

27-30AUG2024 PORTO-PORTUGAL

TENSION, TRUST
AND TRANSFORMATION



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RS06 – European intimate lives and reproductive choices in the face of planetary crises

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RS19 – Rethinking Dependence: Trust and Social Hierarchies in an Era of Uncertainty

Coordinators:

Judit Durst, UCL, Hungary

RN37 | T05_02: Urban Tourism: Actors, Activities, Impacts B

The Small Town Tourist Bubble – Tourism, local life, and rhythms

Allegra Celine Baumann¹, Claus Theodor Müller²

1TU Darmstadt, Germany; 2TU Berlin, Germany

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, overtourism was one of the main topics for tourist destinations, not only in cities, but also in rural areas. Local governments were searching for solutions to deal with tourism related problems and to solve conflicts between tourists and locals. However, it seems that some places bypassed most of the common overtourism problems due to their peculiarity: the existence of tourist bubbles. An ideal example is the famous German small town Rüdesheim am Rhein. While big cities like Venice or Barcelona were much discussed in the overtourism debate, small towns have not been in the focus of research yet. Rüdesheim has a long international tourist tradition, especially because of its wine production, and is well known for the street 'Drosselgasse', where tourist restaurants and wine shops are located, and which forms, following our argumentation, a tourist bubble.

Based on stakeholder interviews, statistical data, and the analysis of local policy and media, we argue that the old town of Rüdesheim represents a tourist bubble, which is rarely frequented by residents, allowing it to be staged as a disneyfied showcase for German tradition, local food and, especially alcoholic, beverages. Businesses in the narrow alleyways of the old town, are heavily dependent on the different temporal rhythms of tourism, not only the tourist season, but also the schedules of river cruise ships. Hence, tourist and local life in Rüdesheim is spatially and temporally separated, which leaves less space for conflict, but also for contact between locals and tourists.

Social Innovation in Tourism: a Two-level Systematic Literature Review

Olga Tzatzadaki, Maurizio Busacca

University Ca'Foscari of Venice, Italy

In recent years, 'social innovation in tourism' (SIT) has emerged as a key topic in studies on tourism innovation. However, a comprehensive systematization by a literature review is yet to be proposed. This paper aims to fill this gap by presenting the findings of a systematic literature review which selected 65 articles and conference proceedings from Scopus and WOS. The analysis, conducted at two levels, examined, in the first-level analysis, the temporal, geographical, and thematic placement of the papers, while in

the second-level one, the focus was to identify the social needs and target groups related to SI, ecosystems and actor networks involved in their production, and, finally, local governance.

At the first level, the results indicate that i) the discourse on SIT follows the general discourse on SI, but intensifies in conjunction with shock events affecting the tourism sector, such as Covid-19, and ii) the debate is more intense in countries with a significant tourism economy, but the case-studies are characterized by undertourism or by spatial conflicts. At the second level, the analysis reveals that a) SI initiatives primarily address employment and income needs, viewing tourism as a sector for job placement; b) the quality of the tourist experience and the quality of relationships with the local context are key strategies for achieving these outcomes through win-win strategies for tourists and the local community; c) the focus is on finding solutions for the development of the tourism sector rather than addressing the economic and social problems created by tourism; d) there is a significant emphasis on the local community, but without specifying the power and interest relationships among community members, turning it into rhetoric.

Instrumentalization of Light Festivals by Portuguese Municipalities: An Ethnographic Perspective (2015-2023)

Manuel Garcia-Ruiz

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Over the past decade, light festivals have become significant cultural events in Portuguese cities, serving as a distinct platform for artistic expression and urban entertainment. This study delves into how Portuguese municipalities have harnessed these festivals, exploring their transformation into instruments for urban development, tourism promotion, and the stimulation of nighttime economies.

This work is a critical analysis of how cultural practices can be co-opted by economic and political interests, more focused on economic development, city branding, and express night-time touristification.

The methodology used was a multi-sited ethnography conducted in Cascais and Loulé from 2015 to 2023. This included semi-structured interviews, online mapping, and documentary analysis. Such an approach enabled a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon from the viewpoints of organizers, promoters, entrepreneurs, participants, and local residents.

The findings of this study are significant, indicating that the commodification of these festivals is linked to the ongoing financial instability and precariousness faced by organizers, as well as to disputes of interest by local governments, which end in a power imbalance. I argue that these conflicts and the continual reduction in specific funding lead to the commodification of the festivals, distinctly illustrated by the shift in focus from cultural programming and mediation

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to light installations that prioritize entertainment over cultural value.

Liveability, Foundational Economy and Urban Space of "Cities in the Middle"

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With this abstract, we aim to present the initial findings of a collaborative research project involving three units from the University of Cagliari, the University of Catania, and the University of Salento. This research is funded by the PRIN "GC-LIFES. Grounded cities. Liveability, Foundational Economy and urban Space of cities in the middle". The relationship between the uses of urban spaces, global/local competition, and citizen liveability has been less investigated in small and medium-sized cities without a highly competitive profile. In general, mainly in Italy, urban and territorial studies have neglected "middle" areas: those which are not purely rural or metropolitan, and those made up of small-medium sized cities that, although not lacking in social and cultural dynamism, are not included in major flows of economic and technological innovation. Our study focuses on the cities of Cagliari, Catania, and Lecce, cities neither in the centre nor on the margins; neither in a dimension of full dynamism, nor in one of absolute stagnation; submitted, on the one hand, to areas capable of attracting resources and inhabitants, on the other hand capable of attracting resources and inhabitants from marginal contexts. The purpose of this research is precisely to begin to fill this lack of analysis and knowledge on this medium-size cities, following a twofold path: on the one hand, analysing transformations that have a decisive effect on the well-being and lifestyles of the citizens and, on the other, identifying some conditions for strengthening liveability and fostering a just transition.

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Creative Youth in a Changing Neighbourhood: Public Policies, Projects and Associations in a Segregated Area in the Lisbon Periphery

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As part of the PERICREATIVITY project and starting from the ethnographical fieldwork in a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Lisbon, that has undergone profound social changes, this presentation aims to delve into the history and activity of the neighbourhood's projects and associations. Namely, the ones promoted by young people, understanding their complex relations with public policies planned for this area. In the 1960s, this neighbourhood was built as a public housing project in the municipality of Cascais for fishing families. Then, other buildings and temporary homes were constructed to rehouse people living in the nearby precarious self-built areas, many of them of Cape Verdean ancestry. Today, it is a racially diverse community, including white and Black residents, some Roma people, and others. While this neighbourhood was initially situated in an isolated area, it is now nestled within one of the wealthiest regions on the periphery of Lisbon and, in recent years, has garnered attention from the local and state authorities. Today, the neighbourhood suffers from an intense gentrification process that prevents new generations from staying there. Despite having a reputation as a marginal and violent area, this community has seen a remarkable change both internally and in its image to the outside. With a strong dynamic of associations and projects (residents, youth, cultural, sports or welfare), this area has been where young people have promoted urban art and artistic practices through local support of public policies. We aim to understand the complex relations of autonomy and dependence towards the local power.

Analysing Segregation with Agent-based Models on Surveyed Neighbourhood Preferences

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Social inequality continues to increase in cities. The issue of segregation is currently being discussed and focussed on considering the shortage of residential space in cities. Inner-city ethnic segregation processes depend on the distribution of neighbourhood preferences. The question to

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