-favoured areas. This mirrors national policies supporting remote islands because they lose population and are considered disadvantaged.

However, recent years have witnessed the emergence of specialized forms of tourism like art tourism, cycling tourism, ecotourism, farm tourism and others, each restricted to individual islands or island groups. Among the success stories told, the involvement of actors from outside the islands appears as a decisive factor, but a closer look reveals dense and multifaceted networks between different actors on and off the islands. The pandemic posed a special threat to these new developments because islands with their aging populations and limited medical facilities are especially vulnerable to the risks of COVID 19. On the other hand, they offer outdoor leisure and less congested spaces combined with a feeling of distance from daily life, although many are situated conveniently close to urban centers, making them ideal destinations of microtourism. Can the uniqueness and diversity of islands in Japan become a model for diverse and possibly sustainable island tourism after the pandemic?

Prof. Carolin Funck (Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University)
Professor Carolin Funck is a professor for human geography at Hiroshima University, Japan. One of the first international scholars to research on tourism in Japan from a geographical viewpoint. Research themes include the development of tourism in Japan, sustainable island tourism and the contribution of tourism to rural development, with a regional focus on the Seto Inland Sea region. Recent research topics are cruise tourism in Japan and Germany, and resilience in island tourism. Her research has been conducted in close cooperation with local and regional authorities in Japan and she has worked in an advisory function on many committees connected to tourism development and regional planning.

Temple stays during COVID: A study during 2020-2021

Ricardo Nicolas Progano (Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University)

Abstract

The COVID pandemic had a deep impact on religious tourism, affecting not only visitors but the local communities as well, including the general population and tourism stakeholders (Olsen & Timothy, 2020). However, the impact on religious stakeholders is comparatively an understudied topic. In order to address this research gap, this presentation examines the findings from fieldwork done at the Buddhist temple complex of Kōyasan, Wakayama prefecture (Japan), through the tourism disaster management framework created by Faulkner (2001). Fieldwork was carried out during July-October, 2020 (Progano, 2021) and August-October, 2021, and consisted of semi-structured interviews with Koyasan's key tourism organizations, Kongōbu-ji (the head temple of Kōyasan) and seven temples that provide accommodation services. Findings show that, due to the absence of inbound visitors, visitation numbers and travel patterns were greatly affected. Although different health measures were carried out under the guidance of the local government, anxieties related to the pandemic affected both visitors and temples. Still, the utilization of virtual alternatives was only partially observed, but the stakeholders reported new approaches to funding, teleworking and wellness activities. Next, the importance of cooperative networks was regarded by the interviewees as a key factor when applying public health measures and tourism initiatives. Also, the presence of non-mandatory health certification schemes was noted during 2021. Finally, utilizing Faulkner (2001)'s framework, it was noticed that the pandemic was a non-linear event that prevented the stakeholders from undertaking a clear path towards tourism revitalization at the time of the fieldwork.

Keywords

Gender-based violence in tourism field research:
An immediate action plan

Heike Schänzel (School of Hospitality & Tourism, Auckland University of Technology)

Abstract

Despite the realities of sexual harassment, racism, and gendered violence in the domain of research fieldwork being well documented, little has been done to mitigate these encounters or provide institutional support for researchers. Although great strides have been made against on-campus sexual harassment and assault, universities often take the stance that since fieldwork exists in real world settings, students' experiences are beyond their purview. Thus, despite research fieldwork forming an integral component of various degrees, issues of trauma and gendered violence fall under the category of a researcher's own personal problems meant to be handled privately (Kloß, 2017). While this has been acknowledged and debated in other subjects, little attention has been given to gender-based violence (GBV) of women in tourism field research. Instead, GBV in tourism field research is considered an uncomfortable and under-discussed phenomenon. There is a pressing need to break wide open the discussion on occurrences of gender-associated risks in fieldwork and report on the unexpected GBV for the inexperienced fieldworker. For many tourism researchers, fieldwork involves immersing oneself in an unfamiliar social, cultural, and political environment. Fieldwork, 'involves entering into a new gender and sexual economy in which different understandings of reciprocity and exchange may be at play' (Clark & Grant, 2015, p.1). As a result of these nuanced exchanges, the broader socio-political aspects of fieldwork include sexual politics, highlighting fieldwork as a gendered experience in tourism (Porter & Schänzel, 2018; Porter, Schänzel & Cheer, 2021). The aim of this presentation is to feature GBV experienced by women when conducting tourism research and propose an immediate plan for action to transform research practices. Insights gained, as reported here, are based on an exploratory study of 13 female tourism researchers from around the world.

A case study of empowering women entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan

Nozomi Saito (Department of International Tourism, Toyama College of Welfare Science)
Kaede Sano (Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University)

Abstract

The tourism industry has become one of the fastest-growing economic spheres in Uzbekistan. Since December 2016, the tourism sector has launched innovative reforms and the government has strongly encouraged the development of tourism related business (Miyazaki & Elmurodov, 2019). This provides various opportunities for women in this developing country to empower themselves through self-employment. In the context of women's empowerment, most previous studies focus on the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa according to research conducted by De Vita et al. (2014). Within the cross section of countries identified, Uzbekistan does not feature explicitly. Against this background, the current study selected Uzbekistan as the research target, and aims to investigate what the constraints are that prevent women entrepreneurs' empowerment in the tourism industry. Based on the theoretical framework established by Panda (2018), the constraints examined in this study include both microscopic and macroscopic ones. To identify the key constraints, this study employs both semi-structured, in-depth interviews and group discussion because those qualitative methods provide comprehensive information for researchers (Dong & Sin, 2013). This case study contributes to the enhancement of women's empowerment pertaining to the success of women entrepreneur's businesses and provides a path to policy makers in creating a conducive environment for the success of women entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan.

Keywords

women entrepreneurs; women empowerment; constraints; tourism industry; Uzbekistan

Affective and coping responses to quarantine hotel stays

Stephen Pratt (School of Business & Management, University of the South Pacific)
Denis Tolkach (Tourism and Hospitality Management, James Cook University)

Abstract

During the outbreak of COVID‐19, many travellers had to quarantine upon arrival to their destination, often at designated hotels and usually for two weeks. Quarantine, as any type of isolation, is often emotionally challenging. This study applies the transactional theory of stress to explore guests' experiences during the hotel quarantine, the cognitive appraisals of their experiences and affective responses, and the coping strategies they deploy to address adverse mental effects of the quarantine. Data from in‐depth interviews with quarantine hotel guests demonstrates that guests experience a rollercoaster of moods and emotions during their stay, moving from uncertainty and anxiety to isolation and boredom to despair and depression, and finally to relief and optimism. These hotel guests used a range of coping styles to alter the perceived space and time in quarantine, address social isolation as well as negative emotions and moods. These findings have important implications for tourism, hospitality, and health professionals in managing travel, accommodation, and quarantine arrangements during a crisis.

Keywords

coping; COVID-19; emotions; hotel experience; mental health; quarantine

Capacity development is an essential deliverable of regenerative tourism approaches

Loretta Bellato (Swinburne University of Technology)

Abstract

Dominant approaches to sustainability often exclude vital tourism stakeholder groups from tourism development (Sharpley, 2009). As a result, the most marginalised people in host communities are usually denied accrued benefits from tourism development and, in many cases, are prevented from leveraging tourism for improved outcomes (Cheer, 2018). The novel concept of regenerative tourism claims that the inclusion and building of the capacity of all stakeholders will lead to the improvement of places and communities where tourism occurs. However, there is limited scientific understanding regarding how this could be achieved. This paper examines the extent to which stakeholders who have been marginalised within an urban tourism system might use their existing capacities towards improving social-ecological systems through more meaningful participation. A mixed qualitative methods approach was used to undertake in-depth interviews, focus groups and observational research. The case study analysis was undertaken using the inclusive tourism development framework conceptualised by Scheyvens and Biddulph (2017). The findings demonstrate that people who are marginalised hold valuable tacit knowledge and unique skills that can complement expert tourism knowledge and contribute to the development of more sustainable places and inclusive communities. A proposed conceptual model of regenerative tourism capacity development considers how all stakeholders can benefit from the inclusion of people who are marginalised and provides guidance regarding how to effectively design for developing capable stakeholders who contribute to creating healthy places and communities. This study contributes to the burgeoning discourse regarding stakeholder capacity development as a core tourism development process, stakeholder inclusion, and emerging regenerative tourism approaches.

Keywords

capacity development; inclusive tourism development; regenerative tourism

Rethinking animal tourism: A multispecies research approach

Émilie Crossley

（Graduate School of International Media, Communication, and Tourism Studies, Hokkaido University）

Abstract

Tourism research is increasingly recognising the value of posthuman and multispecies approaches, which bring new conceptual and methodological lenses to the study of non-human others in tourism. These non-anthropocentric perspectives seek new ways of articulating worldmaking entanglements between humans and other lifeforms. Some proponents also suggest that it may be possible to understand and convey non-human experience through multispecies research, opening up new avenues for giving a 'voice' to animals. In tourism, animals feature in a diverse range of contexts, forming the focus of attractions, performing work, and even being served as food. In captive settings in particular, concerns have been raised regarding exploitative practices that fall well below accepted welfare standards, thus highlighting the need to better understand animals' experiences and advocate for their needs. This paper therefore suggests possibilities for rethinking animal tourism through a multispecies research approach. Drawing on illustrations from an ongoing multi-sited, multispecies ethnography of Ezo red foxes involved in Japanese wildlife tourism, I explore how an expanded notion of 'the social' invites us to reconsider the remit of the social sciences beyond the human. I argue that foregrounding animal voices in tourism can help scholars to imagine more ethical multispecies relations in the industry rebuild that lies ahead.

Keywords

animals; wildlife; welfare; posthumanism; multispecies ethnography; Japan

Events: Mirror to the past self and beacon for the future self?

Faith Ong (UQ Business School, The University of Queensland)

Abstract

Planned events are generally designed to achieve objectives and considered reflective of changes in societal tastes and popular culture. The study of event attendance has often been positioned in terms of decision-making, with relevant theories such as the theory of planned behaviour being central in the exploration of what drives attendees to events, with outcomes relating to enhancing attendee experiences and increasing revisit intentions or visitor numbers for the future. Adapting Foucault's politics of the self to the individual, attending events can be further explored as part of the archaeology of the self as well as the cultivation of the self as a subject (Hanna, 2015). In exploring the historical self as a determinant of event attendance, there are multiple facets of the self that can be explored in silo and in combination to understand their influences on event attendance. These can include perceptions, ideas and attitudes toward myriad matters, such as social issues, environmental protection and political inclinations. The exploration of events in the life of individuals must also consider the objectives and outcomes that individuals hope to achieve through attending these events. Research questions are proposed in this direction, utilising the historical self as impetus influencing decisions to attend events, while imbuing agency into the forward-looking perspective of attending events as an expression of the self.

Keywords

events; politics of self; functions; decision-making; attendance

Tourism and change in a World Heritage Landscape:
Case study of Shirakawa-go in Japan

Abhik Chakraborty (Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University)

Abstract

This presentation provides an analysis of landscape level change and tourism in the popular World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go. Shirakawa-go was registered as a World Heritage in 1995 for its traditional Gassho-style housings, and rich local culture. However, the current location of Shirakawa-go, the Ogimachi area, is only a part of the original landscape that had changed rapidly during and after the mid 20th century. Tourism was at least a major driver of that change, and it continues to play a major role in shaping the village life today. Some typical problems are recent overtourism, lack of time spent by visitors, and a trivialization of the place. Although the ongoing COVID-19 crisis has resulted in a sharp drop of visitor numbers, tourism related change continues unabated and the destination will bold solutions to address the current challenges. This presentation analyzes stakeholder roles and perceptions, analyzes the complexity of change and ponders over the sustainability of the destination.

Keywords

Shirakawa-go; gassho housing; landscape; sustainability

Tourism, rural revitalization and young entrepreneurs

Kazue Nakamoto (Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University)
Joseph M. Cheer (Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University)

Abstract

The quest for rural revitalization in the Japanese context looms large as socioeconomic and demographic changes accelerate. In this exploratory paper, we examine the extent to which in-migrants have a role to play in addressing the myriad challenges that arise in rural contexts in Wakayama Prefecture. Our particular focus is on the links between tourism, rural revitalization and young entrepreneurs. We discovered that multiple drivers are acting to attract young in-migrants, especially young entrepreneurs to rural townships. Very often, these are related to a desire to help address the challenges apparent in rural communities, especially if it is where they grew up. Additionally, and predictably, health, well-being and lifestyle benefits are other key motivators behind the urban-rural migration. However, there are many constraints that in-migrants must overcome and these are largely related to practical, as well as government policy related shortcomings.

Keywords

rural tourism; rural revitalization; urban-rural migration; young entrepreneurs; sustainable tourism

Working holiday makers in a resort destination:
The case of Niseko, Hokkaido

Kyoko Morikoshi (The Department of English, Hokusei Gakuen University Junior College)
Hayato Nagai (Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University)

Abstract

Various studies of working holiday makers (WHMs) have been conducted in Japan and abroad. In Japan, the working holiday (WH) program started with Australia in 1980 and expanded significantly over the next 40 years. Every year, about 20,000 young Japanese participate in the WH program and travel overseas. Japanese WHMs in Australia have been investigated by several scholars (e.g., Fujioka, 2013; Kawashima, 2010; Oishi, 2020). At the same time, the number of international visitors with a WH visa for Japan has also increased. Their countries of origins have further diversified exponentially. However, international WHMs staying in Japan have not yet been adequately researched, especially in the Niseko area's international ski resorts in Hokkaido. In this area, seasonal workers including WHMs have contributed greatly to the tourism and hospitality industry, and they have become an important part of the region's tourism sector. However, the life and work experience of the international WHMs in Niseko are still understudied at an academic level. This presentation provides an overview of the past and current situation of the WH programs and illustrates a further research agenda on WHMs in the Niseko area. Research on international WHMs in Japan will be significant in preparation for the revival of the tourism and hospitality industry after the COVID-19 pandemic has dissipated.

Keywords

working holiday; Japan; Niseko; ski resort

Journey to well-being – on the role of culture and place in Japanese spiritual tourism

Januschka Schmidt (Department of Cultural Geography, University of Groningen)
Leonieke Bolderman (Department of Cultural Geography, University of Groningen)
Arie Stoffelen (Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Leuven (KU Leuven))
Peter Groote (Department of Cultural Geography, University of Groningen)

Abstract

Well-being—that is whether people perceive their live as good—has traditionally been assumed to be experienced and expressed culturally universal for tourists around the world. In past academic research, these universal experiences have predominantly been based on Western encounters of well-being. As a result, researchers have likely come to distorted conclusions about the experiences of well-being in non-Western cultures, such as Japan. To move towards a nuanced and embedded conceptualisation of tourist well-being, we propose to consider (1) local conceptualisations of well-being, (2) place-bound well-being mechanisms, and (3) collectivistic aspects of well-being.

We do so based on recent conceptual developments on well-being within the literature on tourism research as well as our own current research projects on spiritual tourism to Japanese sacred sites. We utilise our analyses of managerial well-being communications to explore the role of different local well-being discourses (shiawase, ikigai, and koufuku). In the same manner, we employ initial impressions from semi-structured interviews with domestic tourists at two sacred heritage sites in Kyoto, Japan, to illustrate the role of places in experiences of well-being for individuals and their social circle.

In summary, with this presentation we want to give prominence to what well-being means across cultural borders and wish to open a discussion of how we can gain a more nuanced understanding of touristic experiences and expressions of well-being at (spiritual) places. Additionally, we discuss the consequences of a more nuanced concept of well-being for future research. Only if we can understand what contributes to the well-being of tourists around the world, can we preserve or improve the cultural and place-specific aspects of travel experiences further.

Keywords

Showering Smartly. A behavioural change intervention to reduce water use

Pablo Pereira-Doel

(School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, University of Surrey)

Abstract

Despite existing freshwater shortages expected to become more regular and carbon emissions having failed to meet the Paris Agreement, tourism accommodations use 350 litres of water per guest/night on average while tourism accounts for 8% of the carbon emissions. The hospitality sector can take a proactive approach in relation to one of its highest water and energy consumption areas: showers. Randomised and covert field experiments in seven tourism accommodations from Denmark, Spain, the UK, and the US, using an innovative, smart shower device that informs to the user in real-time about their shower duration, substantially led to a 14% reduction in shower time. Moreover, when additional persuasive messages were present in the shower cubicle, the reduction increased up to 27%. That meant savings of up to US$80, 11.1 m3 of water, 0.42 MWh of energy, and 40 kg of CO2 per room/year in a context where guests are not financially constrained by water and energy costs. Technological advances in addition to behavioural change techniques can further advance the sustainability agenda towards the Glasgow Declaration. Since the effect of the intervention over time could not be measured, 557 devices have been installed in the University of Surrey's halls of residence to foster shorter showers among students during an academic year. In this presentation, I will introduce the experiments developed, the findings from tourism accommodations and the preliminary findings from halls of residence.

Keywords

water; field experiment; smart technology; persuasion; real-time feedback

A virtual tour for change

Meghan Muldoon (Campus Fryslân, University of Groningen)

Abstract

As we emerge into our third year of the global pandemic, as academics and researchers we continue to strive to meet the evolving needs of our students, our institutions, and our communities. As much as this has been a challenging period for all, there have been a number of responses to the 'new normal' that have been celebrated and which we may wish to see continue going forward (c.f. Ateljevic, 2020; Brodeur et al., 2020; Hoyt et al., 2021; The Economist, 2021). In the proposed research presented in the following paragraphs, I will discuss the innovative use of virtual tourism in a graduate tourism classroom that at once seeks to transgress the classroom walls, open up spaces for dynamic dialogues regarding issues such as tourism and poverty, as well as begin towards a broader objective of decolonizing western notions regarding the nature of 'knowledge' at the university. As such, the virtual tool can be understood as at once an experience of tourism, while also a tool used to interrogate tourism pedagogies as well as the broader western academic project as a whole. My intention is to present the initial findings of this study at the Research Salon and to invite other Research Fellows to discuss potential steps forward.

Keywords

virtual tourism; decolonizing education; open classroom; action research

Unseen Tours' Virtual 'Not-in-a-pub' Quizzes: Social inclusion and empowerment in times of COVID-19

Claudia Dolezal (Department of Business, IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems)
Dominic Lapointe (Department of Urban Studies and Tourism, Université du Québec à Montréal)

Abstract

The COVID pandemic has particularly affected those in marginalised positions of society, even more so when they have previously depended on tourism as their only livelihood. As a response to the crisis, Unseen Tours, a social enterprise supporting (formerly) homeless and vulnerably housed Londoners by training and employing them as tour guides, pivoted their business and created an alternative livelihood with the development of a niche tourism product during this time of crisis. Unseen Tours' virtual "not-in-a-pub-quizzes" are curated by their homeless and vulnerably housed tour guides in London to offer an alternative income through the lockdown caused by the pandemic.

This paper offers reflections on homelessness and tourism by analysing Unseen Tours as a tourism niche using a social justice lens. Drawing on participant observations during the quizzes, conversations with guides and insights from Unseen Tours' staff, it reveals that the quizzes create opportunities for an alternative income in times of crisis whilst empowering the guides to utilise their knowledge of London using the virtual as a stage. It does so by first of all offering insights into the creation process of a niche product in times of crisis and the motivations behind it; secondly, by demonstrating how niche tourism can support marginalised members of society not just with an alternative livelihood but also a sense of personal empowerment; and thirdly, by showing how virtual niche tourism can offer both tangible and intangible benefits in times of crisis, contributing to sustainable tourism through social change and a greater sense of public responsibility. It concludes by discussing this sense of shared solidarity with marginalised people that goes beyond individualistic responsibility and holds power to mobilize collective abilities for social change in the future.

Keywords

homeless tour guiding; virtual pub quizzes; COVID-19; social justice; empowerment; virtual tourism

Lessons from my grandfather: Seeing peace as process

Jack Shepherd (Mid Swede University)

Abstract

In this presentation, I will forward that in order for tourism to work for peace, we need to turn away from seeing peace as the end point of a journey and start seeing peace as a process, one that requires constant renewal. Such a shift, already called for within peace studies, will help us better evaluate tourism's ability to work towards peace. This is an understanding that my grandfather shared. In the shadows of the Second World War, he understood that the newfound 'peace' on the continent would not translate automatically to peace in the hearts and minds of Europeans. Accordingly, he ran a series of tours taking Brits to Germany in order to rebuild ties; tours that recognised the need for peace to become everyday labour between ordinary people. My grandfather was a pacifist but several of his – and thereby my - relatives lie buried in Flanders' fields. Usually a hub of 'war tourism', these flat landscapes of Belgium and France are now hosting a new tourism initiative that, I argue, operationalises the ideas of peace as process. Known as the Western Front Way, it is a 1000km hiking route that follows the trench lines left by the First World War. The project was begun after discovering a 1915 letter from a British soldier, which hoped for the creation of a long path through no-man's land that might spur future generations to reflect on war and peace. Inspired by this soldier's call, the path has been developing quickly and can now be walked or cycled in its entirety.

In this presentation, I will explore how the trail materialises the vision of peace as process, and reminds us that even in the quiet of Belgium and France, peace requires our constant attention.

Keywords

peace; tourism; World War One; war

An ethical dilemma of charging air passengers for their weight

Denis Tolkach (Tourism and Hospitality Management, James Cook University)
Stephen Pratt (School of Business & Management, University of the South Pacific)

Abstract

Sustainability is a major topic within tourism research. Although, sustainable tourism has ethical connotations as it aims to benefit (or at least reduce harm to) people and planet, explicit engagement of tourism research is seldom. Arguably, reshaping and rethinking tourism to ensure it contributes to sustainability requires much more engagement with research on ethics. Ethical dilemmas are very complex, as they are context- and culture-specific. At times what is considered sustainable may differ from what is ethical. One such case is air passenger and baggage weight policies. Aviation is a large emitter of greenhouse gases. Knowing precise weight of the payload can help use the fuel more efficiently. Moreover, incentivising passengers to travel lighter and take care of their weight has benefits for themselves, fellow passengers and wider society. However, are air fares based on passenger and baggage weight ethical? This study examines this question via a survey of 1,012 US air passengers. Respondents were asked of their perceptions of three baggage policies: Standard policy, i.e. passengers paying a standard price, irrespective of their weight, including fifty pounds of check-in baggage; Threshold policy, i.e. passengers pay a penalty if their body weight exceeds 160 pounds; and Unit of Body Weight policy, i.e. passengers pay a personalised price based on their own body weight per each pound of weight. Relationship between various demographic characteristics, flying patterns, environmental attitudes and the acceptance of different baggage policies were explored. The Standard policy was the most acceptable, followed by Unit of Body Weight and Threshold policies. Respondents were mostly driven by their self-interest in their responses. Respondents that were more environmentally conscious found the alternative policies more acceptable. However, they were also slimmer and younger. Further research is required to explore whether these groups are driven by egoism, broader utilitarianism, justice or deontology.

Keywords

Sport tourism development: The case of sister trails project

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Yuji Yashima (Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University)

Abstract

Many sports tourism studies have been discussed based on the sport tourism concept for its development process, challenges, and sustainable development issues. Also, some studies focus on the effect of the relationship between tourism and the sister city concept, which is a long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. Nevertheless, there have been limited studies on interactions between sports tourism development and sister cities in tourism research. The aim of this study is to explore the role of sport tourism development in enhancing sister city relations. We focus on Olle's trekking course project for the study, which was initially developed on Jeju Island in Korea. Jeju Olle was developed in 2007, and the first Olle outside Korea was developed in Kyushu Island in Japan in 2012. The Kyushu Olle currently offers 21 trekking courses throughout the island. These two Olle are collaborating for their tourism development under the sister trails projects, and which are supported by formal friendship agreements between municipalities in Korea and Japan. Through an analysis of the sister trails project, this study first provides an overview of the project and how this bilateral project was developed. Then, the study discusses the role of sports tourism development in enhancing sister city relationships using the aforementioned example.

Keywords

sport tourism; sister city; olle

Developing resilience in disaster management: Comparison between Yogyakarta and Bali

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Agustan (National Agency for Research and Innovation)

Abstract

Located at the junction of tectonic plates, circum-mediterranean and circumpacific seismic zone, Indonesia is a tropical tourists' destination that is prone to natural disaster. This study has the objectives of assessing tourism disaster management measures in two provinces in Indonesia, Yogyakarta and Bali, both are primary tourists' destinations; explore the relationships between public and private sectors in tourism disaster management, and; compare different priorities defined by stakeholders' towards realizing collaboration between public and private sector. The study employed questionnaire survey to the communities, focus group discussions with representatives of relevant government agencies and tourism industry associations and an analytical hierarchy process (AHP) survey. Findings showed that most respondents in both Yogyakarta and Bali have not participated in disaster risk communication or drills. Although the surveys were conducted in five regencies in Yogyakarta and Bali where tourism is a major activity in the economy, disaster risk communication and drills have yet to be a common activity. The study also identifies six possible criteria for public private collaborations in tourism disaster management, namely the formation of special organization for crisis management, certification for disaster preparedness, the availability of guidelines for disaster management, regulation for critical facilities in disaster management, tourism planning which considers disaster risk awareness, and tourism industry associations' enhanced role in improving disaster risk awareness. Through AHP surveys involving experts, it was found that experts in the two provinces place different priorities in the six criteria. The study will proceed to investigating what factors caused these differences.

Keywords

tourism; disaster management; public and private collaboration; resilience

Transforming hospitality work for female migrant workers

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Abstract

The hospitality sector globally is characterised by a low-paid, low skilled, and casualised workforce that relies heavily on marginalised workers within international labour markets. The low barriers to entry to hospitality jobs provide refuge employment for female migrants who are double-marginalised within the labour market. However, migrant female hospitality workers are more likely to be employed in precarious and for some, exploitative, conditions such as informal employment or being paid below the minimum wage, and they are exposed to significant health and safety risks, including sexual harassment, which is pervasive across the sector. Recent research has further revealed the elevated risk of exploitation, racial discrimination, and workplace health and safety among migrant women working in the hospitality sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. This presentation aims to initiate discussion around the work conditions of female migrant hospitality workers, propose a research agenda, and call for potential collaboration. Using Australia as a case study, the presentation will present findings from a preliminary analysis of literature and news reporting of migrant women in hospitality in Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the gaps and issues identified, recommendations for future research will be provided to generate robust empirical evidence about the female migrant hospitality workforce and to inform policy and industry practice to support sustainable post-pandemic growth and transform hospitality workplaces for better.

Keywords

hospitality; migrant worker; female worker; gender; employment; COVID-19

Cultural tourism in extraordinary times: Hobart's 2021 Dark Mofo festival, COVID-19 and Australia's state human bio-security regimes

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a marked impact on cultural festivals that employ international artists to perform at events catering for domestic and international visitors. Air transit routes have been severely disrupted across the globe and border security measures have severely restricted international arrivals. In nations such as Australia, where there have been further sets of (often suddenly modified) restrictions on movements between states, the logistics of running major arts events have been highly onerous. This short case study profiles a range of logistical issues faced by the organisers of the annual Dark MoFo festival, held in Hobart, Tasmania. These issues were particularly significant since the festival plays a key role in the winter economy of the island and threats to its operation have had multiple ramifications for a range of related tourism activities. The presentation will highlight the precarity of reliances on major 'big ticket' events in locations that have developed tourism as a key sector. It will also examine how adept organisational responses to such challenges have benefitted performers whose livelihoods have also been severely impacted by the retraction of key employers. The discussion thereby illustrates the international networking of key regional events and of global chains of consequence between them.

Keywords

cultural tourism; arts festivals; Tasmania

The 'atmospheric gaze' as a guiding principle in destination development

Michael Volgger

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Abstract

It is well-known that tourists are not primarily attracted by products or services, but they choose and recall destinations based on experiences. A critical though neglected aspect of tourist experiences are atmospheres, which can be conceived as diffuse entities that consist of a combination of spaces and feelings. Spaces are never empty but always filled with an ubiquitous and characteristic mood. These affective connotations are the results of the interplay between spaces and people, and ultimately turn spaces into unique places. Based on an interdisciplinary investigation of traditions of atmospheric theorising, this presentation aims to delineate and motivate an 'atmospheric gaze' as a guiding principle in destination development. With its inherent recognition of genius loci, that is the quasi-objective spirit of a place, the atmospheric gaze is sensitive to the affective characteristics of places and conceives them as unique assets in tourism development. It also treasures atmospheres as barriers to a shallow touristification as meanings are negotiated at the interface of spaces, local residents and tourists. The focus on emotional, symbolic, and interactive aspects of places which is inherent to the atmospheric gaze is an effective and practical starting point to achieve more long-term orientated and balanced tourism development.

Keywords

tourism development; destination development; regional development; atmosphere; genius loci

Socially engaged art tourism, in-migrants micro-entrepreneurship, and peripheral island revitalization

Meng Qu (Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University)

Abstract

In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the connections among art, tourism, rural place-making, and community revitalization for contemporary art's socially engaged transformation. This interdisciplinary nexus includes art place-making and creative tourism, urban to rural in-migrants micro-entrepreneurship, and partnership networks, in the broader context of peripheral community revitalization agendas. In revitalization-engaged art tourism, artists, residents, and tourists co-create a destination nad its Creative Rurality – 'Art Islandness'. Art is not limited by its aesthetic value but serves as an art island that creatively integrates with the local community and shares a heterogeneous culture. Different art tourism revitalization outcomes also lead to different types of community consequences spanning from actual revitalization to co-creation between art, tourism, and community, to mere art tourism development with weak community linkages - art themepark-ification of rurality. The experimentation and social practice aspects of art, the impact of tourism on disadvantaged communities, as well as the diversified community attributes create various uncertain variables for revitalization and a more complex social interpretation system for researchers. Besides adapting neo-endogenous ways (mixed co-development reconciles the endogenous and the exogenous dynamics) of thinking to evaluate both art, tourism, and community, the spatial vision of social interaction and geographical perspectives are also needed. By increasing disciplinary integration among Creative (Art) Geography, Relational Geography, Tourism Geography, Creative Tourism, Relational Art, as well as both rural and island studies, socially engaged art tourism provides an opportunity to re-evaluate the concept of 'Rural Creative Tourism Geographies' (RCTG) in a systematic way. Rural societies provide key stages for contemporary art to be more engaged in social issues. The combination of art and tourism geographies offers a complex creative solution for bringing about rural structural changes, especially those driven by newcomers.

Keywords

Tourism documentary: How we can understand the space

Tsuyoshi Kigawa (Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University)

Abstract

From 2018, I have been involved in the production of a documentary film, "Yokosuka 1953." It all started when I received a Facebook message from the U.S. The daughter of Barbara, sent me the message asking me "do you know NOBUKO KIGAWA?" Barbara was born in 1947 in Yokosuka Japan, between a foreign father and Japanese mother. By circumstance of the day, discrimination towards mix-raced children, Barbara was adopted and been to U.S. in 1953. The reason why Barbara's daughter sent me the message was that Barbara's Japanese name was Yoko Kigawa, and it is the same family name of the author. I searched for the biological mother of Yoko. I found Yoko Kigawa's hometown and listened to various stories about her mother there. In reality, her mother had passed away, but the people who knew her were still alive. I invited Yoko to Japan with a crowdfund and asked her about her mother's footsteps. She also visited her mother's grave. This was Yoko's first trip to Japan after 66 years. And I made a documentary film about it. And now, I think. This is also a documentary about the city of Yokosuka. Such a deep understanding of the region would expand the field of tourism. I would discuss about such a "tourism documentary" in this presentation.

Keywords

tourism documentary; Yokosuka; mix-raced children; adoption

Articulating 'accessibility' for people with eating disorders in tourism research

Uditha Ramanayake

(Hainan University - Arizona State University Joint International Tourism College)

Yana Wengel

(Hainan University – Arizona State University Joint International Tourism College)

Abstract

The subject of 'Eating Disorders', as determined by other disciplines, it is somewhat surprising that eating disorders have remained relatively underexplored within tourism scholarship, given that medical, nursing and health disciplines have researched eating disorders as one of the key influences that shape priorities who suffered with it. This study offers a theoretical perspective and some practical implications on how accessibility is experienced during travel, focusing on people with eating disorders. What accessibility means for a person with an eating disorder can be completely different from other disabilities. For instance, accessibility for a person with an eating disorder could be ordering baby food without thinking what others may think. To this end, we aim to draw the attention of tourism researchers to this important but neglected area of research by ascertaining how accessibility is experienced by people with an eating disorder such as Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder during travel. Recognising the broader nature of eating disorders and the number of people struggling with eating disorders, there is a need for new conceptualisations and models for tourism research, as traditional tourism models may ineffectively capture the needs of people with eating disorders. Phenomenological interviews with a visual research method called the MeBox method were used to generate rich, detailed descriptions of the phenomenon. This study is one of the first to investigate the lived experiences of accessibility during travel for people with an eating disorder. The findings recognise the importance of the broader societal awareness that shapes the experience and perceptions of people with eating disorders. The findings explain the dynamic nature of this conceptualisation of accessibility during travel for people with eating disorders and identify a future research agenda.

Keywords

eating disorders; accessibility; travel; ARFID; MeBox; awareness

Rabbits as host? Adopting a multi-species perspective into the "host-guest" paradigm

Rie Usui (Hijiyama University)

Thomas E. Jones (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University)

Abstract

A multi-species perspective or "more-than-human" thinking has increasingly been adopted to tourism research in recent years. Yet much remains to be explored in understanding the space between tourist-animal encounters. This study aims to conceptualize tourist-animal interactions in the context of animal viewing (as opposed to consuming) by drawing on Ōkunoshima Island in Japan as a case. With an area of 0.7km2 located in the Seto Inland Sea, so-called 'Rabbit island' has no permanent human residents, but is home to several hundred free-ranging feral rabbits that are tame. Tourists visiting the island typically hand feed the rabbits food that they bring from outside the island. The previous study by Usui (2021) described the island as a "natural petting zoo," where tourists seek entertainment rather than the aesthetic nature of rabbits. However, the study focused solely on tourists' aspects using TripAdvisor reviews and did not consider what role rabbits play in such encounters. Rather than analyzing Ōkunoshima Island's tourist-rabbit interaction from the conventional anthropocentric perspective, we examine it using the "host-guest" paradigm, a framework that is frequently applied to examine human interactions in tourism landscapes. The questions we addressed include "How was tourism space on the island created through the host-guest interactions?" and "How was the host-guest power at work, if any?" Findings indicate that whilst an unequal power relationship between rabbit hosts and human guests exists, rabbits also actively engage (or not engage) in the making of the space. We further found that there were "hidden hosts" who contributed to producing the space.

Keywords

more-than-human; multi-species perspective; hosts and guests; rabbits; Ōkunoshima Island

In Conversation - Field research during a pandemic: Confronting colonial spectres and decolonial futures

Stroma Cole (Architecture and Cities, University of Westminster)

Nitasha Sharma (Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen)

Abstract

Remote research implies complete reliance on local partners and researchers at the study site. When these study sites happen to be in the Global South, it raises several paradoxical issues that either reinforce pre-existing colonial practices or lead to decoloniality by disrupting traditional research and development practices. In terms of sustainability and amidst growing concerns for decolonizing the Anthropocene, the question is to identify whether the 'old-normal was the problem' or the 'new-normal offers a bigger challenge'. Against this background, the 30-minute conversation session will aim at addressing questions such as:

(a) How do unequal power relations manifest in remote research/fieldwork? Whose interests are represented?

(b) Do researchers question power, positionality, the purpose of aids/grants and education, and their complicity in perpetuating coloniality?

(c) Does the COVID-19 pandemic offer ways and to decolonize fieldwork in the Anthropocene? What would it mean to decolonise research partnerships?

(d) Is remote research a way to decolonize research or merely a reinforcer of colonial spectres through outsourcing in turbulent times? Is it sustainable in the longer term, with respect to building relationships and envisaging a decolonial future?

(e) How can more collaborative and decolonial forms of academic knowledge co-production and data collection be developed?

In this interactive session, we intend to draw from our research experiences in Indonesia and India during the pandemic, share the views of co-researchers and field teams and reflect on the challenges, benefits and lessons learned from their experiences. In doing so, the broader goal is to deconstruct and explore the overall theme of decolonising fieldwork and collectively discuss its relevance in the context of global discourses of sustainability and climate change. We encourage participation from the audience and would like to hear diverse voices that can shape the process of rethinking the issues outlined above.

Keywords

Enhancing virtual museum experience and visiting intention amid COVID-19 pandemic: The role of ambient sounds

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Husna Zainal-Abidin (Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University)
Zhenni Wu (School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, University of Surrey)
Jason Chen (School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, University of Surrey)

Abstract

Due to COVID-19, physically visiting museums becomes impossible during the lockdown period. Thus, virtual museum tours are on the rise. By recognising this trend, it is essential and valuable to explore how to enhance visitors' virtual museum experience. This research investigates how and why the ambient sounds of social space induced in the virtual tour could influence people's experience of the virtual tour and their intention to physically visit a museum when possible. Different from previous studies on ambient sounds in the context of museums which interpreted ambient sounds negatively as a type of unwanted but ubiquitous noise, this study identifies non-negative outcomes of ambient sounds on individuals' psychological responses and behaviours in museum settings. Based on experimental design, this research demonstrates that a museum tour with (vs. without) ambient sounds benefits people's engagement and behavioural intentions of the virtual museum experience. Moreover, the findings show that the impact of ambient sounds on virtual museum experience is mediated by perceived social presence. The results further suggest that individuals living alone have stronger behavioural intention with the presence of ambient sounds compared to people living with others. This study is the first to examine the effect of ambient sounds on virtual museum experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords

museum experience; ambient sounds; virtual engagement; social presence; COVID-19

Rightsizing World Heritage tourism: Planning for conservation in uncertain times

Bailey Ashton Adie (Independent Scholar)

Abstract

While the COVID19 pandemic has thrown much of the travel industry into disarray, World Heritage sites often have specific conservation requirements which are reliant on visitor income. It should be noted that while the decrease in foot traffic at some sites, particularly those supported by their States Parties or in receipt of international collaborative funding, may have allowed ample time for preservation specific activities, many day-to-day operations are funded through visitor-specific streams. In some areas, this has led to the overdevelopment of tourism infrastructure around sites to the detriment of local industry and communities. In others, sites have been selected based specifically on their interest to the international, and often more specifically Western, world. The disconnect between the development of World Heritage sites as tourism destinations and the centrality of conservation to the World Heritage mission is far from a new topic in tourism research. However, the pandemic has laid bare how unsustainable this model is both for the aspirations of the World Heritage Convention as well as the communities who live in or by these sites. Thus, this presentation seeks to problematize the current visitor-centric funding model in the face of uncertainty, especially as it relates to the continued emphasis on tourism growth.

Keywords

World Heritage; tourism; COVID19; planning; conservation

Mobility restrictions, cultural tourism and the digital divide: Exploring elderly tourists' acceptance and use of digital cultural services

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Husna Zainal Abidin (Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University)

Abstract

Culture and tourism have been closely interlinked for centuries. Research has found that particularly for elderly travellers, partaking in cultural activities, e.g. visiting museums and galleries, heritage sites, festivals and other events, is a major motivator for travel (Zhang et al., 2017; Richards, 2018).

COVID-19 has posed restrictions on tourists' mobility. While this has been devastating for the tourism and hospitality sector more broadly, the various lockdowns, curfews, and other social isolation measures have had a particularly severe impact on individuals most vulnerable to the virus, e.g. the elderly (Armitage and Nellums, 2020).

To mitigate for the lack of in-situ cultural events, many cultural tourism service providers have moved their service offerings into a digital format, from virtual museum tours to livestreamed concerts and operas (Statista, 2021). However, previous research has suggested that the elderly may not be as agile in adopting digital technology as younger generations of tourists, potentially making it difficult for them to partake in digital cultural tourism activities (Mostaghel, 2016).

To that end, this paper explores factors influencing elderly tourists' acceptance and use of digital technology to access and partake in digital cultural tourism activities when natural mobility is restricted e.g. due to government-mandated lockdowns, increased vulnerability to severe disease caused by viruses, or other movement impairments and disabilities.

An empirical study drawing on Davis' (1989) well-established technology acceptance model (TAM) is conducted, whereby 388 elderly cultural tourists (aged 60+) are surveyed. Findings indicate that digital cultural tourism activities are seen to complement traditional in-situ cultural experiences to some degree, but that challenges such as lack of feeling of community, technical and physiological constraints, as well as lack of information on available services limit the adoption of digital cultural services amongst the elderly. Implications for tourism management and future research are considered.

Keywords

cultural tourism; e-tourism; virtual events; technology acceptance model (TAM); elderly

Navigating the biopolitics of the ongoing COVID-19 tourism era

Dominic Lapointe (Department of Urban Studies and Tourism, Université du Québec à Montréal)

Abstract

Much have been already written on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for tourism. But as these words are written, the Omicron variant is pushing a global surge and the ongoing frenetic ballet of sanitary restriction is transforming life, politics and mobility (Cheers et al, 2021). Using a biopolitical framework (Esposito, 2011; Foucault, 2004) I will navigate through heterodox data and multiple methods to draw a fragmentary journey of the enduring, but truncated, tourism phenomenon in the COVID-19 era. I will use global newspaper analysis, netnography and auto-ethnography to hint at some of the biopolitical multiscaled entanglements exposed by COVID-19, from threats to privileges, from fear to hope, from the global to the micro-local. The presentation will close with some philosophical perspectives, engaging with Deleuze and Guattari (1980), Levinas (1961) and Tsing (2012) to discuss tourism research.

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Keywords

biopolitics; COVID-19; entanglements