



TOURISM SHAPING PLACES:

Mobilities and tourism destination evolution

Rovira i Virgili University, Catalonia
Vila-seca Campus, 18th-21st October 2017



Major Commission Meeting in Spain, October 2017

This year's main commission event will be hosted by the Research Group on Territorial Analysis and Tourism Studies (GRATET) of the Department of Geography, Faculty of Tourism and Geography, Universitat Rovira i Virgili supported by the MOVETUR project (CSO2011-23004/GEOG), the URV Science and Technology Park for Tourism and Leisure of Catalonia (PCT) and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) represented by Prof. Salvador Anton-Clavé, Antonio Paolo Russo and commission member Julie Wilson, respectively.

This workshop in Catalonia, Spain, aims to discuss the ways in which tourism destinations can be transformed by the multiple mobilities inherent in contemporary societies, as well as understanding the urbanisation and other effects of these mobilities on the development, attractiveness and inter-place / urban competition of places at different scales.

The event's theme – Tourism Shaping Places – stems from the general hypothesis that human mobilities at different scales, along with their interconnections and links to other physical and immaterial mobilities, are catalytic factors in processes of change in tourism destinations. Such transformations are produced not only from within urban structures, environmental conditions and technologies but also in institutional, socioeconomic, cognitive and cultural domains,

Different types of human, material and immaterial mobilities generate a diversity of organisational and strategic political decisions from a multitude of different agents. These intersect with complex, overlapping elements such as economic, spatial, temporal and cognitive behaviour that cannot be considered as extraneous to any changes in the urban structure of tourism destinations. This event approaches these questions from a multi-scalar perspective that includes regional and local spaces at the destination level and micro-local spaces such as tourism districts, tourism attractions, urban sectors and tourism centres.

The event's programme and content are structured within five thematic areas:

- * Identification and analysis of multiple typologies of mobilities that are produced between and within destinations, ranging from the study of their structure and spaces and the role of relational dynamics in the destination's configuration;
- * Analysis of the role of networks of social and economic local and global agents in the evolution and the urban transformation of destinations;
- * Analysis of specific processes of path (re) shaping of destinations in terms of changes of tourism markets, the sharing / collaborative economies in a tourism context, attraction of new residents, development of new economic and entrepreneurial activities and the evolution of the socioeconomic structure of the destination;
- * Identification and analysis of synergies, controversies and conflicts caused by the confluence of the different mobilities flows in destinations and the associated uneven spatial development, social injustices and collective claims perpetuated by such processes;
- * Analysis of the processes of signification, representation and cultural co-construction of place produced by the practices and narratives of tourists.

Keynote speakers are Kevin Hannam (Napier University, Scotland), Szilvia Gyimóthy (Aalborg University, Denmark) and Mathis Stock (University of Lausanne, Switzerland).

The workshop will take place in one of the major tourism regions on the Mediterranean coast – the Costa Daurada (45-60 minutes from Barcelona by train) at the Vila-seca Campus of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili beginning with the opening plenary late afternoon on Wednesday 18th October 2017, ending after lunch on Saturday 21st October 2017. On Saturday 21st October, there will be a ‘mobile’ field visit to the city of Barcelona, organised by the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Open University of Catalonia).

Abstracts (300 words maximum) should be submitted to Meritxell Fuguet; meritxell.fuguet@pct-turisme.cat

Deadline: 1st June 2017 (decision by 1st July 2017)

Conference Report: China Tourism Geography Seminar on Tourism Geography Research: the past and future (2016)

On December 12th, the China Tourism Geography Seminar (2016) was held at Sun Yat-sen University. This seminar was sponsored by Tourism Geography Commission of China, hosted by Center for Tourism Planning and Research, SYSU and School of Tourism Management, SYSU. More than 20 people attended the seminar.

The seminar was to discuss the relationship between tourism geography and geography in general and the future of tourism geographies. Prof. Bao Jigang presentation showed that there is a growing number of projects supported by Natural Science Funds and there is an increasing influence on tourism geography research from social science. Professor Jie Zhang (Nanjing University) pointed out the problem of conceptual weakness in Tourism Geography. Professor Lin, Lu (Anhui Normal University) discussed five key themes, which need to be considered; theory and methodology, major research projects, new issues, different scales, the connection between theory and application. Commission member Professor Honggang Xu (Sun Yat-sen University) introduced some popular tourism research topics in international academia, including sustainable tourism, mobility and its influence, the tourists’ place identity and interaction with the local, global environment change. Finally, Professor Tian Chen (University of Chinese Academy of Sciences) introduced the work of Chinese Academy of Sciences on selecting *Top 10 Science and*

Education Tourism Spots in China. The participants actively participated in the discussions. It has been agreed that more debates should be carried out on this issue to build a shared vision on the advancement of tourism geographies research in China and internationally.



China Tourism Geography Seminar at Sun Yat-sen University

Upcoming Meetings



AAG Boston, April, 5th – 9th 2017

Even in 2017 the IGU Commission continues their cooperation with the AAG and their Specialty Group on Recreation, Tourism and Sports currently led by Dr Patrick Brouder (Brock University). In Boston commission members and researchers with interest in the commission will offer sessions on the following topics:

- *Lifestyle Mobilities and Local Communities* (Xu Honggang & Kou Lirong)
- *Tourism and the Politics of Wilderness Management and Governance* (Jarkko Saarinen, Elizabeth Vidon, & C. Michael Hall)
- *Transnational Cultural and Natural Heritage in Asia: Contours of Boundary-Transgressing Memoryscapes* (Rudi Hartmann, & Dietrich Soyeze)
- *Using qualitative methodology in tourism research* (Anne-Marie d’Hauteserre)

- *What tourism development for developing areas/regions/countries* (Anne-Marie d’Hautesserre)

the Twenty-Frist Century (C. Michael Hall & Jarkko Saarinen)

For more information, please visit the [web page](#) of the AAG-RTS Study Group

For more information on the conference, please visit the [NGM-web page](#).

Geographies for Peace – IGU Thematic Conference, La Paz, Bolivia, 23-25 April 2017



The IGU Commission is happy to be able to be represented at the first IGU Thematic Conference on the topic of geographies for peace to be held in La Paz, Bolivia. The Commission is co-sponsoring two sessions;

The commission is offering a session on **Integrated approaches to tourism and regional development** at the 2017 Annual Meetings of the Canadian Association of Geographers in Toronto, May 29th – June, 2nd. The session is co-organized by the IGU Commission represented by Dieter Müller (Umeå University) and the Tourism and Recreation Study Group and the Economic Geography Study Group of the Canadian Association of Geographers represented by Patrick Brouder (Brock University). More information can be found on the conference [web page](#).

- *International Tourism and Cultural Diplomacy*, organized by Fabio Carbone (Coventry University) and Gian Luigi Corinto (University of Macerata)
- *Mobilities and Geographies of Peace*, organized by Edward Jackiewicz (California State University, Northridge)

The conference will be held in conjunction with the “EGAL, XVI ENCUESTRO DE GEÓGRAFOS DE AMÉRICA LATINA” (EGAL The 16th Meeting of Latin American Geographers), which will take place from 26 to 29 April in the same city.

11th International Symposium on Tourism Frontiers Co-organized by Chinese tourism geography commission

With the development of economic globalization, regional integration and internationalization of tourism, tourism development plays an important role in the national strategy, especially in the regional development strategy. The objectives of this conference are to provide a platform for researchers to share, exchange and debate ideas and knowledge. Besides, the conference aims to promote domestic and foreign academic research on tourism geography and national strategy.

Time: 19-21 May, 2017.

Place: Capital Normal University, Beijing

Contact information: bj_tourism2017@sina.com

For more news visit also the commission web page



The IGU Commission also continues its cooperation with the Nordic Geographers Meetings, this time to be held in Stockholm, June 18th–21st 2017. During this conference the following sessions are organized by commission members:

- *Critical geographies of tourism development in the Nordic peripheries* (Gunnar Thór Jóhannesson, Edward H. Huijbens, Dieter K. Müller & Jarkko Saarinen)
- *The Inequalities of Tourism: The Unequal Distribution of the Costs and Benefits of Tourism and Mobility Capital in*

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IGU conference opportunities still open for paper submissions



The commission is also participating at the EUGEO-conference in Brussels, September 4th-6th, 2017. Even here the commission offers a session on **Integrated approaches to tourism and regional development**. This is the same topic as in Canada aiming at comparative perspectives and input into the scientific debate. The session is organized by Dieter Müller (Umeå University) and honorary commission member Carolin Funck (University of Hiroshima). Deadline for the submission of abstracts is **31 March 2017**. More information can be found on the conference [web page](#).



Commission members Joseph M. Cheer (Monash University) and Alan A. Lew (Northern Arizona University) are organizing a panel session at the Institute of Australian Geographers Conference, 11-14 July 2017 in Brisbane, Australia.

The session titled **Revisiting, Reframing and Reaffirming Tourism Geographies: Critical Post-Disciplinarity Perspectives** departs from the notion that the scholarly credentials of tourism as a bona fide discipline and one that makes a meaningful contribution to mainstay disciplinary discussions has been thoroughly cross-examined. At the intersection between geography and tourism lies tourism geography, multivalent in its connotations and intra/cross/trans disciplinary by rights drawing from physical, human, cultural, urban and economic geographies among others. Whether tourism geography has earned a seat at the 'geography table' has come prone to debate and argumentation with proponents lauding its suitability and detractors decrying its perceived slipperiness and disciplinary infidelity (Gibson, 2008). In launching the journal *Tourism Geographies* nearly two decades ago, Lew (1999, p. 1) argued:

“Geography has always had the knowledge and study of places as its defining core, despite various attempts to quantify and divide the discipline into finer domains of specialization”.

Lew (1999a, p. 1) emphasised that for many geographers, they are “far better represented in the international academy of tourism scholars than one might expect for a discipline that is actually fairly modest in size” and this remains so.

This session takes a backward glance in order to acknowledge the particularities inherent in the articulation of tourism geography and how it has developed, and continues to morph within the discipline of geography. In doing so, Pearce’s (2000, p. 406) line of questioning is evoked:

1. How might a national geography of tourism best be characterized?
2. What factors shape a national geography of tourism?
3. What are the implications of the existence of national geographies of tourism for the overall development of the geography of tourism?

Abstracts due Wednesday 5 April. Please see abstract guidelines [here](#).

For any queries, contact joseph.cheer@monash.edu.



IGU meetings beyond 2017

Currently the IGU-calendar comprises the following events;

- 2018 IGU Regional Conference Quebec, Canada
- 2020 IGU International Geographical Congress Istanbul, Turkey
- 2022 IGU International Geographical Congress (100 year anniversary), Paris, France
- 2024 IGU International Geographical Congress, Dublin, Ireland

As usual, the commission will try to organize committed pre-meetings adjacent to these events. For more and updated information on general IGU events please consider the new webpage of IGU igu-online.org

Tourism Geographies.

The International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission for the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change has recently used the opportunity to organize pre-meetings in connection with regional and global IGU-conferences. In particular the meeting in 2004 in Loch Lomond is continuously mentioned as one of the best tourism conferences ever.

The decision of the IGU to organize its regional conference 2018 in Quebec City together with the Canadian Association of Geographers once again creates an excellent opportunity to organize an outstanding pre-meeting. Against this background the Commission is negotiating with the Canadian Association of Geographers' Tourism and Recreation Study Group and the American Association of Geographers' Recreation, Tourism and Sports Specialty Group as well as with the journal *Tourism Geographies* in order to organize such an event.

The CAG and the AAG have seen very positive on this proposal and hence the following dates have preliminary been set for the conference.

Date: **2018-08-02 to 2018-08-05**

(Main conference 2018-08-06 to 2018-08-10)

Location: to be decided, but close to Quebec City

Please feel free to disseminate this newsletter to interested colleagues!

For joining the IGU Commission's email list and for receiving continuous information on the Commission's activities visit the commission web page:

www.igutourism.org

Please note these dates already now!



Information on the IGU Regional Conference in Quebec City can already be accessed on <http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/>

Looking for submissions

New book series “Geographies of Tourism and Global Change”

As announced earlier, the Commission has been involved in launching a new book series titled “*Geographies of Tourism and Global Change*” with Springer. A first book *Tourism and Transition* (Müller & Więckowski) based on the outcomes of the IGU-pre-conference meeting in Poland is underway and is expected to be available in early 2017. A second book on rural tourism is currently being negotiated.

The editors of the book series Jarkko Saarinen (University of Oulu), Carolin Funck (University of Hiroshima) and Dieter Müller (Umeå University) are now looking for new exciting proposals for the series. Edited and single authored volumes are equally welcomed. In order to submit a proposal, potential authors should get into contact with a member of the editorial team; dieter.muller@umu.se, jarkko.saarinen@oulu.fi, or funck@hiroshima-u.ac.jp.

**International Geographical Union –
Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change**

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