

Interventions: Tourism, Politics and the prospects of change

PhD Course



Tourism Research Unit (TRU), Aalborg University

Copenhagen

September 26, 2018

The landscape of tourism seems to *change* faster than ever before. This beckons new creative and critical research that address *change* and its implications on the social, cultural, environmental, economical, technological and managerial dimensions of tourism. This PhD course is aimed at PhD students within areas such as tourism and leisure studies, cultural studies, political science, human geography, sociology and anthropology. Under the theme “*Interventions: Tourism, Politics and the prospects of change*” we want to consider how research can be both *driven by change*, and work as a *driver of change* in tourism across scales ranging from local neighborhoods to destinations and global systems.

How can we study the complex networks that both shape and hinder *change* in practice? How is change itself a contested ‘vision’, rooted and in deep ideologies, personal experiences and values, and thus constantly up for negotiation? Responding to these complex ‘questions of change’ requires an open mind set, agile theoretical concepts and creative methodical approaches. In this PhD course we strive to share ideas, co-create leaning and discuss issues related to ‘research on/for change’ and ‘methods that change’ in relation to tourism.

The course will draw on a fair amount of both conceptual and empirical readings. The course lecturers will present their own research and link this to the participant’s projects. A modest amount of reading prior to the course is to be expected as well as each participant is asked to be able shortly to present their research project in the light of the course theme.

CONFIRMED LECTURERS: Hazel Tucker, Associate Professor, University of Otago and Orvar Löfgren, Professor Emeritus, Lund University

Practical Information

Organizer: Assistant Professor, Martin Trandberg Jensen, trandberg@cgs.aau.dk

Time: September 26, 2018

Place: A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, Aalborg University, Copenhagen, Denmark

Room: 2.1.025 (in the 'Globe' corridor)

Max participants: 15

Preliminary Program

- 9.00 Registration, coffee and welcome, room
- 9.30 Introduction round. 'Mapping change' exercise by Martin Trandberg Jensen, assistant professor.
- 10.00 Key note: *In need of change?*
Prof. Emeritus, Orvar Löfgren, Lund University.
- 11.00 Round table discussions chaired by key notes and collective sum-up.
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Talk: 'Changing from Outward to Inward Directed Criticism in Tourism Research'
Associate Professor, Hazel Tucker, University of Otago
- 14.00 Round table discussions (including break): challenges and opportunities of working with change-oriented tourism research (practical, theoretical, methodical, and ethical). The groups will be organized according to the research topics of participants.
- 16.00 'Changing the future of tourism (research)'. Moderator: Martin Trandberg Jensen, Aalborg University
- 17.00 Rounding up. Socializing and dinner in town (separate registration, more TBA)

FIND OUT MORE:

<https://www.en.cgs.aau.dk/doctoral-programmes/cgs-phd/courses/course/phd-seminar--interventions--tourism--politics-and-the-prospects-of-change.cid355358>

Orvar Löfgren: 'In Need of Change?'

This presentation looks at some aspects of the social and cultural organization of change. Examples are mainly drawn from tourism and hospitality, but the main object is to problematize the ways in which a need for change is experienced and put to work. In what contexts and situations are change called for or invoked and how is change materialized or performed? Rhetoric of the need for change sometimes produce a mere window dressing or a way of rebranding, which just creates an appearance of transformation. On the other hand seemingly stable and static situations may hide profound changes which are not visible until later. A study of change also calls for reflections on the processes of cultural ageing. What makes a destination, an institution or activity look worn out and tired? What are the processes that make something go out of fashion? And in the eyes of whom?

Hazel Tucker: 'Changing from Outward to Inward Directed Criticism in Tourism Research'

As tourism has matured as a field of research it has increasingly come to engage in various forms of inwardly directed criticism as well as, or alongside, the well-rehearsed outwardly directed criticism we are used to. Some of this inwardly directed criticism has focused on the field as a whole (e.g. Tribe, 2006, 2010), while some has questioned aspects of the tourism academy itself (e.g. Chambers et al, 2017, Ek et al, 2017). There has also been a move towards more individual researcher reflexivity. In this session I will talk to the idea of researcher reflexivity as being about a change from outward to inward directed criticism. I will use this idea to address the PhD course aims of considering how research can be both *driven by change* (or at least our perceptions of the need for change), and also how our research can work as a *driver of change* (both deliberately and unintentionally). The purpose of the talk will be to encourage inward directed critical reflection on the felt need for 'intervention', as well as reflection on ourselves as agents of change in our research.

Confirmed participants:

Maria Eugenia Altamirano, PhD student, Universitat Rovira I Virgili

"Reflections on the transformation of physical space by social dynamics: The case of touristification of Rio de Janeiro's favelas"

Daniela Chimirri, PhD student, Aalborg University Copenhagen

"Collaboration as potential change agent for sustainable tourism development?"

Eugenio Conti, PhD student, Mid Sweden University and Dalarna University

"Acknowledging change in research process: hermeneutic spiral and resistance to change"

Katie Dudley, PhD student, Clemson University

"Pursuing change for the tourism workforce: A research reflection"

Mónica Guasca, PhD student, Geo-Instituut Celestijnenlaan

"Researching post-conflict tourism destinations. Challenges and opportunities of dealing with change"

Rhiannon Rees, PhD student, Swansea University

“Information sources and consumer behaviour in travel: An investigation of destination activity choice in a multi-channel digital age.”

My N. D. Tran, PhD student, Lincoln University, New Zealand

“The relationship between international PhD students in New Zealand and Visiting Friends & Relatives (VFR) tourism”

Bo Villumsen, PhD student, University of Southern Denmark

“Voluntary associations as new actors on the tourism scene: Change through collaboration”

Ieva Žebrytė, PhD student, Universidad de La Frontera, Chile

“Tourism entrepreneurship, natural disasters and responsiveness”

Jingru Zhang, PhD student, University of Otago

“Change and identity construction of tourism-related lifestyle migrants in China”