

# Session F1

## **Economic Growth Versus Sustainable Development in Tourism—Exploring Rival Paradigms and Tourism Resilience - Tanja Mihalic**

The influence of sustainable development as a fundamental ideology has redefined economic, ecological (socio-cultural and environmental) and socio-political interests in contemporary societies. Originally emerging as a reaction to the negative ecological consequences of neoliberal economic development in the 1960s, sustainable development gained momentum with the publication of the United Nations' "Our Common Future" (WCED, 1987) and subsequently evolved into the dominant paradigm of sustainable development (UNESCO, 2012). This paradigm incorporates ecological (socio-cultural and environmental) considerations into economic thinking and envisions a new world for humans that balances the economic and ecological environments while respecting the rights, interests and motivations of all environments and stakeholders.

The principles of sustainable development have been extended to the tourism community (Bramwell & Lane, 2015; Moyle et al., 2021) with the aim of “making all tourism more sustainable” (UNEP&WTO, 2005, p. 11). Thus, sustainable tourism, synonymous with sustainable tourism development, has established itself as a paradigm specific to the tourism industry. Nonetheless, the tourism industry's unwavering focus on traditional economics and financial returns, as reflected in day-to-day business and policy metrics (Costa et al., 2022), remains a challenge. These metrics focus on the number of tourists, spending and the impact on national income. The pursuit of a holistic and balanced approach between the economic and ecological (socio-cultural and environmental) dimensions of sustainable tourism development remains elusive and at times questionable (Higgins-Desbiolles, 2010). This ambiguity also extends to the theoretical ideas surrounding the economic and ecological principles of sustainability, as well as the approaches and strategies for implementing sustainability.

This paper explores the intricate link between economics and ecology within the broader study of tourism paradigms (Tribe, Dann, Jamal, 2015). It critically examines the existence and resilience of sustainable tourism while identifying potential competitors that hinder the progressive implementation of economically and ecologically sustainable development (Dwyer, 2018), particularly from the perspective of economic growth hegemony.

By examining research documents on the Web of Science and using CiteSpace cluster bibliographic mapping, the diverse landscape of tourism paradigms was uncovered. It sheds light on their traditional economic dimension and reveals their dual nature — both complementary and antagonistic to sustainable tourism and its values. The deeply rooted values, motives and principles of the old neoliberal paradigm of economic growth emerge as serious rivals to the prevailing sustainability paradigm, alongside potential new paradigms and quasi-paradigms. Furthermore, the study highlights the paradigmatic internal asymmetry between the economic motives of shareholders and the ecological considerations of other stakeholders, which poses a challenge to the effective functioning of all dimensions of sustainable tourism and economic policy.

This paper aims to enrich the discourse by providing nuanced yet holistic insights into the coexistence, conflicts and potential solutions within the intricate interplay of the ongoing economic and sustainable tourism dimensions and paradigms.

## **Tourism Post Covid19 Recovery in French Regions - Yvan Tegui**

The tourism industry is a major source of economic development for many of the world's countries. Indeed, at different scales, most of them enjoy the economic benefits of this industry. It permanently brings together several economic sectors: transport, accommodation, catering, leisure and entertainment, not forgetting other niche sectors that are part and parcel of specialty tourism. In contrast, The Covid19 pandemic that appeared in Europe in the early 2020s has had a major impact on all industrial dynamics, including those related to tourism. In order to monitor the recovery, we have developed an index based on conditions in the accommodation sector. The aim of our article is twofold. On the one hand, we wish to examine the impact of the health crisis on the dynamics of the tourism industry; and, on the other, to analyze the levels of post-pandemic recovery in the various regions of metropolitan France. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no similar study in the literature and our article fills this gap by investigating this unexplored path of research. For the purposes of this paper, we follow the method applied by Yang yang et al (2021) with a few modifications. Firstly, we used monthly rather than daily data. We then defined a frame of reference outside the Covid19 pandemic and this stage allowed us to extract a value for each of our indicators. On the basis of this method, we collect data of overnight stays in hotels, campsite and in community accommodation to be as close as possible of the real accommodation dynamics. The main results firstly revealed an overall fluctuation in post-covid19 tourism activity levels, with a series of rises and falls in the various indicators at different dates and notably due to various containments introduced in France. The results then showed the preponderance of domestic tourism in the recovery of regional tourism activities in France. And finally, observations of accommodation indicators in August 2022 show that, by this date, tourism activity has almost returned to the levels expected in 2020.

## **How Important Is Tourism for Growth? - Maurizio Mussoni, Theodore Panagiotidis and Georgios Voucharas**

We revisit the tourism-led growth hypothesis by utilising a panel set of 108 countries over the period 1996–2017. We quantify the effects of tourism on the entire conditional distribution of economic growth for both relatively poor and relatively rich countries within a panel quantile regression framework. We address the unobserved heterogeneity and potential endogeneity concerns. We reveal that the lower the conditional growth rate a country experiences the more important is tourism development for the conditional growth distribution for both developing and developed countries. The size of the effect in developed countries is twice as high as in developing ones. On the other hand, tourism specialisation is beneficial only at higher quantiles of the conditional growth distribution and only for developed countries. On the contrary, it brings about an undesirable effect in developing countries. Finally, we examine the impact of a reduction in tourism activity on economic growth due to an exogenous shock (i.e., COVID-19). Simulation analysis based on the quantile regression estimates shows that countries facing relatively low growth rates conditionally to the growth distribution are affected the most. Policymakers may consider the importance of tourism activity in the growth process and formulate strategies that align with the growth experience of each country.