



Book of Abstracts

CTR Research Forum 2020

November 13, 2020

Published by:

Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University, Japan

Contents

Presentations from CTR Research Support Programs

- Basic research of space and astronomy education in general including tourism p. 3
TOMITA Akihiko, OKYUDO Masami, AKIYAMA Hiroaki
- Distilling the ritual tacit values from digital transformation in regional promotion p. 4
KIGAWA Tsuyoshi, OI Tatsuo
- Exploring the opportunities for enhancing sister city relationships in a post pandemic world: Lessons from the past crises and disasters p. 5
NAGAI Hayato, UEHARA Fumiko, YASHIMA Yuji

Graduate Research Session

- COVID-19: The Global tourism disruptor against Indonesia's resilience p. 6
TIRTAATMADJA Raffael
- Tourism impact on revival and transformation of religious hospitality(Osettai) An ethnographic study at Choishi-michi pilgrimage way, Japan p. 7
YANATA Kaori
- Men's perception of shifting gender roles in the Siwa Oasis: Tourism, tradition, masculinity p. 8
SHAFIEK, Mina Kamal Asham

Presentations by CTR Full-time Researchers

- COVID-19 pandemic impact on religious travel: The case of Kōyasan's temple stays p. 9
PROGANO, Ricardo Nicolas
- COVID-19, tourism recovery, tourism futures, tourism geographies p. 10
CHEER, Joseph M.

Basic research of space and astronomy education in general including tourism

TOMITA Akihiko *

Faculty of Education, Wakayama University

OKYUDO Masami *

Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University

AKIYAMA Hiroaki *

Center for Education and Research of Disaster Science, Wakayama University

Abstract

In the emerging era of space travel, we, space and mobility group, study and practice related space education and astronomy education. We investigate astro-tourism in the broad sense, including natural phenomena related to the universe such as solar eclipse and aurora, and geo-tourism for the earth as a planet. We are looking for the international network and collaboration in these fields. The aims of our project are to propose a model and a view for the space travel, and to contribute to the sustainable development, by investigating space/astro/geo-tourism from various points of view; industry, technology, education, outreach, international collaboration, natural environment, culture, daily life, and religion, crossing over any borders. As a series of the annual symposium, we have discussed the space experience with the invited speaker of an astronaut in the academic year of 2016, the use of space environment with the invited speaker of a space business consultant in 2017, the communicating the universe and the space with the public with the invited speaker of a space talent in 2018, and the space travel era with invited speaker of a future space traveler in 2019. In the academic year of 2020, we plan to have the 5th symposium on Sunday 24 January 2021 at Daigoji Temple, the World Heritage in Kyoto City, with the theme, "Space, Tourism, and Religion."

Keywords:

Space travel, space tourism, astro-tourism, geo-tourism

*CTR researchers

Distilling the ritual tacit values from Digital Transformation in regional promotion

KIGAWA Tsuyoshi *

Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University

OI Tatsuo *

Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University

Abstract

This study analyzes how regional cities have been transformed by means of modern urban planning and explores the possibility of considering the estrangement between the efficiency of mobility and the historical attachments of the residents. It is assumed that the shape of the city based on such an emotional attachment will have a significant impact on tourism especially in rural areas. This is a tacit knowledge that is difficult to be calculated by means of data science, including AI. Therefore, it is necessary to read and analyze the mechanism of this tacit knowledge with data, which we will use in the future. For this study, a preliminary survey was conducted in Okayama City, Niihama City and Yoron Town as a case study. In each area, we found that the location of the station buildings in the area was not reasonable from the viewpoint of Space Syntax Analysis. This implies that foreign travelers might have difficulty to possess the sense of location. From this preliminary study, it turns out that the Shikoku city of Niihama, in particular, is an interesting example. In this presentation, we will explain why Niihama is an interesting example, and present the interim results of this study.

Keywords:

Space Syntax, Shikoku, Niihama, Ritual Tacit Values, Attachments of residents

*CTR researchers

**Inter-city cooperation as a means of recovering regional tourism
from the COVID-19 pandemic**

NAGAI Hayato *

Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University

UEHARA Fumiko *

Faculty of Policy Studies, Iwate Prefectural University

Visiting Fellow, Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University

YASHIMA Yuji *

Faculty of Tourism, Wakayama University

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted international mobility, and tourism is one of the most affected industries in the world. Japan received a record number of around 31.9 million inbound tourists in 2019, and the country was aiming to receive 40 million tourists in 2020, the year that Tokyo was expected to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. As it is experiencing an aging society and population decline, tourism is now seen as an important pillar of Japan's economic growth strategy. Recovering its international tourism is therefore crucial when the travel restrictions are eased. The current project thus focuses on inter-city cooperation, such as sister-city arrangements, and explores its capability to encourage the recovery of regional tourism from the pandemic. According to the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, as of November 1st, 2020, 844 municipalities (cities, towns, villages, and special wards) have international sister-city arrangements, which represent nearly half of the municipalities in the country. Using these arrangements, activities such as cultural and youth exchange programs and trade promotions were carried out across Japan. However, limited research attention has been given to their actual and potential contributions to tourism development. This presentation first provides an overview of Japan's current tourism situation, sister-city arrangements, and other grassroots relations. The presentation then outlines a research project, which has been supported as a two-year project (FY2020-2021) by Wakayama University's Center for Tourism Research. As the research project is in its early phase, the expected contributions of the project are also discussed, including how existing inter-city relations can aid tourism development in a post-COVID-19 world.

Keywords:

COVID-19, inter-city cooperation, Japan, sister city

*CTR researchers

COVID-19: The global tourism disruptor against Indonesia's resilience

TIRTAATMADJA Raffael

Graduate School of Tourism, Wakayama University

Abstract

COVID-19 has become one of the deadliest diseases of the year. Its' highly infectious nature has forced many countries and regions to close their borders. As a result, many businesses experience the worst crisis ever, and the tourism industry is no exception. Tourism is one of the most unique and complex industry which has numerous intersecting stakeholders, from airlines to street vendors, from catering companies to media. As the world healing itself, tourism industry sees only grim future ahead as many stakeholders are impatiently waiting for a phase where businesses can resume its operation by taking into account the potential for virus transmission in the process. With more than 17,000 islands across the archipelago, hundreds of dialects, and numerous unique cultures to showcase, tourism contributes 5.5% of Indonesia total GDP and provides at least 13 million jobs for its people before COVID-19 hit the country severely. International borders have been shut since early March and due to heavy reliance on international tourist, border opening will determine the tourism recovery and future direction. As there are limited researches related with pandemic in Indonesia previously, the aim of this study is to investigate Indonesian tourism stakeholders' understanding of the risk assessment and business restarting during the pandemic along with the risk mitigation activities employed. This study will analyze qualitative data collected from various stakeholders including government officials, academia and tourism-related business practitioners. Secondary sources such as newspaper articles and online media are also consulted in this study. The study is expected to obtain perspective of business operators and their capacity to implement cleanliness, health and safety (CHS) protocol to develop safety strategies and formulate policy recommendation. Also, it will extend existing understanding of risk management among Indonesia tourism stakeholders, an area of inquiry that has been relatively under-studied in the literature.

Keywords:

COVID-19 pandemic, border opening, decision making, risk assessment, CHS, Indonesia

**Tourism impact on revival and transformation of religious hospitality(Osettai)
An ethnographic study at Choishi-michi pilgrimage way, Japan**

YANATA Kaori

Graduate School of Tourism, Wakayama University

Abstract

The recent increasing popularity of walking pilgrimage has brought back the interaction between pilgrims and residents along the pilgrimage routes. While there is a great deal of research on the walking pilgrims themselves, there is still a lack of research on what kind of hospitality is provided by communities that host walking pilgrims. In the Japanese context, such religious hospitality is called Osettai where people provide offerings to pilgrims in return for spiritual reward. The aim of this research is to examine how meanings and experiences of Osettai has changed over the century and how the role of tourism is playing in the current transformation of Osettai at Kyoraji district along the pilgrimage route to a Shingon Buddhist site, Koyasan in Wakayama prefecture, Japan. As a result of ethnographic survey, the research reveals that Osettai is changing with the transformation of place and time from what was economic-religious exchange before 1925 to economic exchange and to cultural exchange now. It also shows while tourism plays an important role to revive Osettai, the commercialization of Osettai has a structural risk that Osettai may be misunderstood a service for the price. However, Osettai revived under the coronavirus pandemic confirms it is not revived for money but for cultural exchange with spirits of voluntary mind, gift giving, worshipping Kukai, and gratitude for religious practices. The research adds the meanings of religious hospitality by residents on the walking pilgrimage literatures.

Keywords:

Walking pilgrimage, Osettai, religious hospitality, tourism impact

**Men's perception of shifting gender roles in the Siwa Oasis:
Tourism, tradition, masculinity**

SHAFIEK, Mina Kamal Asham

Graduate School of Tourism, Wakayama University

Abstract

Tourism in Egypt has a long history. Starting from the 1880s Cook & Son Company promoted Egypt as a tourist destination. For many decades the Nile River became the only attraction for tourists to watch to see the ancient wonders that Egypt has to offer. However, since the eighties of last century the Egyptian government recognized the importance of tourism for the national economy and started developing new destinations. Western desert including Siwa oasis was part of the tourism developing policy. This article examines the shifting gender roles in rural Egypt by studying how tourism development affected men's perceptions of gender relations. Farming, which used to be the main job of Siwa Oasis men, is in the process of being replaced by new types of work carried by tourism. Some of these jobs are based on the commodification of natural and cultural resources of the Siwa Oasis and others are brought to the oasis by urbanization. Tourism also offered women a chance to work in handcrafts and earn money which was not exist before. This study investigates how the introduction of tourism contributes to the shifting gender relations in a minority community in Egypt by exploring men's perception of working women. The findings show perceived changes in gender roles however these changes are still limited by the nature of the space and Islamic tradition.

Keywords:

Tourism development, Middle East and North Africa, Minorities, Gender roles, Masculinity

COVID-19 pandemic impact on religious travel: The case of Kōyasan's temple stays

PROGANO, Ricardo Nicolas *

Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University

Abstract

The current COVID-19 pandemic had an important impact on worldwide religious travel, and the performance of both visitors and religious figures. The present study presents the case study of the Buddhist temple stays of Kōyasan, Wakayama prefecture (Japan). The postwar economic development increased the number of domestic visitors to this sacred site, who stayed the night utilizing temple stays services (*shukubō* - 宿坊). The 2004 inscription of Kōyasan as a UNESCO World Heritage site further increased its popularity among overseas tourists as well (Matsunaga, 2014). Nowadays, 52 temples offer *shukubō* services, providing 6,185 out of a total of 6,242 beds at the destination. The temples' tangible and intangible heritage constitute the main travel motivation of visitors as well (Wakayama Tourism Agency, 2020). Therefore, it can be observed that religious-related heritage constitutes a tourism resource of immense importance for the local tourism development. The COVID-19, however, severely halted Kōyasan's tourism development, as both domestic and international visitors began to restrain their travels. Also, different rituals, events and religious festivities had to be altered or cancelled to curb the expansion of the pandemic crisis. Utilizing Faulkner's tourism disaster management framework (2001), this research aims to discuss the impacts on the temple stays and later countermeasures through the case study of Kōyasan. As an ongoing project, the presentation is based on preliminary data obtained from the main tourism stakeholders: the Kōyasan Town Tourism Association, the Kōyasan Shukubō Association, the Kōyasan Tourism Information Center (the local Destination Management Organization) and Kongōbu-ji (the head temple of the Kōyasan Shingon Buddhism branch). Data obtained from interviews done with *shukubō* temples is presented as well.

Keywords:

Religious tourism; COVID-19; Japan; disaster management; temple stay

*CTR researchers

COVID-19, tourism recovery, tourism futures, tourism geographies**CHEER, Joseph M. ***

Center for Tourism Research, Wakayama University

Abstract

There is little doubt that the coronavirus pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the global tourism industry. From an all time high of around 1.5 billion international visitor arrivals at the end of 2019, tourist traffic has plummeted leaving destination tourism economies in tatters. In much the same way, tourism dependent communities have suffered immeasurably with job losses, furloughs and business shutdowns. For some, the pandemic is seen as an opportunity to take stock, and review what they argue has been an unsustainable tourism industry, existing beyond its means. Conversely, others bemoan that the economic costs of tourism industry contraction will be devastating and that the discovery of a vaccine will ensure a rapid recovery for depressed tourism economies. In this paper, I draw from a recent special issue in the journal *Tourism Geographies*, synthesizing some of the emerging themes from around the globe. Additionally, I integrate wider unfolding discourses that center on the nature of any likely recovery for the tourism sector.

Some of the key questions appraised include:

1. What are the emergent themes as evidenced from recent published research?
2. What are the implications for tourism practice going forward?
3. What are the implications for tourism research?

Keywords:

COVID-19, Tourism Recovery, Tourism Futures, Tourism Geographies

*CTR researchers



Wakayama University
Center for Tourism Research