

## CALL FOR PAPERS

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### Challenging in tourism: From boosterism as usual to a more responsible tourism

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This call for papers is dedicated to the publication of works presented at the 14th scientific meeting of SISTUR, held at Sapienza University of Rome from November 24th to 26th, 2022. However, the call is also open to contributions that were not presented at the conference, as long as they align with the themes outlined in the call.

Tourism represents a multifaceted social, cultural, and economic phenomenon that has garnered significant scholarly attention. It is commonly regarded as a positive force, fostering peace, facilitating socioeconomic development, generating employment opportunities, and enhancing the overall well-being of host communities. In fact, Marsiglio (2018, p. 945) characterizes tourism as a "successful tool for promoting rapid economic growth." However, it is essential to acknowledge that tourism planning must be grounded in sustainability principles to ensure balanced and enduring development. Conventionally, tourism has been approached from a growth-oriented perspective, often referred to as boosterism. This perspective, as articulated by Marcouiller (2007), manifests as an enthusiastic endorsement of tourism and its planning, with a primary focus on the industry's contributions to economic growth and development. Nevertheless, this pro-industry boosterist stance has faced substantial criticism from pro-limits scholars who emphasize the adverse impacts of tourism. These critics highlight issues such as inequality, unsustainability of visitor influx, overtourism, environmental degradation, and negative social consequences experienced by host communities. Critics argue against the prevailing tourism narrative that equates success solely with increased tourist arrivals and income, even when attempts are made to adopt a sustainable approach.

Instead, there has been a growing recognition of the need for responsible tourism—an approach that prioritizes the ethical and moral responsibilities of all actors within the tourism ecosystem. This shift in perspective emphasizes the importance of responsible practices, environmental sustainability, and equitable outcomes for host communities. Overall, the evolution of tourism discourse underscores the complex nature of this phenomenon and the imperative to move beyond a simplistic focus on growth. The contemporary understanding of tourism calls for a comprehensive approach that integrates environmental, social, and economic considerations, fostering responsible practices and long-term sustainability in the industry.

The research conducted on responsible tourism has encompassed a range of dimensions, including responsible tourist behavior, the ethical responsibilities of stakeholders and corporate social responsibility, as well as local perspectives of responsible tourism. Nevertheless, responsible tourism transcends being solely a social phenomenon and necessitates additional conceptual clarification, particularly in terms of its alignment with sustainability principles and the identification of associated opportunities and risks. Notably, the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic has presented the tourism system with a unique opportunity to conscientiously reconfigure its recovery efforts and future development, all while adhering to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ongoing debate surrounding this topic remains open and inherently spans multiple disciplines. Scholars and practitioners' orientations are increasingly inclined toward embracing a paradigm shift that advocates for a "new way of conducting tourism." This entails the cultivation of responsible behavior on the part of tourists, as well as the formulation and implementation of destination policies that facilitate sustainability. Furthermore, it emphasizes the significance of the interactions and behaviors of various actors within the tourism ecosystem, including the industry and local government, to collectively advance responsible tourism practices.

This call for papers aims to stimulate the discussion and research within the multidisciplinary community of tourism scholars toward the responsible development of tourism. The approach can be as much behavior-based as concept and values-based and research conducted to study strategies, risks, and opportunities of tourism as a social phenomenon and ecosystem of services.

This special issue provides an opportunity to submit a research or theoretical paper according to the following themes:

- i. **Boosterism or sustainable and responsible tourism.** In this context, sustainable tourism is defined as a form of tourism that relies on regulatory frameworks at various levels of policy and decision-making. On the other hand, responsible tourism draws inspiration from neoliberal governance, which prioritizes individualized and personalized actions and decision-making. Boosterism is defined as representing the traditional and positive approach to tourism. These distinct contextual backgrounds highlight the importance of not assuming an automatic equivalence between these concepts in research, particularly when considering how the tourism industry, driven by growth, can and should address global challenges in the future.
- ii. **Destination planning, development, and management.** Post Covid-19 recovery is an opportunity for destinations to redraw models, processes, and actions stimulating responsible and lasting recovery. The research fields of responsible tourism and sustainable tourism provide the opportunity to reshape tourism products and offerings according to the value perspective of responsible and sustainable tourism, and to the orientation to the tourist as to the offerings. Responsible tourism can also be examined to topical subjects and challenges that destinations and societies are currently facing, such as overtourism.
- iii. **The value of data in fostering responsible and sustainable tourism recovery for destinations.** The need to substantiate responsible tourism requires reflection as much in scientific research (type of research, i.e., exploratory descriptive and causal or analytical) as in

reality for measurement, monitoring, and intervention planning. A specific focus is on cybersecurity and data ethics protection.

- iv. **The processes of value co-creation and the enabling role of digital technologies in creating experiences.** Digital technologies enable experience co-creation processes and especially the focus on the use of mobile applications, augmented reality, and artificial intelligence in both tourist and industry perspectives.
- v. **Tourist experience emotion, feelings, and affects dimensions.** Focus on the subjective and emotional dimensions of tourists to understand their emotional commitment and engagement to destinations, attractions (especially cultural heritage), local community, or the dynamics of responsibility between tourists and locals.
- vi. **The hospitality industry for responsible tourism development.** Tourism enterprises are confronted with new behaviors of workers, the local community, and tourists. In addition to corporate social responsibility and sustainability, employee well-being, community welfare, and ethical management also become management goals and outcomes of the enterprises themselves.

Marcouiller, D. W. (2007). "Boosting" tourism as rural public policy: Panacea or Pandora's box?. *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, 37(1100-2016-89815), 28-31.

Marsiglio, S. (2018). On the implications of tourism specialization and structural change in tourism destinations. *Tourism Economics*, 24(8), 945-962.

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#### APPLICATION FOR CONTRIBUTION

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Researchers interested in contributing by their original work can access the website directly through the platform by clicking [here](#).

**Attention.** The first time you use the platform, you will be asked to register to submit your contribution. For subsequent times, it will be sufficient to authenticate yourself with the credentials created.

For assistance, please contact the email address: [info@turistica.it](mailto:info@turistica.it)