

DOSSIER “TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT”

PRESENTATION

Tourism as a phenomenon involves a complex framework of physical, emotional, spatial-, relational-, social-, economic-, labor- and leisure-related factors. Therefore, it has the ability to contribute to development of a given area by favoring the development of its potential uses, the creation of employment opportunities, income distribution, environmental preservation and improved living conditions in many locations. However, control measures are necessary in order to avoid excesses and discrepancies due to indiscriminate use of resources, so that tourism areas can remain available for future generations, which is one of the foundations of sustainable development.

Some of these aspects are discussed here, especially those corresponding to leisure and tourism interfaces in different locations, scales and dynamics. It is noteworthy that although the inherent complexity of the theme prevents it from being thoroughly addressed, discussions do can be contributed which help us to understand the tourism phenomenon, mainly through technical procedures and methodologies that unveil its dynamics from different perspectives.

In this RPD dossier, themes brought up by authors are distributed into three blocks. The first block addresses the spatial dynamics of tourism, highlighting its role in municipal socioeconomic contexts of governance and production chain distribution, governance viewed as an articulator and integrator of stakeholders for tourism development. The second block approaches tourism from the attributes that motivate people to visit certain places. In this case, studies focus on natural spaces and gastronomy as inductive factors to the displacement of tourism to certain territories. As a conclusion, a debate on tourism megatrends is presented, aiming at challenging researchers to broaden the discussion by envisioning the future of tourism.

In the first article, Christopher Smith Bignardi Neves, Wellyngton Fernando Leonel de Souza and Marcos Luiz Filippim bring a data panel on municipal management of tourism. From the collection of secondary data available from different sources, the authors discuss a system through which tourism can be understood at municipal level. The main contribution of their study consists in putting forward a data compilation and systematization method which can be put into practice by tourism planning and management agents.

In the second article, Thiago Duarte Pimentel discusses the integration and articulation of tourism productive chains. Starting from a management model, the author outlines the mapping of such chains based on the links that form them: accommodation and food services, travel agencies, and cultural and transportation facilities. The article also aims at understanding and diagnosing both intra-organizational (operations management) and inter-organizational aspects inherent to the logistics of tourism-related productive chains.

The third study, by Thayele Oliveira and Melise de Lima Pereira, addresses procedures for diagnosing relationship levels among the actors involved in tourism, especially regarding governance. The main contribution of the study consists in a pilot

study by which the tourism governance assessment instrument proposed by Arnould Junior (2017) was tested for critical points involving the role of stakeholders in regional tourism development.

Addressing space as a tourist attraction, in the fourth article Halanna Halila, Ana Paula Soliman and Diogo Lüders Fernandes discuss the influence of images posted to social networks on tourist flows. As social networks evolve, records of this type turn out to be useful data sources whose analysis permits to elucidate both the elements that most attract visitors and what they best enjoy and value in such spaces, among other aspects. Despite approaching a space so far considered a local leisure venue, the easily replicable methodological procedures can be applied to tourism diagnosis of sites capable of attracting tourists from more distant areas.

In order to identify elements that motivate tourists to visit natural spaces, in the fifth article of this dossier Maria de Fátima de Albuquerque Caracristi, José Elmar Feger, Thalysen Missael da Silva, João Eugenio Marynowski investigate the levels of interaction among tourists and destinations based on comments posted to social networks. Based on experience economy precepts, the authors detail a set of procedures that allows identifying opportunities of increasing tourist attractive potential of ecological destinations. Their approach helps to identify gaps to be addressed by public and private initiatives in order to meet the expectations of tourists, thus making destinations more competitive and viable from a sustainable development standpoint.

Gastronomy is an important tourism coadjutant, oftentimes constituting the main attraction of a destination itself. In the sixth article of this dossier, Ricardo Gomes Ramos and Jasmine Cardozo Moreira discuss sustainability in a gastronomic context. The authors argue that the understanding of sustainable development is multidisciplinary, based on geographic, economic, ecological, social and cultural dimensions. A variety of attitudes can be adopted by commercial gastronomic establishments which can support sustainability-focused management. The aim of the article is, therefore, to understand how sustainability is perceived in gastronomy.

Finally, in the seventh study Ana Carolina Kuss, Heloisa Quadros Brandolt, Juliana Medaglia and Carlos Eduardo Silveira address innovation in tourism, stressing tourism's reinvention as a means of keeping up with global trends. Written in the form of an essay, the article brings the authors' reflections on innovation and tendencies for destinations in response to the 14 global megatrends identified by the Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies.

Despite the generalizations brought about by sampling limitations, the dissemination of studies such as the ones presented here has the ability to contribute to further studies on the subject. Being based on viable data collection methodologies, such studies would allow for reflections on the various realities involved. In this sense, the proposals in this special section inspire and provide tools with which to broaden investigation and understanding of tourism in different spaces and scales

Good reading!

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