

## Editorial

# Hospitality, Sustainable Tourism and Local Development

**Eduardo Gonçalves\***  
 University of Maia (Portugal)

Following the outlined editorial plan, the volume 20 of the journal ends with a special issue dedicated to the theme: *Hospitality, Sustainable Tourism and Local Development*. Just as tourism, as a mass phenomenon, has a relatively recent expression, the confluence between tourism and hospitality today constitutes a new field of study, both intense and open to epistemological debate (Benckendorff & Zehrer, 2013). This is an ongoing, structuring and forward-looking discussion on research on the subject.

Moreover, some signal contributions to the debate can be pointed out, such as the tribute conference to Jafar Jafari *Celebrating and enhancing the tourism Knowledge-based platform*, held in Mallorca (2013), or the unlimited contributions of studies that mark the end of the twentieth century and early twenty-first century, where John Tribe, Liburd and Chambers stand out, among others, who bring the epistemological reflection of tourism to the disciplinary issue, at the same time inter, trans or even multidisciplinary (Leiper, 2000; Tribe & Liburd, 2016; Chambers, 2018). These approaches also reflect tourism as an academic topic of study, as well as the methodological appropriations that are intended to adjust to it (Ryan, 2018). The model “Tourism as a long-run economic growth factor” de Jacint Balaguer e Cantavella-Jordá (2002), focusing on econometric relationships and the multiplier effects of tourism and competitiveness, all of which are presented as vectors of economic growth, stimulated a multiplicity of other studies and authors and reached a unique level of development. There are, however, several sub-themes that still show gaps and that contrast with the predominance of economics in terms of research in tourism and hospitality (Netto & Nechar, 2016). There are, therefore, approaches to objectives that should be in the sights of tourism and that still need to be deepened, such as the issues of employment and the “fight against poverty”, the articulation of tourism with regional development, as well as a countless number of topics such as identities and local culture and safeguarding and enhancing heritage, among others (Netto & Nechar, 2016; Salgado, Lemos, Costa & Silva, 2017).

The exponential growth of tourism and the pressure on the socio-economic and environmental fabric led to the assumption of concerns about sustainability and responsibility in its practices. In fact, this desideratum came to be established in the Year of Sustainable Tourism, in 2017, and in the Agenda for Sustainable Development of 2030, whose purpose is to stimulate public-private dialogue and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) appointed by the United Nations. Of these objectives, the following stand out in particular: “decent work and economic growth”, “responsible consumption and production” and “life below water”. At the same time, the focus remains on “sustainable planning” visible in the context of globalization and culture issues, but also on innovation, within the theme of territories, resources and social cohesion.

So, from the reading of this special issue, a variety of approaches stand out, interweaving more theoretical treatments with case studies that propose as research spaces the composite theme of hospitality, sustainable tourism and development, including works from Spain, Mexico, Turkey and Portugal. There is, however, a transversality in the reflections that relate them to an inclusive economic development, consumption, production and the sustainable use of resources. The tourist’s “liberation” led him to seek the experience in a sense of “encounter”, to privilege a non-essentialist feeling of culture and meeting

\* University of Maia (Portugal); E-mail: [egoncalves@umaia.pt](mailto:egoncalves@umaia.pt); <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0908-2623>

the people of the visited places, which makes hospitality, understood as accommodation and food, a necessary circumstance for the success of tourism, but not the only one. We can even speak of a new tourism, which requires substantiation in systematic research that leads to the consideration of new consumer profiles, new principles of customized management, a vision of territorialized governance, of culture and heritage, in short, of flexible tourism, segmented, environmentally conscious that guarantees the sustainability of the designated tourism system.

### **Bibliografía**

- Balaguer, J. & Cantavella-Jordá, M. (2002). Tourism as a long-run economic growth factor. *Applied Economics*, 34 (7): 877-884.
- Benckendorff, P. & Zehrer, A. (2013) A network analysis of tourism research. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 43 (10):121-149.
- Chambers, D. (2018). Tourism research: Beyond the imitation game. *Tourism Management Perspectives*, 25:193–195
- Leiper, N. (2000). An emerging discipline. *Annals of Tourism Research*, .27(3): 805-809.
- Netto, A. P & Nechar, M. C. (ed.) (2016). *Turismo, perspectiva crítica*. São Paulo: USP.
- Ryan, C. (2018). Future trends in tourism research. Looking back to look forward: The future of ‘Tourism Management Perspectives’. *Tourism Management Perspectives*. 25: 196-199.
- Salgado, M.; Lemos, F.; Costa, C. & Silva, J. (2017). Epistemologia e educação em turismo. *Revista Turismo & Desenvolvimento*, 27-28: 1853-1863.
- Tribe, J. & Liburd, J. (2016). The tourism knowledge system. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 57: 44-61.