



## **World Heritage Sites: Post-International Tourists**

*Organized by*

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### **SCOPE**

As symbols of humanity, World Heritage Sites (WHS) are protected and maintained for future generations to inherit and use. Of the 1121 sites on the World Heritage List, more than 3/4ths are listed as cultural properties, such as archaeological sites and sites of religious practice that are popular attractions for international tourists, and as such having a WHS designation is desired in many countries. However, managing WHS is a complex matter, for the ownership and management authority of these sites is fragmented, for while they are designated based on global mandates and standards, their management remains local. Indeed, international pressure and recognition demands robust organisational mechanisms to be in place for better management of these sites, and yet it is mainly international tourists, not systematic governmental monetary interventions and programs, that bring in the income necessary to maintain these mechanisms.

In the face of increasing restrictions on international travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic and almost negligible tourism flows to WHS, questions can be raised regarding the future impacts of decreased international travel in the face of the suggested “new normal” of tourism. Particularly in instances where there has been concerns regarding socio-economic sustainability due to overtourism, is decreased international tourism desired, with these sites becoming more accessible for locals and reinforcing the religious and cultural value of these sites for domestic tourism? Who will be the new WHS tourist? How will these sites be promoted, and who will manage that promotion? What will be the role of international governmental and non-governmental agencies regarding the management of WHS, and will there be real empowerment at the local level for sustainable promotion and management of WHS?

### **TOPICS OF INTERESTS**

- Impact of absence of international tourists in WHS;
- Changing forms of tourism to WHS;
- The politics of management of WHS considering Global vs local debates; and
- Cultural and environmental sustainability of WHS

### **SUBMISSIONS OF PAPERS**

Submitted abstracts should be between 250 and 350 words. Abstracts must be submitted no later than August 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 both to: Dr. Daniel Olsen ([dholsen@byu.edu](mailto:dholsen@byu.edu)) and Dr. Kiran Shinde ([k.shinde@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:k.shinde@latrobe.edu.au)). For further inquiries regarding conference fees, conference program, and registration forms, please visit <https://iatour.org/icot2020/>.