

Special Issue

Rethinking Destination Planning Through Sustainable Local Development

Message from the Guest Editors

Tourism destination planning began in the mid-20th century with a focus on infrastructure improvement, business development, and marketing. However, since the mid-2010s, the role of destination planning has evolved to encompass a wide range of issues including environmental sustainability, innovation, culture, and social equity. In addition, the climate crisis and building resilience for destinations have become critical components of effective tourism planning. One of the most significant theoretical implications of this evolution is the shift towards a more integrated approach to tourism planning. This suggests that existing theories that have historically considered tourism planning in isolation need to be re-evaluated and possibly expanded. There is now a clear need to consider tourism planning within the broader context of sustainability and local development. This will enrich the interdisciplinary nature of the field. Furthermore, tailored approaches to different types of destinations are needed to make tourism planning flexible and adaptable to the unique challenges and opportunities of each destination.

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