
Book Review

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**The Routledge Handbook of Tourism Impacts:
Theoretical and Applied Perspectives**
by: Dogan Gursoy and Robin Nunkoo
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This edited book discusses the impacts of tourism from both theoretical and practical perspectives. This is a critical issue, especially in light of how some destinations have been adversely affected by overtourism (Butler and Dodds, 2019), and recent discussions about downsizing tourism to overcome these negative impacts (Higgins-Desbiolles et al., 2019). Therefore, the timely publication of this book makes a significant contribution to the field.

This 35 chapter book begins with an introduction by the editors focused on the critical link between positive and negative tourism impacts and sustainability. The editors focus on the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental impacts of tourism, highlighting the theoretical basis for tourism impact studies. The focus here is on the perceptions and attitudes of residents to the impacts of tourism and related theories, eschewing wider perspectives of tourism impacts. While an understanding of residents' perceptions of tourism impacts is critically important, focusing exclusively on this perspective fails to deliver on holistic perspectives this book promises.

The aforementioned 35 chapters are divided across seven parts, the first of which focuses on tourism impacts in general and includes six chapters. After discussing the links between planning and tourism impacts, and proposing a framework for tourism planning, the authors highlight the importance of impact assessments in tourism planning, with resident participation deemed essential. In Chapter 2, the authors discuss the links between positive and negative tourism impacts, plus the quality of life (QoL) of destination community residents. The authors discuss measures of QoL and provide an overview of tourism-related QoL studies. Nonetheless, there is still an exclusive focus on the perspectives of residents in terms of tourism impacts and QoL. In Chapter 3, the authors explore the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental impacts of tourism in Lisbon-Portugal as a rapidly growing European destination. The authors urge key stakeholders to mitigate the negative impacts of rapidly expanding tourism. In Chapter 4, the authors draw attention to the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO) Program under the UNWTO, and discuss the concept of

sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to the INSTO network. Using Raglan in New Zealand as a case study, the authors describe impacts of based on the INSTO framework. Interestingly, this chapter considers tourism impacts from the perspectives of both residents and tourists. In the remaining two chapters of Part I, the authors discuss the impact of tourism on animals, exploring issues of animal rights and welfare, and the need to consider the effects of tourism on animals and wildlife when planning for tourism development.

Part II focuses on the economic impacts of tourism and includes nine chapters. Chapter 7 explores the economic impacts of tourism in a destination, focusing on income generation, direct and indirect job creation, balance of payments, investment and infrastructure improvement as positive impacts, and leakage, overdependence, inflationary effects, unpaid costs, and enclave tourism as negative impacts. The authors also explore various methods for assessing the economic impacts of tourism. Chapters 8 and 15 use econometric models to evaluate the effects of tourism on income inequality and poverty reduction in Mauritius, a well-known tourism destination. Both chapters conclude tourism has reduced both income inequality and poverty in Mauritius. Chapters 9 and 10 discuss the economic impacts of rural and adventure tourism, each using case studies; while Chapter 11 focuses on assessing the long-term economic impacts of tourism. Chapters 12 and 14 discuss the economic, social, and environmental impacts of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and women-led entrepreneurial developments in local destinations. Chapter 12 focuses on the economic impact of visitor harassment on a destination, providing a fascinating overview of the different types of micro-traders that provide goods and services for tourists, and how these micro-traders can harass tourists. The authors explore the effects of this harassment of tourist satisfaction, and how this affects the economy of a destination.

Part III is concerned with the socio-cultural impacts of tourism. Chapter 16 explores the socio-cultural impacts of tourism using Doxey's (1976) irridex model via interactions between tourists and local community members. The authors consider the effects of different types of carrying capacity and how they can mitigate the socio-cultural impacts of tourism in destinations. In Chapter 17, the authors discuss tourism impacts in relation to the well-being and QoL of seniors. Chapter 18 focuses on the social psychological impacts of tourism using Doxey's irridex model and Allport's (1979) intergroup contact theory. The authors use these theories to consider the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental impact of psychological interactions between tourists and local residents. Chapter 19 discusses the socio-cultural impacts of tourism in heritage settings, how this affects heritage site conservation, and the restoration of old buildings. Chapter 20 uses social exchange theory (SET) (Ap, 1992) to explore the factors influencing residents' perceptions of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of tourism.

Part IV examines the environmental impacts of tourism. In Chapter 21, the authors provide a definition for the environment, which they then link to tourism. Highlighting the environmental impacts of tourism, the authors offer various solutions for tourism and hospitality to mitigate the negative environmental impacts of tourism, including eco-labelling, eco-friendly accommodation facilities, eco-gastronomy, and eco-friendly applications in destination marketing. The subsequent two chapters draw attention to the negative environmental impacts of tourism, primarily environmental pollution, and offer some solutions to minimise these negative environmental impacts. Chapter 24 highlights

the importance of raising awareness among various stakeholders, particularly tourists, as a key strategy to minimise negative environmental impacts. Suggested strategies include education, the use of technology, involving NGOs, universities, and communities, developing alternative and sustainable forms of tourism, and direct government intervention. Chapter 25 provides an overview of the Tread Lightly initiative, which was implemented by the Mauritian LUX hotel group to engage all stakeholders in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to promote carbon offsetting.

What makes this book truly unique is Part V, which undertakes to explore the political impact of tourism. Chapter 26 rightly observes that despite the importance of political and governance impacts of tourism, these impacts have rarely been discussed in tourism studies. The authors highlight various impacts on policymakers, policy adoption and changes, and election results, providing case examples from the UK and China. This is followed by Chapter 27, which provides a case study of Italy to determine how cultural heritage and heritage tourism impact economic growth; whereas, Chapter 28 discusses the effects of corruption on tourism in Brazil.

Part VI discusses the impacts of technology and tourism over four chapters, considering concepts of smart tourism and its influence on the tourist experience and destinations, the impacts of various new technologies on tourism, and how big data and ICT add value in tourism. Nevertheless, these chapters fail to clarify the relationship between technology and tourism impacts. To this end, these chapters seem to represent a departure from the intended purpose of this book. Ideally, I would have preferred if these chapters had focused more on tourism impacts and the contribution of technology for ameliorating economic, socio-cultural, environmental, and political tourist impacts.

Part VII, the last part of this book, explores various methods used to study tourism impacts in relation to community residents. In Chapter 33, the authors examine the various statistical approaches used for analysing tourism impacts, particularly for analysing residents' perceptions of tourism impacts. Chapter 34 is a quantitative empirical study using Bayesian modelling to investigate residents' perceptions of tourism impacts. Chapter 35, the final chapter, considers the application of SET in tourism research. While the author concludes that no attempts have been made to revise or extend SET in tourism, this conclusion does not seem to hold-up (see Rasoolimanesh et al., 2015). In last part, this book follows the direction of introduction by focusing on residents' perceptions toward tourism impacts.

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