Editorial: Tourism and Social Regeneration

Nicholas Wise

Faculty of Education, Health and Community, Sport Studies, Leisure and Nutrition School,
Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool L17 6BD, UK; N.A.Wise@ljmu.ac.uk

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Abstract: Research on social regeneration is a very specific area that needs more attention in the tourism and social sciences literature. Whilst much research has focused attention on tourism developments and regeneration efforts, this work is more concerning with the physical transformation of spaces (such as upgrading facilities and infrastructures) or expanding investments in tourism and visitor attractions. Planners and policy makers are concerned with maintaining a competitive advantage, resulting in policies and investments aimed at developing spaces in transition for the purpose of economic gain and/or image revival. To go beyond the focus on economic impacts of tourism-led regeneration, the purpose of this special issue is to address the importance of, and the need to, critically assess issues, problems and solutions surrounding social regeneration resulting from tourism change, developments or initiatives. More research considering how members of a community and event attendees engage with spaces and places transformed for tourism is needed. Paying closer attention to intangible impacts to extend recent debates surrounding tourism initiatives, involvement and futures is needed, emphasizing improved welfare and empowering local communities and its residents. The papers included in this special issue all put emphasis on the community and/or local residents and how they are impacted by tourism investments or initiatives.

Keywords: social regeneration; social impacts; tourism and change; community; tourism social policy

Much research has focused attention on tourism developments and regeneration efforts. Regeneration is often regarded as the process of renewal or redevelopment of existing facilities and infrastructures, and thus, expansions for, or new investments in, tourism and visitor attractions align with contemporary regeneration strategies and initiatives linked to transitioning economic bases. Planners and policy makers are concerned with maintaining a competitive advantage, resulting in policies and investments aimed at developing spaces in transition for the purpose of economic gain and/or image revival. To go beyond the focus on economic impacts of tourism-led regeneration, the purpose of this special issue is to address the importance of, and the need for, critically assessing issues, problems, and solutions surrounding social regeneration resulting from tourism change, developments, or initiatives.

More research considering how members of a community, visitors, and event attendees engage with spaces and places transformed for tourism is needed, as this extends our understanding of tourism and social regeneration. Paying closer attention to intangible impacts to extend recent debates surrounding tourism initiatives, involvement, and futures is needed, emphasizing improved welfare and empowering local communities and their residents. Evaluating differing trends associated with social regeneration, including discussions and critiques of existing policies, or the lack of insight and initiatives among planners, policy makers, and members of the community concerning tourism, is an attempt to debate new directions concerning tourism, social impacts, and social policy. The goal of this special issue is to bring together both international and interdisciplinary perspectives, through submissions that test conceptual boundaries, offer a critique of social policy, or provide evidence from a specific case (or cases).

Smith (2012) assesses social impacts and social regeneration. Regeneration is important to consider as a holistic concept that is important because in theory and practice discussions are integrated in the social sciences and management studies. One of the main impacts of regeneration is to frame how opportunities are further developed, and from a social regeneration standpoint, these opportunities and experiences are linked to how people and society benefit from tourism (Perić et al. 2017; Perić et al. 2018; Wise and Perić 2017). Richards and Palmer (2010) argue that places need to keep up with the pace of change or they risk stagnation and decline as increased competition has led to a new range of opportunities, not only in terms of tangible gains and benefits but also intangible impacts (AlBalushi and Wise 2017; Hong 2014; Scholtz and Slabbert 2016; Smith 2005; Wise et al. 2015; Wise et al. 2017).

Tourism developments and regeneration in the 1980s were primarily public sector led using taxpayer money to fund infrastructure projects (Cowan 2016). In the late 1980s, and even more so into the 1990s, partnerships between the public and private sector started to emerge and change how projects in cities were funded, financed, and where profits were directed (Smith 2012). For instance, the emergence of joint stock companies, partnerships between public and private sector, resulted in clustering (Franco and Estevão 2010). The intension was to build on the strengths of shared resources and knowledge transfer to contribute added value to products being offered and delivered for the purpose of economic regeneration (Deakin and Edwards 1993; Tallon 2010). Much research has considered the role of how sport has been used as a driver to add further value to destinations (e.g., Gratton and Henry 2001; Perić et al. 2016; Wise and Hall 2017; Wise and Harris 2017) or how events in transforming opportunities, and some of these discussions link regeneration and tourism as well. For instance, Smith (2012, p. 174) suggests "a producer of sport, as well as a site for its consumption" helps to diversify opportunities for local residents. There is also a need to consider issues of inclusion and exclusion (Clark and Wise 2018; Wise and Harris 2017) and how value is delivered (see Perić and Wise 2015).

Concerning tourism and social regeneration, Spirou (2011) argues that change affects the image of a destination, which has implications on management and planning for locals and tourists. Cowan (2016) adds that planning needs to be inclusive and enable more residents opposed to creating barriers that limit involvement. Much research has focused on critically assessing communities and social understandings linked to local perceptions of tourism, social tourism, and community development (e.g., Deery et al. 2012; Dwyer 2005; Wise and Whittam 2015). Work in this area has close conceptual links with social regeneration putting emphasis on the community, or community-based tourism (Đurkin and Wise 2018), and is discussed in this special issue. It is also important for communities to leverage social outcomes, and take advantage of what approaches, involvement and social capital is needed so that tourism regeneration will be most beneficial to the general public. There can be community initiatives but some places need social policies to enable people to get involved and participate. Putnam (2000) addressed social capital, but bonding capital focuses on the forging of community ties that lend to a greater sense of belonging, or sense of community (Wise 2015). Community and social conditions are also important when assessing competitiveness. Much research has gained insight on how tourism has impacted a place from the standpoint of vested tourism stakeholders (e.g., Mulec and Wise 2013; Pulido-Fernández and Rodríguez-Díaz 2016), but it is important to gain such insight from the perspective of local residents as places invest heavily in changes (see Aquilino et al. 2018).

To outline issues concerning tourism and social regeneration, from a policy standpoint governments and public sector organizations need to further measure social impacts and social conditions. Moreover, policy initiatives focus on improving local wellbeing through planning for tourism (Vogt et al. 2016). Positive socio-cultural impacts are based on education, local experiences, improvements to residential facilities, maintaining cultural traditions and local artefacts, and increased civic pride (see Smith 2012; Spirou 2011). For example, the UNWTO Manila Declaration in 1980 addressed social impacts of tourism in relation to rapidly changing tourism trends and dynamics.

Moreover, as Wise (2016, p. 32) argues: "numerous negative impacts on people and communities relate to the commodification of culture, violations of human rights, increased social problems, social demonstrations, loss of traditional industries, alterations in traditional codes (e.g., practices, values, religion) and community fragmentation."

Increasingly, academics are concerned with how plans for developing tourism emphasize social legacy, or 'softer' impacts (Stevenson 2013; Wise and Clark 2017; Wise and Harris 2017). Scholars have argued that infrastructures and venues are attempts to spark economic generation, which can help improve visitor profiles or enhance the image of a city (Spirou et al. 2017). Moreover, Lawless (2010) argues that social benefits and legacies are lost in the process as cities regenerate. This is because funds can easily be redistributed, or when hidden costs emerge this takes away from investing in social impacts because money is needed for purposes that are more tangible. As Wise (2016) notes, many urban tourism projects are financed, supported, and maintained through private sector funds—and this can then limit opportunities for local residents and also exclude them assess. Cowan (2016) argues private investments results in 'islands' where those who can afford to consume are welcome, and those who cannot are spatially excluded from such spaces of privilege.

To summarize some of the wider conceptual points, social regeneration, social impacts, and social change are about altering peoples' outlook and attitude of their place, as well as gaining support to encourage cohesive involvement among members of a community (Deery et al. 2012; Dwyer 2005). Moreover, how communities seek innovative ways to enhance social interactions, which is explored in this special issue. Thwaites et al. (2013) adds that individual and social capital (and arguably community capital) need to further research—and this is explored in this special issue. Social capital involves the formation of networks, norms, and trusts. With such trust and collaboration enables people to work together to peruse and achieve a number of set shared objectives (Wise 2016). This is essential as places transform and generate tourism opportunities, as urban, regional and rural developments can potentially have long-term impacts on societal/social relationships between city governments/planners and communities. Some may view investments in tourism as investments in someone else's interests and not necessarily the needs of the local residents (Spirou 2011). Therefore, new approaches to tourism planning and associated developments need to address how changes will impact the city and community collectively—again, in terms of creating a sense of social cohesion, pride in place, and a collective sense of identity (Pookaiyaudom 2015). From a methodological standpoint, social regeneration and social impacts are difficult to measure, but the focus in future research needs to further acknowledge notions of inclusion and exclusion. The papers in this special issue offer different methodological and theoretical insights. One important question, as Wise and Whittam (2015) remark, is to critical consider: who is regeneration for? This becomes especially important when conducting research on social regeneration, as researchers assess and evaluate who gains and who does not from tourism.

There are three papers included in this special issue. It must be noted that this is a very niche area of research that needs and deserves more attention to expand on some of the conceptual points and issues outline above. This in part can explain why there were only three papers included in this special issue. The first paper by Marko Perić titled *Estimating the Perceived Socio-Economic Impacts of Hosting Large-Scale Sport Tourism Events* focuses on the 2018 EHF European Handball Championship held in Croatia. Large-scale sport events such as the EHF European Handball Championship help attract a wide range of attendees, resulting in various implications for the host community. This paper is concerned with understanding the legacy of the 13th EHF European Handball Championship, held in Croatia in January 2018, by assessing the event's economic and social benefits and costs. The paper draws on Social Exchange Theory to examine if there are any significant differences that exist between host city residents and non-host city residents regarding perceived impacts of the 13th EHF European Handball Championship. The number of impacts were reduced by conducting an exploratory factor analysis and differences between host city and non-host city residents were examined by an independent samples *t*-test. Key findings show that community development and

pride, security risks, traffic problems, economic benefits, environmental concerns, and economic costs were the main impact dimensions. Results also indicated that non-host city residents expressed a higher level of agreement with most of the impacts. Significant differences did exist, primarily within the dimensions of community development and pride, economic benefits, traffic problems, and environmental concerns. Such work is useful for event planners and sport marketers when trying to acquire community-wide support gain insight based on resident (and non-resident) perceptions.

The second paper by María D. Torres-Alruiz, Marisela J. Pilquimán V. and Christian Henríquez-Zúñiga titled Resilience and Community-Based Tourism: Mapuche Experiences in Pre-Cordilleran Areas (Puyehue and Panguipulli) of Southern Chile focuses on resilience, community-based tourism, and mapuche communities. The authors argue for more work concerning community-based tourism in Latin America, as there is a need to focus on and emphasize community impacts and sustainability. In this study, socio-ecological and situated narratives of resilience are enriched to examine to understand community based tourism experiences. The work is based on longitudinal participatory action research projects since 2013 (in Puyehue and Panguipulli). Results show that the socio-ecological narrative is useful, but also insufficient. They argue the relevance of the situated narrative seems to be more effective to engage in dialogue and joint work with mapuche communities. Building on the second paper, the next paper puts more emphasis on innovation and community engagement. The third paper by Lars Fuglsang and Anne Nordli titled On Service Innovation as an Interactive Process: A Case Study of the Engagement with Innovation of a Tourism Service focuses on service innovation, engagement theory, the use of narrative method, and interactive capabilities. The authors argue that innovation is an interactive process that engages numerous actors over time, which contribute to the regeneration of goods and services, and this concerns the role of community actors in such changes. They also argue that little work has assessed how actors grasp the societal environment in which they interact. For example, this concerns relationships/interactions with a wider community—and how interaction formats affect innovation. The paper contributes to the work on social regeneration because it stresses service and tourism needs innovative engagement to assess and address social interactions between innovators and their social environment. The paper suggest that different formats of engagement need balanced as part of the innovation process. This editorial positions the focus of regeneration in tourism research, and now turns to the papers included in this special issue.

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