

Scandinavian Journal of Hospitality and Tourism

Call for paper abstracts – Special Issue on the Dynamics of Networks, Networking and Innovation in the Tourism industry

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Networks in the tourism industry, and networking between tourism actors, have in recent years seen an increase in scholarly interest (Baggio et al., 2010; Haugland et al., 2011). Networks can have varied characteristics in terms of structural properties (such as density, clustering, or centrality of individual actors) and relational properties (such as expected duration, degree of formalization, relational governance, and tie strength). Network relationships are important in the co-producing/co-creating tourism context, and involve strategic alliances, distribution channels and supply chains, as well as local destination networks and regional clusters. Networks have been studied as ego-centric, as well as at more aggregate levels.

The varied literature on business networks has described dynamics in terms of, for instance, their type of collaboration (Obstfeld, 2005), their complexity and internal trust (Thoben et al., 2010), the proximity and spatial evolution among enterprises (Boschma & Frenken 2010), the geographies and innovation taking place in networks (Sørensen, 2007), and entrepreneurship and structural holes (Burt, 1992). Moreover, others emphasize the importance of clustering, localized knowledge, social glue, and multiplexity, especially in local places where multiple relations and roles such as family, friendship, work, and policy relate people and firms to each other (Baker & Nelson, 2005; Buhalis & Cooper, 1998; Eide & Fuglsang, 2013; Hjalager, 2010; Nordin, 2003; Uzzi, 1997; Weidenfeld et al., 2010). Networks are commonly associated with knowledge sharing, knowledge transfer, mutual learning and innovation (Aarstad et al., 2015; Ness et al., 2014; Newell et al., 2009; Novelli et al., 2006; Sørensen & Fuglsang, 2015).

Furthermore, tourism development has been related to policy networks and tools since policy networking is assumed to facilitate innovation and value creation (Araujo & Bramwell, 2002; Dredge, 2006; Dredge & Pforr, 2008). This includes destination marketing, governance, and evolutionary dynamics (Ma & Hassink, 2013; Pavlovich, 2003, 2014; Saxena, 2005; Sheehan et al., 2007). On the other hand, research also suggests that tourism companies may be difficult to engage in networking activities. They are often small companies with limited resources, risk aversion, and a short-term revenue focus. Hjalager (2000) has argued that tourism firms also may have a tendency to exhibit free-rider behaviour due to a lack of stabilized collaborative structures that enhance trust and reciprocity among tourism companies in local areas. Thus, networks may also have characteristics and dynamics that inhibit learning and innovation processes within and between firms.

While much research on network relationships has a static and often cross-sectional focus, we have comparably less knowledge related to network dynamics, network development, and the role of actors and their (inter-)action

to generate knowledge transfer, learning and innovation in a tourism context (Cooper, 2008; Dhanaraj & Parkhe, 2006; Fuglsang & Eide, 2013).

This special issue on *The dynamics of networks, networking and innovation in the tourism industry* welcomes proposals for papers that deal with one or several of the following topics:

- Emergence and development of tourism networks
- Co-evolution of innovation and network(ing)
- Path-dependency and path-creation
- Multiplexity and multi-participation
- Interaction between different kinds of networks in innovation processes
- Network management, facilitation and orchestration
- Networks as learning communities/regions
- Roles of different ambitions and engagements in tourism networks
- Conflicts among network participants, problem-solving, and strategic management of network relationships
- Critical processes and structures related to networking.
- The interaction between network gatherings and the everyday life in the firms
- The roles of DMOs, public policy organizations and/or R&D institutions in tourism networks and innovation processes

Papers that pay attention to other dynamics of networking and innovation in tourism businesses are also welcomed, including papers that focus on the individual level, the organizational level, the destination level, or multilevel issues; and papers taking different methodological approaches.

Important deadlines

Deadline for abstracts	November 1, 2015
Notification to authors	Early December 2015
Deadline for full papers	May 1, 2016
Notification to authors if recommended for blind review and feedback with suggestions	June 15, 2016
Deadline new version, and blind review process starts	October 1, 2016
Feedback from blind review and notification to authors about decision (reject, accept, minor revision)	March 2016
Preliminary publication time	Summer 2017

Submitting of abstract to: dorthe.eide@uin.no Abstract should be about one page.

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