

Session H2

A Meta-Regression Analysis of Sustainable Values - Jaime Blazquez Valeron, Eugenio Diaz-Fariña and Carmelo León González

Sustainable tourism has gained significant interest, but more cohesive research knowledge on tourists' willingness to pay (WTP) is needed. This investigation provides a unique and comprehensive synthesis of tourists' WTP for sustainable attributes. This article weaves the conceptual foundations of tourism with the social and natural sciences, constituting a crucial path toward a more nuanced understanding of sustainable tourism. This study conducts a systematic review and meta-regression analysis to synthesize evidence on marginal willingness to pay for sustainable attributes based on 47 discrete choice (DCE) papers. The findings reveal that tourists are more inclined to pay for sustainable product features related to nature, the environment, and local communities. The study also delves into tourism practices and highlights possible ways to mitigate the impact on daily life in tourist areas. WTP estimates increase with more attributes and larger samples, while payment vehicles and sustainability status of attributes significantly influence willingness to pay. These findings provide novel evidence to guide research design and highlight sustainable features that align with tourists' preferences. This meta-regression equips tourism academics and professionals with crucial knowledge to promote sustainability by incorporating it into offerings with demonstrated consumer value. Furthermore, this work advocates for methodological standardization in DCE studies within sustainable tourism, a step towards enhancing the comparability and reliability of research outcomes. As the constantly evolving nature of tourism demands a re-evaluation of existing paradigms, this timely meta-regression offers novel approaches, concepts, and frameworks to drive new research, models, and practices.

Which tourists are better for achieving green boutiques? Evidence from Slovenia and its tourism seasonality - Tina Segota and Nejc Pozvek

Seasonality was proven difficult to tackle, and the post-COVID-19 period was not looking bright, with media reporting on exceeding record-breaking tourism numbers of the pre-pandemic times. Such is the case with Slovenian tourism, which was reported to have a strong seasonal character (Mihalič, 2011; Šegota & Mihalič, 2018). However, not all tourists equally add to its high tourist seasonality – there might be markets that are prone to visitations outside the peak season, or accommodation facilities that are less seasonal and thus have the ability to welcome tourists in off-the-peak time, or even some regions with specific tourism products that help in geographical dispersal of tourists.

But little is known about all of these, and we are left to speculate on which markets or promotional activities would be best fit for mitigating Slovenian seasonality. Hence, to study the effect of different tourism markets on the annual level of seasonal concentration in Slovenia, we will employ the decomposition of the Gini index and the calculation of the relative marginal effect (Fernandez-Morales & Mayorga-Toledano, 2008; Šegota & Mihalič, 2018). The data will be obtained from the monthly survey of tourist activities drawn by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS) from 2014 to 2023. The data will include information on accommodation capacity, number of arrivals, and overnight stays of domestic and international tourists and will be further diversified by the accommodation type, such as hotels, camps, and other accommodations (i.e., private housing).

The growth-inequality-poverty triangle: Leveraging the IGTI Framework - Robertico Croes and Manuel Vanegas Sr.

The dilemma of development revolves around the intertwined aspects of economic growth and the equitable distribution of its benefits. This predicament manifests itself as perverse and persistent inequality and poverty. This coexistence is particularly pronounced in developing nations, and the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored its relevance in development economics. While the tourism economics domain has explored the correlation between tourism-driven development and economic growth, the nexus with inequality and poverty has been sporadically examined.

This study comprehensively scrutinizes economic growth, inequality, and poverty triad. Our argument posits that the perplexity arises from the interplay between strategic decisions made by the dominant economic sector and the intensity of inequality within a country. Building upon the economic theories articulated by Kaldor and Kakwani, especially pertinent for economically constrained developing nations, our research extends Kakwani's Inequality-growth trade-off Index (IGTI) methodology developed in 1993 and 2000. We understand that the trade-off between economic growth exists and that inequality is crucial for poverty reduction.

In contrast to conventional cross-sectional and panel approaches, our study focuses on three developing countries in the CAFTA-DR region—Costa Rica (CR), Dominican Republic (DR), and Guatemala (GU)—utilizing a sector-specific lens within each country. Acknowledging the diverse impacts of different sectors on poverty reduction, our approach employs the Auto Regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) bounds testing methodology to address four pivotal questions: 1) How does inequality influence the impact of sectoral income on extreme poverty? 2) What is the magnitude of the trade-off between sectoral income growth and inequality? 3) What is the enduring relationship between sectoral income, extreme poverty, and inequality? 4) What is the policy message emanating from the magnitude of the trade-off between sectoral income growth and inequality?

The study utilizes official statistics and country-specific poverty thresholds, engaging with debates surrounding poverty measurement in developing contexts. Three hypotheses are posited: 1) A correlation exists between inequality, economic growth, and their impact on poverty. 2) Inequality weakens the influence of economic growth on poverty. 3) Certain economic sectors demonstrate greater effectiveness in poverty alleviation.

The findings reveal that the effects of economic growth and inequality on poverty vary across countries. The study underscores the significance of income growth and equitable income distribution in poverty reduction efforts, operating at both sectoral and economy-wide scales. However, manufacturing impact on poverty is meager but is statistically insignificant across the three countries. A more equitable income distribution can facilitate income growth, while high inequality can impede it. However, the initial level of inequality does not seem to impact the rate of extreme poverty reduction significantly. Notably, across the studied countries, tourism is the most important in reducing poverty compared to agriculture and manufacturing.