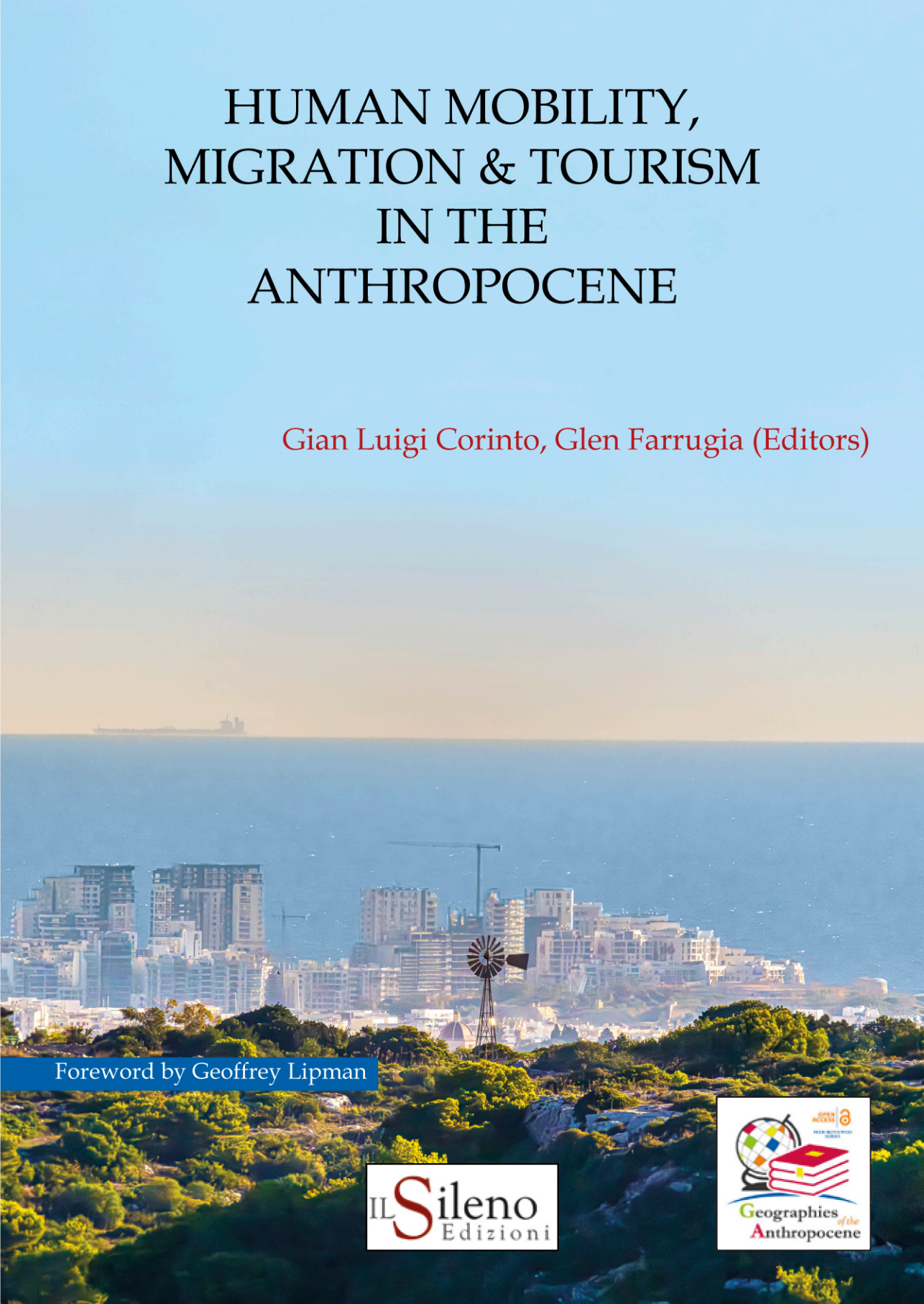
HUMAN MOBILITY, MIGRATION & TOURISM IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

Gian Luigi Corinto, Glen Farrugia (Editors)



Foreword by Geoffrey Lipman

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Geographies of the Anthropocene

Human Mobility, Migration and Tourism in the Anthropocene

Gian Luigi Corinto, Glen Farrugia
Editors

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Human Mobility, Migration and Tourism in the Anthropocene
Gian Luigi Corinto, Glen Farrugia (Eds.)

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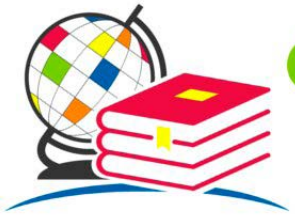

Geographies of the Anthropocene

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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.

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Foreword

Geoffrey Lipman[1]

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.

Introduction

Contextualizing Human Mobility, Migration, and Tourism

Gian Luigi Corinto[1], Glen Farrugia[2]

Plenty of ink has been spread on the concept of human mobility, migration, and tourism for many years. It has been studied from different perspectives, particularly in light of the economic, social, and political spheres. The common factor between these three different elements is the movement of people from one location, often being the country of origin, to another. This introductory chapter aims at cognitively preparing the readers of this book by briefly examine the academic discourse on the modern history with regard to the voluntary movement of people. The content here shall also analyze relevant academic literature to trace the key elements in history which shaped, and are shaping, these three components. Finally, the arguments presented will focus on the various causes and impacts of human mobility, migration, and tourism as well as the different policies and regulations that have been implemented in order to manage these phenomena.

1. Causes of Human Mobility, Migration, and Tourism

Migration has been a long-standing phenomenon in human history, but the causes and motivations have changed significantly over time. In the modern era, there are a wide range of factors that contribute to the increase in human mobility, migration, and tourism. According to a 2020 study by O'Conner *et al.*, the most common motivations may be attributed to employment opportunities, family reunification, educational opportunities, social and political factors, and climate change. Employment opportunities are a major factor driving human mobility, migration, and tourism. With the global economy shifting towards a more digital and automated nature, there has been a rise in jobs available in the technology sector, leading to increased migration from areas with lower rates of technological advancement to areas with higher rates of technological advancement. This has been especially true in developing countries, where the digital divide between more and less developed countries has created a "push" factor for people to migrate in search of better economic opportunities.

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Family reunification is also a key element which leads to the movement of individuals from one country to another. This can include reuniting with family members who have already migrated, as well as those who are seeking to escape conflict or dangerous conditions in their home country. This has been especially true in the past decade, as global conflicts, civil wars, and other political unrest have led to increased migration of people in search of safety and security – a recent example is the situation in Ukraine.

With the rise of global education opportunities, there has been an increase in the number of people seeking to study abroad in order to gain access to higher education. This has been especially true in developing countries, where access to higher education is limited. It is however important to note that the ever-growing increase in Transnational education, has, to a certain extent, reduced the voluntary movement of student seeking graduate studies.

Climate change is also a major factor driving human mobility. As global temperatures rise, sea levels rise, and extreme weather events become more frequent, people are increasingly seeking to migrate to safer and more secure areas. This is particularly the case in coastal areas, where rising sea levels have led to increased migration of people in search of safer and more stable living conditions.

Another important element in the temporary movement of people from one country to another is tourism. Tourism is a global phenomenon that has been growing rapidly for many years. It is one of the largest and fastest growing industries in the world and it has a significant impact on the global economy. Tourism has become a major source of income for many countries and is an important source of employment for millions of people.

In order to better understand the motivations and factors that lead people to engage in tourism, the following content will explore the arguments that have been put forward by researcher in this field. The research on tourism motivation can be divided into two main categories: push and pull factors. Push factors are those that push people away from their home environment and towards a destination, while pull factors are those that attract people to a destination. There is a large body of research that has been conducted on the motivations behind tourism. Some of the key factors that have been identified include leisure and recreation, social interaction, education, adventure, and relaxation.

The role of leisure and recreation in tourism motivation has been the subject of much research. Studies have shown that leisure activities, such as sightseeing and activities related to the natural environment, are strong motivators for tourists. Recreation activities, such as outdoor activities, are also important motivators for tourists. Leisure and recreation activities are important ele-

ments of the tourist experience, as they help to create a sense of relaxation and satisfaction. Social interaction has also been identified as an important motivator for tourists. Studies have found that social interactions, such as making friends and engaging in meaningful conversations, are important motivations for tourists. The opportunity to meet people from different cultures and backgrounds can be a powerful motivator for tourists. Informal education is another important motivator for tourists. Tourists are often motivated to travel to a destination because of its educational opportunities, such as guided tours, museums and other cultural attractions. Further, research indicates that educational activities can also help tourists to gain a better understanding of the culture and history of a destination.

Adventure and exploration are amongst the top motivators for tourists. The potential for adventure, such as hiking and exploring unknown destinations, is a strong motivator for people to travel. Adventure can also provide a sense of fulfillment for tourists, as they are able to explore and discover new places.

Finally, relaxation is an important motivator for tourists. Relaxation is an important element of the tourist experience and is often a primary motivator for people to travel. Relaxation can help tourists to escape from their everyday lives and enjoy a sense of freedom.

2. Impacts of Human Mobility, Migration, and Tourism

The impacts of human mobility, migration, and tourism are far-reaching and complex. According to a 2020 study by Zhang *et. al*, the most significant impacts of these three elements include changes in socio-economic structures, cultural dynamics, and political systems.

Changes in socio-economic structures are a major impact. Migration has been linked to increased economic growth in the destination country, as well as increased job opportunities for migrants. It has also been linked to increased GDP per capita in the destination country.

Changes in cultural dynamics are another primary effect of human mobility. Migration has been linked to increased cultural exchange between countries, as well as increased tolerance for different cultures and religions. It has also been linked to increased diversity in the destination country.

Finally, changes in political systems may also lead to an individual or group of people to move from their country. Migration has been linked to increased democratization in the destination country, as well as increased access to civil and political rights.

3. Policies and Regulations

In order to manage the various impacts of human mobility, migration, and tourism, governments have implemented a number of policies and regulations. According to a 2020 study by Jain and *et al.*, the most relevant policies and regulations are those related to immigration, labor, and refugee protection.

Immigration policies regulate the number of people who are allowed to enter a country and the conditions under which they are allowed to stay. These policies can include visa requirements, work permits, and other restrictions.

Labor and industrial laws and legislations are designed to control the conditions under which people are allowed to work in a country. These policies can include minimum wage requirements, workers' rights, and other regulations.

Finally, refugee protection policies protect the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. These policies can include access to legal protection, education, and health care.

The above content has so far examined the modern core elements of human mobility, migration, and tourism. We have analyzed recent academic discourse to build a picture of the determinants of the three components. The focus here was on the various causes and impacts on the voluntary or involuntary movement of people as well as the different policies and regulations that have been implemented in order to manage these occurrences. It is clear that human mobility, migration, and tourism have far-reaching implications for countries and societies around the world. It is essential that governments continue to monitor, regulate and legislate so as to ensure that these elements are managed in a sustainable manner. We hope that this academic contribution can provide the necessary impetus to the relevant authorities to address issues which may be curtailing the adequate management of these phenomena.

4. The contribution of this volume

The authors that contributed to the present volume treated the complexity of human mobility from varied points of view, using different methodologies in dealing with migrations and tourism. Each scholar produced a chapter showing a sound opinion on a specific issue, composing a partial yet coordinated picture of the features of human mobility in the Anthropocene. Thus, the goal was to have examples of both prescriptive and descriptive approaches, making critical essays or case studies referring to selected places. Any attempt at exhaustiveness would be a presumptuous act.

The chapter of Gian Luigi Corinto is an essay entitled *Tourism in the Era of Anthropocene. Only Clumsy Solutions for a Wicked Problem*. The author aims to critically discuss sustainable tourism in the Anthropocene under the theoretical perspective proposed by the Cultural Theory. Sustainable tourism is a recognized wicked problem policymakers cannot face with easy solutions, and eventuality resolved only by means of "clumsy solutions", namely not elegant ones. Policies of sustainability should envision the long run with a high level of flexibility and local adjustments. There are no easy ways of decision making, and Policymakers are obliged to adopt fatiguing tools, such as stakeholders' analysis, stakeholder involvement, and social network analysis.

Tohidur Rahaman wrote the chapter *Runaway in and out as a Compulsive Migration in Anuradha Roy's The Folded Earth: Exploring the Multi-layered Cultural Geography of the Himalayan North*. Through the literary analysis of a novel of success, the author explored the issues of travel toward the otherness of places. The far-from-home Himalayas can be a form of escape, a tourist destination, or a place of adventure. The author uses cultural geography as a theoretical model, incorporating issues of gender, post-anthropocentrism, and exclusion politics. It is possible to find a geographically situated place able to open the psychological dimension of runaway where the exclusive ideals of right-wing politics find it queer to accommodate spaces for minority cultural values of India.

Alberto Catania wrote the chapter *Mobility and tourism opportunities in an isolated geographical exclave: the case of Ceuta*, aiming at discussing territories with particular geographical peculiarities and at the center of geopolitical disputes. The focus is the Spanish city of Ceuta, a space with historical tensions exacerbated by the ongoing intense migratory flows. Local authorities try to fortify and close the boundaries, even if the territorial narrowness and the weak economy claim an opening so that the border factually works as a varying permeable system for diverse migrants. Here migration and tourism are in tension in a contested space. Yet Ceuta has sound tourist potential for better-programmed development. In its turn, tourism can be a means to promote dialogue between different communities and resolve geopolitical disputes.

The chapter *From local owners to international hotel groups: the transformation of the hotel industry in Sóller (Mallorca) from 1950 to 2022*, by Antoni Quetglas, Joan Rosselló, reports the evolution of hotels ownership in the coastal municipality of Sóller in Northwestern Mallorca. The most increase in hotel tourism arrived in the second half of the 20th century. Still, the hotels owned by residents offered services oriented to the families' sun and

beach demand. In the 21st century, tourism companies acquired many estates, altering the whole ownership of hotels. The luxury offer and the average cost of the stay increased. Thus, the kind of attracted tourists changed, looking for something more than sun and beach, with modification of the social and economic local features.

Michela Bonato wrote the chapter *Yangtze River Cruise: a journey through the promotion of liquid developing places and controversial models of sustainability*, highlighting the contentious socio-economic and ecological dynamics of interaction that emerge at the local level about tourism activities. Yangtze River cruise tourism within the Chongqing-Three Gorges section is an emerging niche destination for domestic tourism and more globalized forms of privileged cruising. The study questions the global elite cruise tour models versus local ones in pre-pandemic Chongqing by looking at the development of the ecological zone. The analysis uses statistics and discourse analysis of the online promotion of the place, and excerpts from the author's travel journal during the boat cruise describes the emotional atmosphere of the Yangtze River cruise in the historical conjuncture of institutional neoliberal transition.

Beatrice Ruggieri and Elisa Magnani entitled their chapter *COVID-19 pandemic and tourism. (Not) Getting back to normal in tourism-dependent Pacific island economies*. The contribution is an in-depth literature review focusing on tourism models in Pacific Small Island Developing States, or SIDS. The pandemic impacted the whole world economy, but it particularly struck the tourism-dependent island economies already suffering from climate-related hazards and disasters. The general vision of recovering after the pandemic is to reset the ex-ante status, at least with more attention to green models, even in the travel and tourism industry. Instead of globalized international flows, local economies should enhance more sustainable local and regional arrivals. That also could be an opportunity to move toward more ethical forms of tourism by paying attention to its environmental impacts and its uneven politics of mobility.

Simon Caruana's contribution deals with relations between tourism and the design of proper education models. The chapter entitled *Stakeholder Involvement in Tourism Education Design* explores stakeholder involvement in a Bachelor program in Tourism in Malta. The methodology previews a series of focus groups followed by in-depth interviews to identify the main stakeholders and survey their views about the degree of their involvement in touristic education. A feasible learning environment needs the voluntary and free participation of all stakeholders. The study also highlights the need

for stakeholders to interact and exchange views about the adopted education model. On the other hand, when diverse groups must work together, high levels of mistrust may arise. To resolve this issue, one should identify the attitudes of any stakeholder group, establish proper communication between the parties, and diffuse any conflict troubles.

This publication ends with a contribution from one of the editors. In his article *Responsible Tourism in Theory and Practice: Past, Present, and Future,* Glen Farrugia sheds lights on how regulation, market failures, governmental initiatives, and responsible private sector practices have all been critical to the success of Responsible Tourism (RT). In addition, the article proposes that adequate mobility of people is an essential underpinning of the concept, noting that connectivity and transport approaches are essential for it to become embedded in future sustainable development. Farrugia argues how RT is a complex yet fundamental part of global sustainable development, which policymakers, academics, and the private sector should give more attention to. Through the arguments put forward in this chapter, the author aims to provide a launching pad for further discussion, research, and engagement on the concept of RT and enable further critical discussions on how it can be effectively implemented to benefit all tourism stakeholders.

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Zhang, Z., Li, Y., & Yang, Y. (2020). The impacts of human mobility, migration, and tourism: A systematic literature review. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 28(2), 217-237.

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.

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