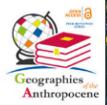
HUMAN MOBILITY, MIGRATION & TOURISM IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

Gian Luigi Corinto, Glen Farrugia (Editors)

Foreword by Geoffrey Lipman





Human Mobility, Migration and Tourism in the Anthropocene

Gian Luigi Corinto, Glen Farrugia Editors





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The book series "Geographies of the Anthropocene" edited by the Scientific International Publisher "Il Sileno" (Il Sileno Edizioni) will discuss the new processes of the Anthropocene epoch through the various worldviews of geoscientists and humanists, intersecting disciplines of Geosciences, Geography, Geoethics, Philosophy, Socio-Anthropology, Sociology of Environment and Territory, Psychology, Economics, Environmental Humanities and cognate disciplines.

Geoethics focuses on how scientists (natural and social), arts and humanities scholars working in tandem can become more aware of their ethical responsibilities to guide society on matters related to public safety in the face of natural hazards, sustainable use of resources, climate change and protection of the environment. Furthermore, the integrated and multiple perspectives of the Environmental Humanities, can help to more fully understand the cultures of, and the cultures which frame the Anthropocene. Indeed, the focus of Geoethics and Environmental Humanities research, that is, the analysis of the way humans think and act for the purpose of advising and suggesting appropriate behaviors where human activities interact with the geosphere, is dialectically linked to the complex concept of Anthropocene.

The book series "Geographies of the Anthropocene" publishes online volumes, both collective volumes and monographs, which are set in the perspective of providing reflections, work materials and experimentation in the fields of research and education about the new geographies of the Anthropocene.

"Geographies of the Anthropocene" encourages proposals that address one or more themes, including case studies, but welcome all volumes related to the interdisciplinary context of the Anthropocene. Published volumes are subject to a review process (double blind peer review) to ensure their scientific rigor.

The volume proposals can be presented in English, Italian, French or Spanish.

The choice of digital Open Access format is coherent with the flexible structure of the series, in order to facilitate the direct accessibility and usability by both authors and readers.

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Foreword

Geoffrey Lipman¹

This is not a book for the casual reader. It is written by academics for academics and most importantly for their students. There is much for them to contemplate.

It opens the mind to the immense power of Travel & Tourism as a driver of socio-economic change. To its place as somewhat unique modern day phenomenon in an increasingly mobile and wired world. It highlights its contribution at the local as well as the global level. It also underscores the importance of the relatively recent shift to sustainable and responsible tourism to give a positive future vision for the sector.

In a series of worldwide, in depth, case studies, of a broad range of typical and topical tourism issues, it gives a very readable snapshot of the diverse impacts of the sector and its sub-components on modern society. These range across the geographic and sociological spectrum.

A central theme is the global environmental impact of humanity generally and tourism specifically - where unchecked human mobility, in an age of increasing Climate sensibility is a part of the top planetary code red challenge. This is identified as a "*Wicked Problem*" where we know the answer but don't act on it. It points to the fact that tourism's challenge to nature is seen as a growing concern in virtually all areas of activity - at best a wakeup call for a gentler, kinder tourism, and at worst a potential threat to all the other species on the planet.

It delivers a global deep dive on the interrelationship of mobility, migration, and tourism, showing the intensifying evolution over the past century, as well as the diverse results of the intersect. It notes the growth of migration for labour and of tourism for development, with mobility as a common link. It shows that the concepts are highly interconnected and suggests that it is academically, practically, and professionally dangerous to consider them in isolation, hinting that a coherent view of their interrelationship might help to find solutions to some of society's more difficult intercultural problems

¹ President of the Strong Universal Network (SUNx)

Another common theme is the massive financial and social costs of the sharp COVID shutdown and its negative implications for employment and individual tourism dependent households, along with the positive general lifestyle improvements in terms of air quality and health. It considers the merits of substituting local, regional tourism (so called "Proximity Tourism") for potentially lost long haul business, as happened during Covid. It is clear that there is a need to prepare for similar paralysing emergencies in the future.

It looks somewhat wistfully at the romantic small scale early days of tourism, at the start of the last century and considers the commercially driven world of today. Noting that this has moved the type of visitor from locals looking for sun and beach rest, through so called "mass tourism" to a more sophisticated international clientele seeking cultural or culinary experiences and highlighting rural tourism.

It also highlights the challenge of the pressures for getting back to normal, while recognizing that normal was the problem. This might be seen as the most "*wicked problem*" of all, or as Groucho Marks famously said "I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member"

Overall, this is a fascinating volume that somehow succeeds in placing travel & tourism - a relatively modern socio-economic phenomena - in the context of the multi-billion" year evolution of the planet and its scenic and cultural wonders, as well as the past century's accelerating growth of tourism. It captures the very essence of the word "*Glocal*" Global issues brought down to the local level.

It also beautifully demonstrates why Tourism, before it became a recognized policy discipline in educational spheres could be found in Geography Departments. This book is a tour de force in showing the diversity of the world we live in and the cultures we have evolved into. And it does its job in a way which is both deeply educational as well as an interesting read.

In short, the authors combine very solid, historic, social, and even geographic analysis, with a stark environmental impact assessment of tourism and its place in the firmament. And we don't come out too well. They suggest humanity has been as destructive to the planet as all the great volcanic and tectonic shifts, leaving behind scarred landscapes, embattled nature, and shredded cultures. And they note well the paradox of tourism as an activity with positive and negative impacts on nature, tradition and life-styles, as well as huge potential to spur economic growth

The bottom line is that we will need to "unlearn" some of the worst practices that are all too often presented as a desirable goal and look to a clean energy driven future that is focused on local development, climate resilience and the inherently decent values of the young people and their mentors, who are its target readers. This book offers a comprehensive examination of the dynamic interplay between human mobility, migration, and tourism in the context of the Anthropocene era. The collection of eight chapters delves into various aspects of this complex relationship, shedding light on crucial issues, challenges, and opportunities in today's rapidly evolving global landscape. The concept of responsible tourism is a transversal element in this publication, exploring its significance in promoting sustainable practices and mitigating the environmental and socio-cultural impacts of movement of people. Another topic which is addressed here is the post-Covid regeneration of tourism-dependent island economies. The authors analyze the challenges faced by these regions and explore innovative approaches to sustainable recovery. The discussions here revolve around the importance of community engagement, diversification, and resilience in building a robust and sustainable tourism industry. Sustainability also takes a center stage in this edition. The discourse presented in various chapters examines the pressing environmental issues associated with the movement of people. It also delves into the transformation of the hotel industry and explores tourism opportunities in isolated geographical exclave, shedding light on unique destinations that face challenges related to accessibility and connectivity. Important analysis is also presented on cultural landscapes, heritage sites, and local traditions and how cultural authenticity and meaningful interactions between tourists and local communities can shape the tourist experience.

This book will be of great interest to scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to understand and navigate the challenges and opportunities that arise in this rapidly changing global landscape.

Gian Luigi Corinto is Associate Professor of Geography, teacher of Sustainable Destinations in the Master Degree International Tourism and Destination Management; Geografia e marketing agroalimentare, and Geografia del turismo in the Degree Beni culturali e turismo at the University of Macerata, Italy. He is joined to the Environment and Territory Research Section of the Department of Education, Cultural Heritage and Tourism of the University of Macerata. His research focus is on media and geography, local development, and sustainability. His works are edited in national and international journals and books. He is editor of the International Journal of Anthropology. Fellow of AGeI, Italian Society of Geographers.

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