

Special Issue

Dual Pathways: Sustainable Tourism Employment at the Crossroads of Green Growth and Degrowth/Post-Growth

Message from the Guest Editors

Predicted significant tourism growth raises concerns about overtourism and the compatibility of sustainability with economic growth. These concerns have given rise to the concepts of "green growth" and "decoupling". The green growth underscores the necessity of decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. It does not challenge the notion of growth in itself, but it highlights technological innovations as means to enhance the efficiency of natural resources use and substitute natural capital with other forms of capital. However, the green economy faces increasing criticism and opposition from proponents of a strong conception of sustainability, as articulated in degrowth/post-growth approaches. Critics argue that the global tourism industry's focus on growth conflicts with sustainability goals and call for a new tourism management model that does not rely on continuous growth, necessitating a re-evaluation of the political and economic systems underlying tourism. Degrowth/post-growth challenges the traditional belief that economic growth is essential for prosperity, that focusing on human well-being can lead to a more sustainable and fulfilling future for all.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 March 2025)



Sustainability

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 7.7



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