

Degrowth in Tourism
Organised by
Prof. Konstantinos Andriotis
Middlesex University London, UK

SCOPE

The degrowth approach, as a part of philosophical debates, suggests the idea of limited growth. In fact, the main idea of degrowth is resistance to the homogenizing effects of economic and cultural globalization, which generates places that more or less seem to look alike (Mayer and Knox, 2009). Degrowth in tourism is the voluntary transition from one state to another that calls to (re)build destinations and local economies in a way in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of consumption and production, institutional changes and the orientation of technological development are minimal, controlled and in harmony with the environment. It involves people whose use of personal time enhances the richness of the experience through travelling less, more slowly and low carbon and take time to support the environment and the local economy and explore the local culture. Degrowth has as an end goal to distribute equally the benefits of any tourism initiative within local communities in order to maximize human well-being for all stakeholders involved (Andriotis, 2018).

Despite the significant role degrowth can play in destination development and the fact that degrowth has a relatively old history and attracted a great deal of research interest by different established disciplines and traditional fields of study (mainly economics and ecology), it has rarely been examined from the perspective of tourism studies. Given the limited combined research on tourism and degrowth, it is the overall purpose of this special session to share the knowledge and research results on the emergent and increasingly important research paradigm of degrowth by looking at it as an alternative to the classic models of development and by exploring and applying the concept of degrowth in a tourism context.

References:

Andriotis, K. (in press) *Degrowth in Tourism: Conceptual, Theoretical and Philosophical Issues*. CABI.
Mayer, H. and Knox, P. L. (2009) Pace of life and quality of life: The slow city charter. *Community Quality of Life Indicators*, 1, 21-40.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

The special session will focus on a range of topics related to tourism and degrowth, including:

Degrowing Tourism
Low Carbon Travel
Limits to Growth
Steady State Economy
Social Movements
Simple Living and Volunteer Simplicity
Slow Tourism and Travel
Reduced Consumption / Dematerialization
Degrowth as a vehicle for Happiness, Improved Welfare and Quality of Life
Transition to a Degrowth Society/Economy
Transition Towns
Alternative Lifestyles
Antitourist Attitudes

SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

Abstracts of no more than 350 words should be submitted electronically by **May 15th, 2018** to Prof. Konstantinos Andriotis at: k.andriotis@mdx.ac.uk. Papers presented at the special session will be considered for publication in an edited book. For further enquiries regarding conference fees and program, recommended accommodation, and registration form, please visit the following website: <http://iatour.org>

TRIP TO SAMOTHRAKI

The organizers will provide information and/or arrange a trip to Samothraki, a destination being known as visited by degrowthers. For more information about Samothraki please visit: <http://sustainable-samothraki.net/the-island-2/sample-page/>