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**Evolutionary approaches in the economic geographies of tourism: State-of-the-art and
new avenues for research**

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In recent years, theories, concepts and approaches from the emerging field of evolutionary economic geography (EEG) (Boschma & Martin, 2010) have been transferred and applied to a tourism geography context (see Brouder et al., 2017 and Brouder 2014 for an overview). These contributions provide a vital push for the sub-field of the economic geography of tourism which usually is not so prominently represented in the community compared to other topics (e.g. geographies of knowledge and innovation, high-tech industries). We argue that evolutionary approaches can considerably enhance our understanding of crucial tourism research topics like the development of destinations or the networks of tourism businesses as tourism is a constantly evolving, highly dynamic and often volatile sector. For instance, EEG approaches can provide a more theoretically sound explanation for Butler's (1980) well-known destination area life cycle by referring to institutional and entrepreneurial elements such as lock-in and creative destruction instead of just the limits of destination carrying capacities.

This session aims to provide a forum to present and discuss the recent theoretical and empirical progress in the field and welcomes contributions, among others, on the following:

- Co-evolution in tourism
- Path-dependency, -creation and -plasticity in tourism destinations and enterprises
- Methodological considerations about the operationalization of EEG approaches in tourism research
- Critical discussions about the achieved progress and gained insights
- Insights for EEG approaches drawn from tourism
- Political economy implications for EEG and tourism

References

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- Brouder, P., Clavé, S. A., Gill, A., & Ioannides, D. (Eds.). (2017). *Tourism destination evolution*. Routledge.

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