Call for Papers for Sessions at the
Nordic Geographers Meeting, June 16-19, 2019 in Trondheim, Norway

Revisiting 30 years of sustainable tourism in the age of overtourism

Tourism is an industry that is a significant contributor to employment and is often regarded by government as integral to urban and rural regeneration strategies. However, it is also a major contributor to social, economic and environmental change, including climate change, for which it is responsible for between 5-8% of emissions. The problematic nature of tourism development has also become the subject of community backlash in many destinations as permanent residents oppose the loss of access to public space and facilities, impacts on housing affordability, or amenity impacts. These issues, also described as “overtourism”, has had only limited response from industry and policy makers who have usually framed such issues as a management problem. Yet such concerns are nothing new and have been integral to sustainable tourism discourse for the past 30 years since the term came into academic and policy fashion and have been the subject of research inquiry by tourism geographers for almost 50 years since the advent of mass tourism. Given that the problem of tourism sustainability shows no sign of abating this therefore clearly raises serious questions about the effects and utility of sustainable tourism research and the capacity of tourism ever to become sustainable.

Abstracts for papers to be presented at the conference are therefore invited for, but not limited to, the following:
• the contribution of geographical approaches to sustainable tourism
• sustainable tourism and policy learning
• destination planning and management
• the operationalisation of sustainable tourism by businesses and destinations
• alternative approaches to sustainable tourism
• carrying capacity approaches to tourism
• sustainable tourism and climate change adaptation and mitigation
• low carbon tourism and hospitality
• relationships between resilience and sustainable tourism
• limits to tourism growth
• the sustainability of tourism in wilderness areas
• sustainable tourism value chains
• sustainable tourism and neoliberalism
• inclusive tourism
• degrowing tourism
• visitor management strategies
• tourism and sustainable consumption
• tourism and sustainability science

Should there be sufficient papers of an appropriate quality further publishing opportunities will be explored.

Convenors
Prof. C. Michael Hall, University of Canterbury, New Zealand & Department of Geography, University of Oulu, Finland; and Prof. Jarkko Saarinen, Department of Geography, University of Oulu, Finland & School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

The deadline for abstracts is December 15, 2018. Convenors’ email addresses to which abstracts can be submitted: michael.hall@canterbury.ac.nz or jarkko.saarinen@oulu.fi

Confirmation of acceptance of abstracts will be by mid-January 2019 at the same time as registrations for the meeting open, see https://www.ntnu.edu/geography/ngm-2019
Second homes have been on the research agenda of tourism geographers since this field of research has been established. Not least within the Nordic countries tourism geographers have addressed second homes and contributed significantly with empirical studies and theoretical thinking. The great numbers of second homes in the Nordic countries, making it a domestic form of mass tourism and a folkloristic practice, also triggers this interest. However, increasingly second homes have become commodified, and today second homes can be investments for generating rental incomes and objects of property speculation, too. Moreover, even the role of second homes in the context of increasingly mobile societies has been changed and gives them a pivotal role in individual networks of mobilities, also blurring distinctions between home and away. Hence, second homes are not anymore a rural phenomenon only, but can also be seen as important element for the sustainable development of urban areas. Independent of location second homes have thus become an important though sometimes neglected issues for planning as well.

This sessions aims at continuing this Nordic tradition of second home research and it highlights various aspects of second homes and related mobilities. In this context, not least contributions aiming at synthesizing previous studies or addressing recently neglected issues related to second homes are welcomed particularly to this paper session.

Abstracts should be submitted to dieter.muller@umu.se
Designating seascapes as marine protected areas – new challenges for sustainable development goals.

Globally, marine protected areas (MPAs) are being established or discussed by governments and NGOs; including designations as National Marine Parks. The work with MPAs has been stated to be a priority with direct links to policy work such as UNs Convention on Biological Diversity, EUs Marine Directive and the EUs directive on Maritime Spatial Planning. Like their terrestrial counterparts, MPAs are based on an ecosystem approach with an aim to balance use and protection of marine resources. MPAs are new categorisations that require new planning and control, especially when it comes to visitor management. For instance, in Norway, visitor management in MPAs has proved challenging, as the current protected area management framework is built on experiences from mountain areas and therefore not adapted to marine conditions. In Sweden promotion of “Blue Growth” has put increasing emphasis on the use of MPAs for tourism and recreation, which in turn requires new thinking in terms of managing visitors and activities. In England, through the 21st Century Review of Designated Landscapes and the 25 Year Environment Plan, opportunities are being considered to see how ‘national park’ landscapes ‘can be further supported and enhanced to make sure the National Park family is strong and healthy for current and future generations’; potentially including new designations for marine protected areas or National Marine Parks.

Sustainable management needs constructive debates within environmental, political and economic geographies to meet the challenges of balancing conservation and access; to also protect local community interests; to what level economic growth? With this session, we want to engage discussions on the role of MPAs, with an emphasis on recreational and visitor management. Address opportunities and challenges as well as long and short-term experiences with MPAs and protected area management. We encourage examples from around the world from researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

Deadline for abstracts is 15th December 2018, please send to the convenors:

andreas.hansen@geography.gu.se or r.stones@exeter.ac.uk

Confirmation of acceptance of abstracts will be by 15th January 2019; registration opens mid-January at https://www.ntnu.edu/geography/ngm-2019