

Tourism Vulnerability, Sustainability and Resilience

Dr. Alan Fyall and Dr. Sergio Alvarez

Tourism is a global phenomenon that has grown exponentially since the **mid-1950s** with it underpinning the **economic**, **social** and **cultural** development of many countries around the world.

However, this growth has come at a **cost** for many destinations that have failed to grasp the **full impact** and **reach** of tourism development as ease of travel and connectivity is increasing at a far quicker rate than the **political** and **physical infrastructure** to support it.

Overtourism is becoming a major issue for cities across the globe



Tourism is becoming disruptive in several major cities around the world.

Image: REUTERS/Gary F. Jones



Or at least it was until
COVID-19 appeared in early
2020!

Over-tourism

- Tourism that has moved beyond the limits of acceptable change in a destination due to quantity of visitors, resulting in degradation of the environment and infrastructure, diminished travel experience, wear and tear on built heritage, and/or negative impacts on residents
(Center for Responsible Travel, 2018)

View from Academia

- The Limits to Growth (Meadows et al., **1972**)
- Tourism: Blessing or Blight (Young, **1973**)
- Tourism: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (Pulsipher & Rosenow, **1979**)
- O'Reilly, A. M. (**1986**). Tourism carrying capacity: concept and issues. *Tourism management*, 7(4), 254-258.
- McCool, S. F. (**1994**). Planning for sustainable nature dependent tourism development: the limits of acceptable change system. *Tourism recreation research*, 19(2), 51-55.
- Garrod, B., & Fyall, A. (**1998**). Beyond the rhetoric of sustainable tourism? *Tourism Management*, 19(3), 199-212.
- Over-tourism: issues, realities and solutions (Dodds & Butler, **2019**)

The challenge for industry is to implement sustainability!

Sustainability and Destination Management



Pergamon

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Beyond the rhetoric of sustainable tourism?

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Recent years have witnessed an upsurge of interest in the concept of sustainable tourism. For the most part, attention has focused on defining the concept. Authors have reasoned that in order to achieve sustainable tourism, a sound understanding must first be gained of what the concept means. This article does not take issue with this general approach, but nevertheless argues that the time has now come to move on from defining sustainable tourism, to begin to consider how it may best be implemented in practice. An approach based on the methodology of environmental economics is suggested as a possible way forward. © 1998 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved

Keywords: sustainable tourism, environmental economics, non-market valuation

The last decade has witnessed a growing recognition of the importance of the sustainability imperative in tourism. The emerging view is that the tourism sector, however one chooses to define it, can no

The transformation in academic views regarding the environmental relevance of tourism has been nothing short of a revolution. Whereas perhaps only ten years ago the tourism industry was generally

ARTICLES

Progress in tourism and destination wellbeing research

Heather Hartwell, Alan Fyall, Cheryl Willis, Stephen Page, Adele Ladkin & Ann Hemingway

Pages 1820-1862 | Received 15 May 2016 | Accepted 09 Aug 2016 | Published online 25 Aug 2016

Download citation | <https://doi.org/10.1080/13683509.2016.1222609> | [Check for updates](#)

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Citations

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Abstract

A proliferation of research in recent years has revealed a myriad of relationships between tourism and the concept of wellbeing. These include health benefits of visiting tourist destinations, a product focus on wellness and maintaining good health. Broader interpretations emphasize the complex ways in which tourism can influence the emotional, psychological, cognitive and spiritual dimensions of wellbeing, both for tourists and for destination communities. This study reflects an emerging paradigm shift that incorporates a deeper appreciation of the benefits derived at the destination level from a focus on health and wellbeing. The study highlights three key perspectives, namely the tourist, the destination community and the destination itself. The study concludes that research in this area is critical to the future development, management and marketing of sustainable and competitive destinations with the wellbeing of tourists, their destination host communities, and the overall destination experience, critical to their ultimate success.

Further

Progress

in

tourism



City of Orlando – Community Action Plan

Over time the sustainability agenda has morphed from a somewhat “abstract ideal” to a specific set of 17 “policy objectives” designed to meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world



Source: https://www.orlando.gov/files/sharedassets/public/departments/sustainability/2018_orlando_communityactionplan.pdf

Orange County

Sustainable Operations & Resilience Action Plan



Outcomes of the Action Plan include:

- Lead-by-example strategy to measure performance and become a top-ranked and recognized County in sustainability and resilience.
- Reduce infrastructure risks and operational costs to continue to fund critical programs and services.
- **Position Orange County for innovative grant funding opportunities and public-private partnerships.**
- Develop **data-driven goals** and recommended actions to enhance Orange County's sustainability and resilience programs

Source: https://www.ocfl.net/portals/0/Library/Board%20of%20County%20Commissioners/docs/1-19-21_OCFL%20Sustainable%20Operations%20Resilience_Action_Plan.pdf



Please join us for Workshop One –
Sustainability and Regeneration in Hospitality and Tourism
Thursday, Feb 4, 2021 | 1:00-2:00 p.m.

- **Jeff Benavides, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Orange County**
- **Jared Meyers, Chairman, Legacy Vacation Resorts, & Certified B Corporation**
- **Jenifer Rupert, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council**

What is sustainability and regeneration, what are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how may they shape the future of hospitality and tourism in Orange County? The workshop will provide an overview of the main themes of sustainability/regeneration, provide real examples of how they are impacting hospitality and tourism already, and the future external trends that are expediting the need for change across most industrial sectors but especially hospitality and tourism. In particular, the workshop will highlight existing structural weaknesses of the sector and identify how more sustainable “stakeholder” approaches can enable more shared prosperity and balanced growth by 2050.



Moderator: Dr. Alan Fyall, Assoc. Dean, Academic Affairs; Visit Orlando Endowed Chair of Tourism Marketing



Q & A platform via *Zoom Meetings*.
Pre-registration required:



<https://tinyurl.com/PREPConnechhttps://ucf.zoom.us/meeting/registre/tJlscempqzwiHdAa5DpzTsGYFh8yyN8rCutNtUCF>



**Rosen College of
Hospitality Management**

Destination Sustainability in Practice

Instructions for students:

The Sustainable Tourism – Measuring Impact assignment represents 10% of your course grade and offers you the opportunity to contribute to the development of suitable criteria for the sustainable development and management of destinations globally.

Working in collaboration with the Washington D.C. based Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and the Florida-based Blue Community Consortium (BCC), you are to collect credible, evidence-based data for one of seven destinations in Florida that are serving as a pilot study for a new app-based Assessment Tool that, if successful, will eventually be launched internationally. The Assessment Tool brings together criteria from both the GSTC and BCC and is presented in a format that is designed for: (1) destination self-assessment; (2) the facilitation of destination comparison and benchmarking; (3) evidence-based sustainable destination management; (4) all supported by Block chain technologies to authenticate and verify the data gathered.

The GSTC Destination Criteria are broken down into four key thematic areas (i.e. Sustainable Management, Socio-economic Sustainability, Cultural Sustainability, and Environmental Sustainability) and include performance indicators designed to provide guidance in measuring compliance with the criteria. Application of the criteria are designed to help destinations contribute towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Against each of the Criteria, one or more of the 17 SDGs is identified, to which it most closely relates.

The seven destinations featured in this pilot data collection project are as follows:

1. Petersburg
2. Orlando
3. Treasure Island
4. Pete Beach
5. Anna Maria
6. New Smyrna Beach
7. Key West



GSTC Destination Criteria

Version 2.0
6 December 2019

with
Performance Indicators and SDGs



Related Papers/Grants in Progress

- Panse, G., **Fyall, A.**, & **Alvarez, S.** (in press). Stakeholder views on sustainability in an urban destination context: An inclusive path to destination competitiveness. *International Journal of Tourism Cities*.
- **Brown, C.E.**, **Alvarez, S.**, Eluru, N., & **Huang, Y.** (in press). The Economic Impacts of Tropical Cyclones on a Mature Destination, Florida, USA. *Journal of Destination Marketing & Management*.
- **Fyall, A.**, Garrod, B., **Alvarez, S.**, & **Kurniawati, R.** (under review). Destination resilience: From abstract to action – a framework for destination implementation. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Management*.
- **Alvarez, S.**, **Bahja, F.**, & **Fyall, A.** (under review). Destination vulnerability: Time for a paradigmatic change in the management of destinations? *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Management*.
- **Bahja, F.**, **Fu, X.**, & **Alvarez, S.** (under review). Emerging Trends in Vulnerability Research of Hospitality and Tourism: A Bibliometric Analysis. *Tourism Management Perspectives*.
- Panse, G., **Fyall, A.**, **Alvarez, S.**, & **Huang, Y.** (in progress). Issues, challenges and opportunities in measuring and monitoring sustainable tourism: The urban destination context. *Tourism Management*.
- **NSF Submissions:**
 - UCF Seed Funding Program – Exploratory Research Award
 - NSF Smart & Connected Communities
 - NSF Methodology, Measurement and Statistics
 - NSF Science of Organizations
- **Alvarez, S.**, & O'Leary, H. (2020-2022) From Bloom to Bust: Estimating Economic Losses and Impacts of Florida Red Tide (*Karenia brevis*). NOAA-GCOOS.
- Emrich, C.T., **Alvarez, S.**, et al. (2019 – 2022) The New First Line of Defense: Building Community Resilience through Residential Risk Disclosure Resilience. *National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine – Gulf Research Program*.
- Wahl, T., Baggio, J., Emrich, C.T., & **Alvarez, S.** (2021) Influences of coupled natural-human systems on sea-level rise adaptation pathways for Florida. *UCF Office of Research*.

Energizing Failure!

- Summary Statement

The project is focusing on a relevant and yet under-researched problem. The project team definitely asks the right questions and I am confident that with the presented constellation of experiences and expertise they will achieve their aims. The project is challenging and therefore unique because it deals with the (still weak but present) effects of activities of organizations (DMOs) that are increasingly noticed in other fields (promotion) than in the ones that are analyzed and prospected in the project (benefit for the locals). I congratulate the research team for preparing such a valuable project and wish them success.

Resilience and Emergency Management



Chapter

Hurricane Irma and Cascading Impacts

*By Christopher T. Emrich, Sergio Alvarez, Claire Connolly
Knox, Abdul A. Sadiq, Yao Zhou*

Book [U.S. Emergency Management in the 21st Century](#)

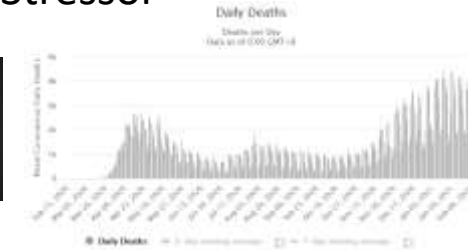
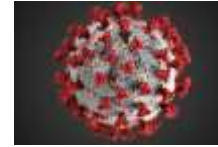
Edition	1st Edition
First Published	2019
Imprint	Routledge
Pages	31
eBook ISBN	9780429424670

Shock



HAZARDS

Stressor



Direct Impacts



Cascading Impacts



Six months after Hurricane Irma, Florida Keys residents still scrambling for affordable housing

Allen Gomez USA TODAY

Florida Keys Housing Crisis Continues Eighteen Months After Hurricane Irma

Florida Keys Community Land Trust Proposed as a Solution to PBO Segment



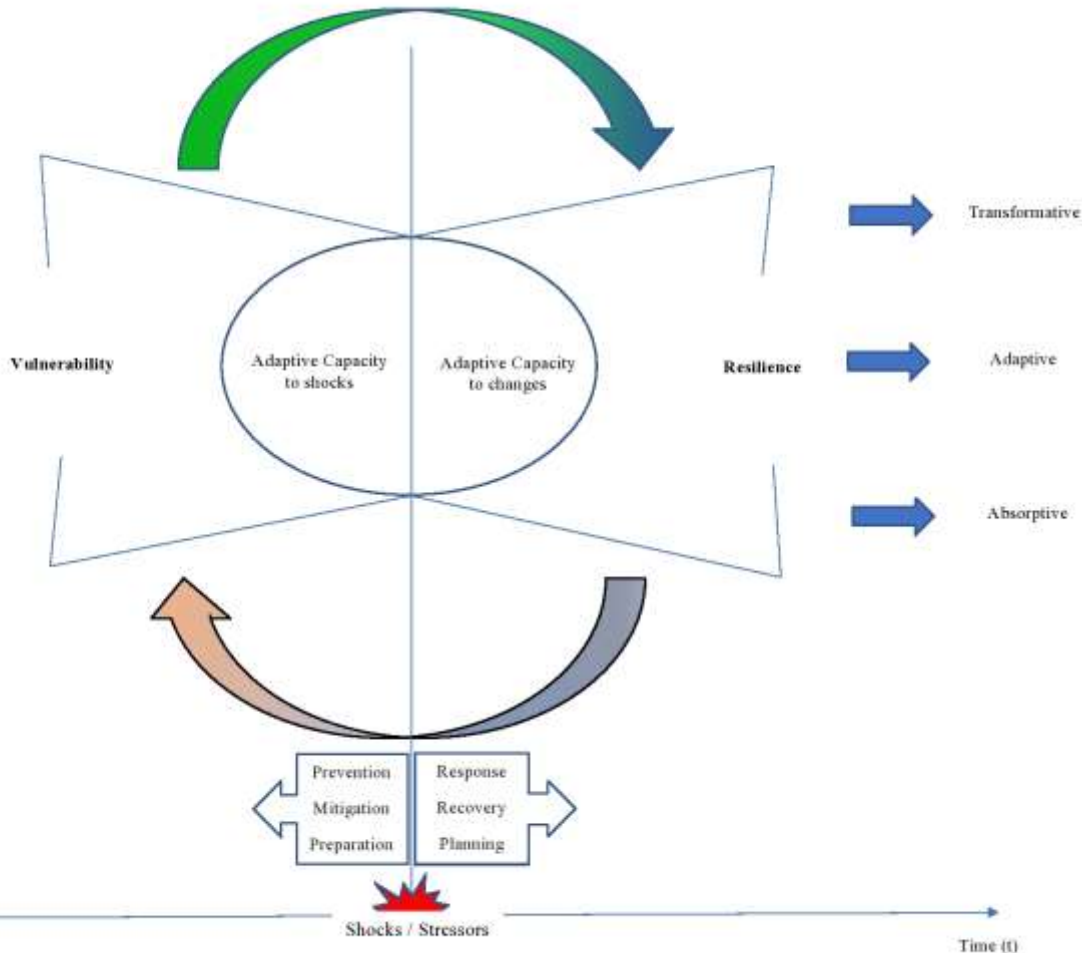
COVID's housing crisis: evictions resume, foreclosures loom

COVID's economic crisis is impacting Florida housing market, easing a wave of evictions that could soon develop into a foreclosure crisis ...

WFTV Orlando

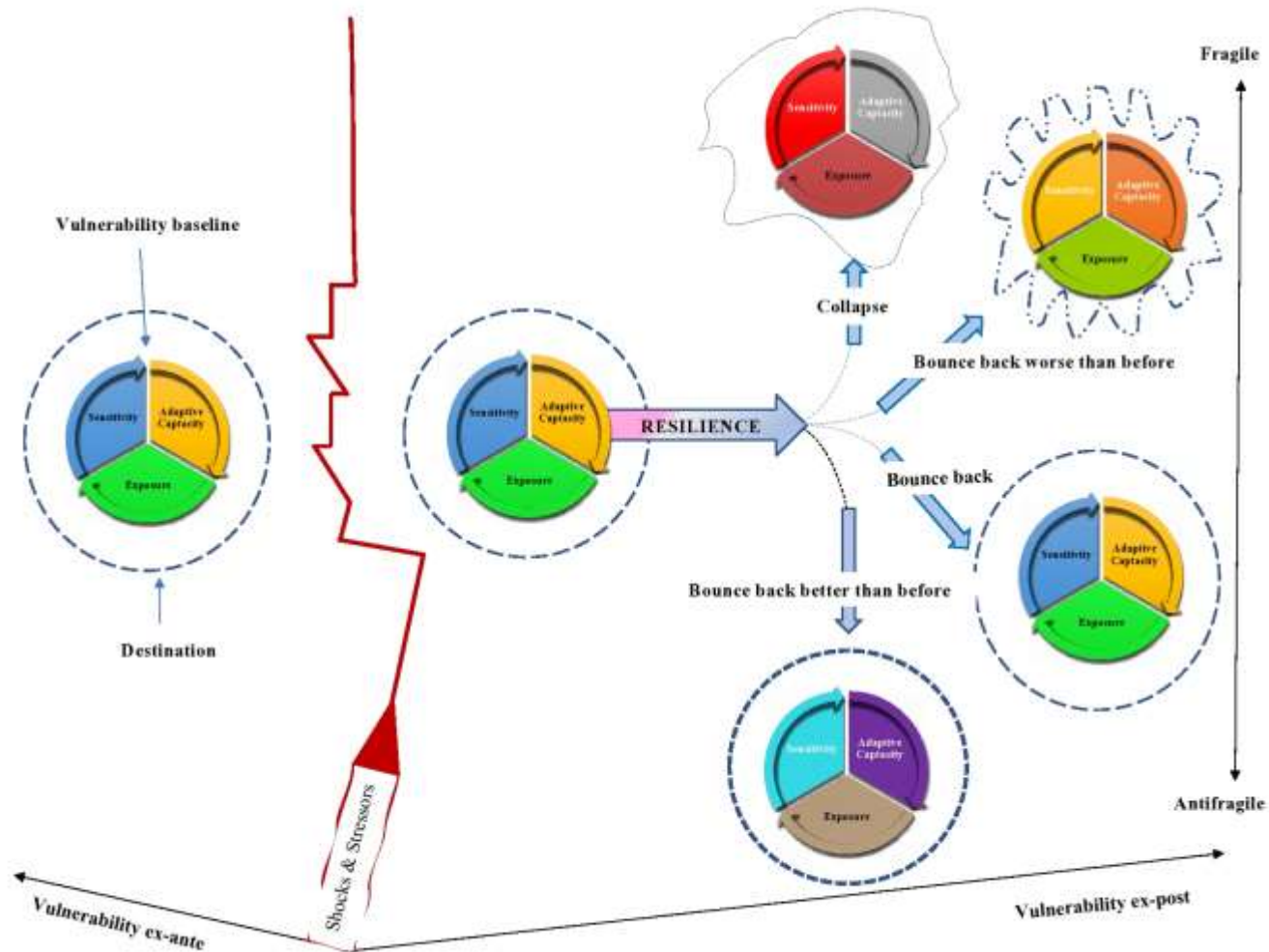
There's nowhere for them to go: Central Floridians on brink of homelessness as pandemic worsens affordable h

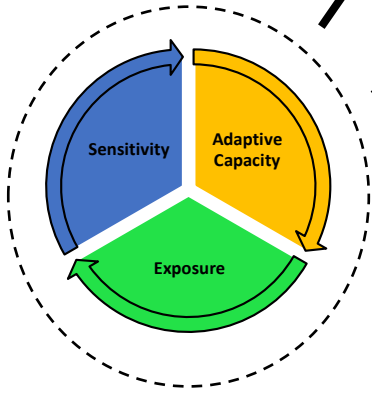
READ: New affordable housing trend comes to Central Florida ... made before COVID-19 can stir happen as more people live on the bubble of



Vulnerability is the degree to which a system is susceptible to and unable to cope with a shock/stressor. It is a product of the interaction between exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity.

Resilience is the ability of a system to resist, recover, and adapt from hazards by preserving and recuperating its function.





Destination
as a system

Physical vulnerability arises due to human introduction of societal assets into areas exposed to natural and man-made hazards.

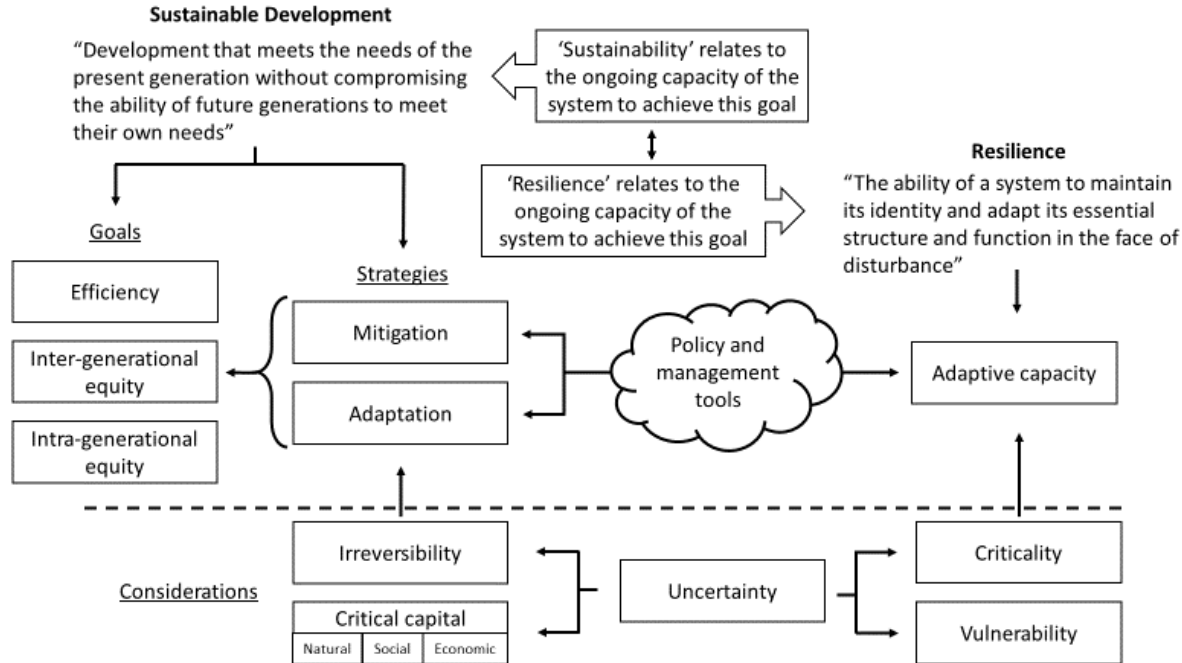
Social-cultural vulnerability refers to the differential susceptibility and adaptive capacity of individuals or groups based on social, economic, demographic, and political factors.

Economic vulnerability is the differential susceptibility and adaptive capacity to the speed of both market and technological change.

Environmental/Ecological vulnerability is the differential amount of stress that anthropogenic activities at the destination (and beyond) are exerting on ecosystems and the environment at the destination.

Institutional vulnerability has a strong influence on preparedness, response, and recovery during hazards, and is inherently linked to adaptive capacity in the other dimensions

Adaptive Policies and Management Tools for Sustainable and Resilient Destinations



- How do the often rigid functions and structures evident across destinations complement the flexibility and systems-paradigm needed to accommodate resilience; where is the most appropriate “home” for resilience planning and what governance levels and structures are deemed suitable?
- How best can destinations adapt equally to “slow” change as evident with climate change as at the same time navigate the more urgent “fast” demands of economic, political and terrorist-related crises?
- Both require innovation, adaptation and structural transformation.
- Destinations need to accept the breadth of their ecosystem and plan accordingly by accepting the systemic vulnerabilities that exist and build adaptive capacity into their own systems and capital stock; be it natural, social or economic.

Panse, G., Fyall, A., & Alvarez, S. (in press). Stakeholder views on sustainability in an urban destination context: An inclusive path to destination competitiveness. *International Journal of Tourism Cities*.

- This paper critically reviews the emerging debate on sustainable urban tourism, its complexities and challenges, and questions how urban destinations that are striving to become sustainable cities, can leverage benefit from the implementation of sustainable policies and practices to achieve tourism 'destination' competitiveness.

Miller et al. (2015) argue that this bias ignores the reality and popularity of urban forms of tourism with the complexity and dynamism of tourism and urbanity inhibiting the adoption of more sustainable forms of urban tourism (Aall & Koens, 2019).

- To begin to address this imbalance of studies, this study:
 - Reviews the emerging debate on urban tourism sustainability and its relationship to the broader debate on sustainability and sustainable tourism;
 - Critiques the emergence of sustainable cities and the policies and practices implemented to achieve more effective forms of sustainable development and living;
 - Evaluates the sustainability views of urban destination stakeholders and the means by which they believe sustainability policies and practices can be leveraged to enhance the overall competitiveness of the destination;
 - Concludes with lessons for urban destinations and the wider academic community as to the benefits and potential limitations of more sustainable approaches to urban tourism.

Study Outcomes

- Stakeholder engagement and buy in to destination goals and priorities;
- Adoption of an inclusive and holistic definition of sustainability albeit with a historical dependency on environmental sustainability;
- A destination “region” rather than “city”-centric focus due to the interconnected nature of urban systems and the dynamics and flows of urban tourism;
- Sensitivity to other “local” pressures and priorities with tourism one of the more sensitive urban functions as evident with over-tourism;
- Patience and tolerance in goal setting required rather than a head-strong mono-agenda;
- Recruitment and retention of sustainability champions with “people” being the most underrated resource endowment for the deployment of effective sustainability policies and practices.

Study Conclusions

- This study confirms that urban destinations need to be viewed in their broader regional context, with sustainability being driven by cost (energy saving), and individual and collective values (changing patterns of behavior).
- Rather than be viewed solely as destinations that are 'kind to the environment', sustainable urban destinations need to demonstrate a deeper commitment to all stakeholder groups, and especially local residents, in order to provide a fair and desirable ecosystem for achievement of the UN SDGs.
- This then will provide the platform for sustainability to truly contribute to future destination competitiveness.
- ... ongoing submissions to the NSF for tourism, resident impacts, well-being and quality of life and the re-orientation of DMO organization and agenda-setting