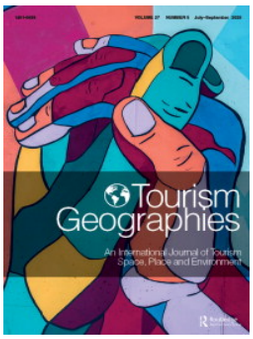

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

Tourism Geographies

An International Journal of Tourism Space, Place and Environment

ISSN: 1461-6688 (Print) 1470-1340 (Online) Journal homepage: www.tandfonline.com/journals/rtxg20

# Making tourism geographies: a tribute to Alan A. Lew's lifework

**Chris Gibson , Jamie Gillen, Dimitri Ioannides , Jennie Germannn Molz , Jarkko Saarinen & Regina Scheyvens**

**To cite this article:** Chris Gibson , Jamie Gillen, Dimitri Ioannides , Jennie Germannn Molz , Jarkko Saarinen & Regina Scheyvens (22 Aug 2025): Making tourism geographies: a tribute to Alan A. Lew's lifework, Tourism Geographies, DOI: 10.1080/14616688.2025.2546542

**To link to this article:** https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2025.2546542



Published online: 22 Aug 2025.

TOURISM GEOGRAPHIES
https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2025.2546542

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

ARTICLE COMMENTARY



# Making tourism geographies: a tribute to Alan A. Lew's lifework

Chris Gibson[a], Jamie Gillen[b], Dimitri Ioannides[c], Jennie Germannn Molz[d], Jarkko Saarinen[e] and Regina Scheyvens[f]

[a]School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia; [b]Global Studies Programme, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand; [c]Department of Economics, Geography, Law & Tourism and European Tourism Research Institute, Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden; [d]Department of Sociology and Anthropology, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, USA; [e]Geography Research Unit, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland; [f]School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand

**ABSTRACT**

This collection of responses to Alan Lew's 2024 American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting Special Lecture in Honolulu, Hawai'i, *Why Travel?* (Lew, 2024), reflects his enduring influence on the field of tourism geographies and its growth as a vibrant community of practice. As the founding Editor-in-Chief of *Tourism Geographies*, Alan pioneered an inclusive, interdisciplinary vision for the field, shaping its trajectory for decades. Tracing his intellectual journey—rooted in a multicultural background and enriched by international experiences—Alan illuminates the deep interconnections between place, identity, and consciousness through the study of tourism. Authored by leading scholars in the field,[1] the contributions in this collection respond to *Why Travel?* (Lew, 2024), celebrating both Alan's legacy and the evolution of a paradigm—one in which tourism geography is expansive, critically self-reflexive, ethically grounded, and methodologically diverse. Rather than seeking a definitive answer, Alan's enduring question—*Why travel?*—invites reflection on mobility, place, and purpose within an increasingly entangled world. This collection of responses stands as a tribute to Alan A. Lew—whose vision, generosity, and intellectual spirit continue to inspire new generations of scholars exploring the geographies of tourism.

**ARTICLE HISTORY**
Received 7 August 2025
Accepted 7 August 2025

**HANDLING EDITOR**
Mary Mostafanezhad, Department of Geography & Environment, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**KEYWORDS**
Alan A. Lew; Tourism Geographies 25th Anniversary; reflections; origin stories; personal journeys; tourism geography futures

## Chris Gibson, School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney

### *Why travel? Finding common ground in diversity, and amidst crises*

Alan's reflections of personal relationships and a life of travel and tourism scholarship struck a chord with me—although my personal travel history is not quite so epic.

**CONTACT** Jamie Gillen jamie.gillen@auckland.ac.nz Global Studies Programme, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand.

I was born in the 1970s in the (then) factory town of Luton, just north of London, a place now familiar to many for its bustling airport filled with tourists catching cheap flights to Europe. When I was eight, my parents decided to emigrate to Australia. They had only ever been abroad once: on a union-sponsored bus trip to Italy before I was born. None of us had ever been on a plane. To this day, they are regularly asked why they migrated. The answers given are unsurprising: for their children's better future; for a more prosperous life in a warmer place; to avoid being a casualty of deindustrialization in gloomy, post-Oil Crisis/Thatcherist England. (Dad faced looming redundancy at the nearby Vauxhall car plant.) But actually, truth be told, they never could fully explain their motivations. Oppressive atmospheres of economic decay infused their personal lives. And combined with hardship, frustration and unresolved wanderlust, an overwhelming gut feeling coalesced. They just knew they had to do something, and something big: to really *move*.

Reflecting on my family's personal travel story, I also appreciated Alan's modest conclusion: that so much of why we travel remains a mystery. Perhaps it takes a certain kind of late career wisdom to admit that, as researchers, we don't know all the answers. But that sense of mystery is, I think, also a prompt for discussion of what kinds of tourism scholarship might be needed in the 'polycrisis' present (Dixon et al., 2023). A growing number of geographers are calling for less strident critiques, and fewer singular prescriptions about what might constitute better planetary futures, amidst intertwining climate, health, geopolitical, and social crises. Geographers are advocating that we write with more room for ambivalence (Ruez & Cockayne, 2021) and failure (Osborne, 2019), for 'deeper hesitation in the face of affirmation' (Dekeyser, 2023: 338). Critiques are being modulated by Anthropocene thinking, feminist and critical race theory, and First Nations insistence on decolonising our disciplines and knowledges (Osborne, 2015). Together, such disparate calls present a weighty challenge for scholarship and explanation, and for our theory-building culture as a cross-cutting sub-disciplinary specialism—especially for those like myself who consider themselves 'critical tourism' scholars. Being so deeply entwined in capitalism and environmental despoilation, tourism compels normative critiques (See Rosenman, 2024, and Scheyvens, below.)

I share Alan's sense of uncertainty for the future of travel and worry, too, that de-globalisation has the potential to amplify insularity. As I've written previously (Gibson, 2010), without travel, the world would be dull—and, more pointedly, travel's alternative, immobility, is an invitation to xenophobia. My sense is that, in post-pandemic and geopolitically unstable times, the tourism industry is doing all it can to uphold the infrastructures of globalisation and proceed onwards with growth and profit maximisation wherever and by whatever means possible (cf. Adey and Lisle, 2025; Gibson, 2021a; Hall et al., 2020). The risk is that, in a more crisis-ridden and inward-looking world, travel becomes more surveilled and unequal, more exclusive, more difficult to navigate, more bureaucratic, and more wholly beholden to state-capitalist managerialism—thus impinging upon the meaningful relationships and encounters that make tourism a socially-rich experience.

The emphasis on relationships and the personal in Alan's reflections is another a reminder that there are aspects of travel that cannot be converted to a number, despite the platforms and algorithms that structure contemporary tourist mobilities. It's a question originally put in more abstract, theoretical terms by political economist

Karl Polanyi ([1944] 2001) and reframed by feminist scholar Nancy Fraser (2014): to what degree can society be reduced to commodities 'all the way down'? Young and Markham (2020:277), writing on tourism in a major conceptual essay on the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic, were skeptical. For them, 'tourist consumption ameliorates the "universal alienation" produced by the capitalist system', while fuelling the large-scale commercialisation of spectacular sites. Tourist spaces are 'enclosures of the free gifts of nature and culture' for which owners charge entry fees—a form of rent expropriated by virtue of monopoly control of space. No forms of tourism escape commodification.

Yet for Polanyi, society cannot be commodities all the way down. Land, labour and money are 'fictitious' commodities because each had an original condition of not having been produced for sale (Fraser, 2014). Unchecked commodification has its limits. Tourism depends not only on corporate and state investors and large-scale infrastructures, but on the social reproduction of lives, communities, care work, and relationships, without which travel would be nothing more than the unfolding insentient mobility of machinelike bodies (see Lew, 2002a). Echoing Alan's citing of Massey (1993), travel is at once both intimate and expansive, imbricating the local and personal in global networks, processes, and place connections.

That in turn means focusing on the multidirectional relationships forged in and through travel, whether fractious or harmonious or somewhere in between: relationships with place (Gibson, 2021b); between labour and capital (Young & Markham, 2020), between humans and non-humans (Crossley, 2020); between diasporic family members (Adams, 2021); between communities and friends (Adams et al., 2021). Nancy Fraser (2014: 545) also warns us to avoid being romantic about a non- or pre-commoditized social realm separate from capitalism. The social is another source of injustices, hierarchies, and exclusions—witness slavery, feudalism, patriarchy (Fraser, 2014: 544). The point here is to not pine for pre-commoditized (or pre-pandemic) modes of travel. No modes of leisure or travel were ever 'neutral' or free from power relations.

Nevertheless, meaningful relationships and travel remain intimately linked and, at some level, travel will always be foundational to finding common ground in diversity. Even with the tourism industry's destructive tendencies, travel will be vital to our collective coping and healing amidst multiple crises. As Mary Mostafanezhad (2020) has argued, responsibility to reimagine and reinvent tourism at least partially rests with tourists—with those of us who are lucky enough travel by choice, for leisure. In question are what relationships we value and seek to cultivate and maintain.

So, to return to Alan's question: why travel? For some, travel is a means to luxuriate or indulge, to consume place or simply escape the tedium of waged work. For many, it is because of migration and education and employment—for better hopes amidst adversity, as it was for my family. I believe, travel is also, fundamentally, about relationships, and that inexplicable human compulsion to be both social and mobile. We travel for the familiar comforts of holidaying with family or friends, and in so doing deepen those bonds. Or we travel for the chance to meet strangers in distant places, cementing new relationships. Unpacking these emotional and intuitive dimensions while preserving a sense of mystery, and also keeping a wider, critical dimension within the narrative frame, is very challenging for tourism geographers, but exactly what we ought to do.

## Jamie Gillen, Global Studies Programme, University of Auckland, New Zealand

### *Geographer, Traveler, Human: A quarter-century of Alan Lew's Tourism Geographies*

## Introduction

Logging in to the *Tourism Geographies* website in the early days of the journal landed someone using a dial-up powered Netscape or Internet Explorer search engine on to a website run out of Northern Arizona University (USA) in Flagstaff, which was Alan A. Lew's career spanning academic home. There were no corporate bells and whistles, cite scores, and impact factors to be found on the early version of the website. From memory the journal had a simple header with a few links to the journal's issues, a guideline for authors, academic and professional links to other tourism sites, and most intriguingly an "about me" tab. Different from other geography journal websites at the time the "about me" tab included insights in to what makes Alan[2] tick: his interest in sustainability, his emotional feelings about travel, his spiritual connections to earth and her people, and his predilection for harnessing all of these to search within himself in and beyond the *Tourism Geographies* academic journal. Inspired by its honesty and transparency many visitors to the journal homepage must have felt similarly moved to personalize their relationship to the field of tourism geographies by contributing to the journal, and to the field.

The website looks different now, polished and formatted in line with all of the others published by Taylor & Francis. But this commentary uses the early days of the journal website as a jumping off point to parse out three pieces of Alan's personhood featured in his inaugural lecture, and indeed in *Tourism Geographies* over the past twenty five years: geographer, traveler, and human. Certainly celebratory, my comments below nevertheless attend to an underappreciated dimension of geographers' efforts: that of bringing together the personal and the professional when narrating the journey of (tourism) geography. This aspect of a human geographer's life is one I argue is sorely needed at a challenging flashpoint in the discipline's life and is addressed directly in a brief conclusion.

## Geographer

Early on in the life of the *Tourism Geographies* journal saw Alan using personal language in reflecting how his training in human geography related to the theories and practices of tourism. Alan's efforts in those first years of the journal are more pioneering than they may seem. Whereas in other parts of the world the title "tourism geographer" is openly embraced and accepted by the geography community[3], in the North American training context where Alan did his postgraduate research PhD students are generally discouraged from taking on the label of tourism geographer (see Iaquinto et al., 2024). Instead they are steered to receive schooling and an identity in cultural, urban, political, or social geography. There are a few reasons for this but in my opinion the primary reason is that tourism (geography) is considered by some

too frivolous to the more "serious" study of landscape, space, place, and of course culture inherent to (for example) cultural geography[4].

Despite the marginality tourism receives in most North American geography departments Alan's postgraduate research in cultural and urban geography set some nice foundational groundwork for him to branch out in to tourism geography. After all his Masters explorations studying the refurbishment of downtrodden retail districts in the Pacific Northwest area of the United States relate to commodification, spectacle, authenticity, and reinvention common in the tourism geography canon. Alan's professional training illustrates how comfortably tourism weaves in to human geography.

Those introductions from Alan in the first years of the journal foreshadowed recent shifts toward autobiographical accounts in human geography that are more inviting forms of writing for students, challenge the false professional/personal binary of academic research, and humanize what can often seem to be an impossible web of confusing and esoteric terminologies and debates. We have Alan and other tourism geographers to thank for encouraging us to make our own positions in geography more knowable through writing (for recent examples in *Tourism Geographies*, see Crossley, 2021; Fogle et al., 2024; Marschall, 2015).

## Traveler

The second part of Alan's personhood is traveler. Throughout his time as *Tourism Geographies'* editor-in-chief Alan raised important questions about the distinctions between a tourist and a traveler. and in tantalizing fashion does not resolve them. At worst a tourist is a person manufactured to serve the profit-seeking motives of global capitalism and who in their trips wreaks havoc on the sustainability of planetary life. This is a disappointing aspect of modernity Alan regularly shares his complex feelings about (e.g., Lew, 2018, 2011). In contrast a traveler is someone who "by gradually building embodied (mental and physical) linkages across the globe….are participating in a process of expanding humankind's global consciousness" (Lew, 2018, p. 744). I would like to believe Alan uses the word "gradually" intentionally here to illustrate the energy and time required for linkages among travelers to last. His definition contrasts with mainstream tourist demands for instant gratification; it is an implicit critique of the superficiality and fleetingness that tourists are sometimes known for. On balance and despite his consistent acknowledgement that journeying has an infinite number of iterations the sum of Alan's writing represents support for geographer-travelers, or those who have "the desire to understand and appreciate better the entire combination of natural and human attributes that make one place or region distinct from another" (Lew, 2002b, p. 348).

Alan may indeed be more comfortable describing himself as a traveler, one who has a deeper appreciation for the idiosyncrasies and richness of the world than a tourist (or indeed any mobile person) often does. Travel may involve tourism but is not limited to it. Once again blending the personal and the professional, Alan's post-retirement website indicates that he believes there is also no end point to a traveler's curiosity and exploration (https://www.alanlew.com/).

## Human

Alan's inaugural lecture is wonderfully human: it has a big heartedness, an inquisitiveness, a certain kind of spirituality that he is known for in his writing and in his broader dealings with people and systems. His travels are motivated by a desire to understand his own identity better, a long held pillar of tourism studies (Cohen, 1979; Wang, 1999). There is even an air of wonderment to his recollections that has appeal with the paper carrying a "how did all of this happen?" message throughout. What is most gripping is that he weaves the personal and professional together as if it is the normal thing to do when looking back on one's professional life. This point could be taken even further to state that a key takeaway in Alan's paper is that it is intellectually dishonest to silence the personal when narrating the professional. Especially when it comes to the question of "why travel?" Alan's thoughts inspire us to think about how interconnected our humanness and tourism endeavors are. *Tourism Geographies* (the journal), tourism geography (the sub-discipline) and tourism studies (the field) need more of this model, which is a profoundly humane approach to the trade in ideas.

## Conclusions

Alan is a big "G" Geographer because for Alan geography is not so much an academic discipline but a sensibility that helps him process his ancestry, his lineage, and assists him in settling up his own sojourns. This inaugural lecture in *Tourism Geographies* establishes a clear precedent for publishing candid, clear-eyed, and memoir-esque articles that I hope will continue in future annual lectures.

Despite Alan's avowed passion for geography, travel, and humanness he also recognizes in tourism geography time-honored problems with the discipline of geography at large: a lack of clear identity, its peripheral status in the intellectual spaces of the social sciences, and its inadequate job readiness training being three of the main ones. Taken together North American geography departments have been facing sustained enrolment drops for many decades and show no signs of turning the corner (Swab, 2024). There are also noted stalwarts in attracting human geography majors like Singapore and Aotearoa New Zealand that today face significant drops in student interest in the subject. There are certainly many other parts of the world that are worried or that should be worried about the future of the discipline.

A perennial underdog in the human geography landscape, tourism geography is potential remedy. The topic of tourism is often of interest to students beyond the social sciences, it has real-world applicability (e.g., sustainability, climate change, geopolitics, and social justice among them), and tools generated through the study of tourism geography are appealing to graduates interested in a range of occupations. Besides economic geography tourism geography is one of two human geography sub-disciplines regularly taught in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Intellectually tourism geography is thriving, with tourism geographers occupying senior roles in business schools, tourism and hospitality departments, and social sciences programmes the world over. Thanks in large part to Alan's efforts, the journal has at the time of writing the second highest impact factor of any in human

geography[5]. All of these accolades demonstrate opportunities for enhancing the waning discipline of geography by way of tourism geography.

Tertiary education today is awash in student shifts toward instrumentalism in their study choices. By extension geography is awash with concerns that instrumentalizing education leads to a move away from the intellectual ambiguity of place-making and space-making prevalent in human geography. Yet students are searchers, interested in the complexity of the world and their role within it. Alan's paper articulates the productive nature of a form of intellectual labor that is both intensely personal and also outward looking. I look at this combination as an exciting invitation to acclimate students to all that geography, travel, and humanity has to offer.

## Dimitri Ioannides, Department of Economics, Geography, Law & Tourism and European Tourism Research Institute, Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden

***Tourism Geographies Past and Future: A Tribute to Alan Lew***

### Background

Roughly twenty-five years have passed since the very first issue of *Tourism Geographies* was published. The journal, the brainchild of Alan Lew, has rapidly emerged as a leading publication not only in tourism studies but in the overall geography discipline. At the 2024 AAG conference in Hawaii, which alas I was unable to attend in person, not only did the Recreation Tourism and Sport (RTS) specialty group celebrate the journal's silver jubilee but it also recognized Alan Lew's immense service to the overall field of tourism geographies.

In writing this essay, I draw from my own long-term involvement in tourism research from a geographical perspective. My very first AAG conference was in Miami in 1991 and for more than 25 years I regularly attended this annual event. From those early days, I became actively involved in the RTS, which I chaired between 1999 and 2001, by organizing or co-organizing (together with Alan and others) paper sessions and panel discussions on various themes relating to tourism geographies. What struck me during the first decade of my involvement with the AAG is that each year, more and more RTS sessions were proposed as an increasing number of scholars became interested in a growing range of tourism-related topics. Perceiving this trend as early as the mid-1990s, Richard Butler accurately foresaw the exponential growth in tourism scholarship over the following decades, stressing that geographers would play an increasingly active role in this phenomenon. Indeed, Butler argued that this growth in scholarship would be matched by the rapid growth in new publications, including dozens of journals.

Given these predictions, it was hardly surprising that the very first edition of *Tourism Geographies* appeared in February of 1999. Alan Lew's opening editorial with the title "a place called Tourism Geographies" appeared in that inaugural issue. There, Alan

compellingly argued as to why a geography-oriented journal focused on tourism was necessary, although he somewhat modestly warned that some skeptics at the time would question "if there would be enough 'good' geography research to support a quarterly academic journal" (Lew, 1999, p.2). Happily, the fact that the journal has not only survived but has gone from strength-to-strength oven the last quarter of a century demonstrates that Alan should not have worried. In fact, in addition to its regular issues, the journal produces several special publications on a broad variety of topics ranging, among others, from "Liminal tourism landscapes" to "Tourism enclaves" and from "Religion, spirituality and pilgrimage" to "Urban planning and tourism in European cities".

In the following part, I offer my personal reflections on why the journal has succeeded and has played a vital role in helping tourism geographies evolve and blossom into a major sub-discipline of geography.

## The evolution of tourism geographies

To be sure, geographers were among the most active tourism researchers for decades. Six decades ago, Walter Christaller (1964) (of Central Place Theory fame) described the emergence of uneven European tourism patterns in core-periphery terms. Even earlier, the research endeavors of Roy Wolfe (1951) (for whom the original RTS annual award is named) focused, among others, on the interactions between cities and second home areas in the rural periphery. Fast forward to the 1980s to witness Dick Butler's (1980) contribution in the form of the Tourism Area Life Cycle (TALC), which inspired generations of geographers to investigate the evolutionary dynamics of tourism destinations. Meanwhile, during this period, other geographers made significant contributions toward understanding the socio-spatial and temporal characteristics of tourism destinations. To name but a few, Mathieson and Wall (1982) examined tourism's various impacts in host regions while Murphy (2013) advocated for a community approach to planning and developing the sector.

Other notable contributions include those of Britton (1982, 1991) who advocated for a political economy approach in conceptualizing the dynamics of tourism in various destinations and the work of Pearce (1989) on tourism development. Meanwhile, several geographers were especially active among a broader group of scholars in quickly embracing the concept of sustainable development as put forth by the Brundtland Commission (1987) by advocating the need for tourism to adopt a form of development that would somehow balance the economic, environmental, and social-equity priorities of destination communities (Butler, 1999). Among them, Geoffrey Wall (1997) was quick to warn that rather than talk about sustainable tourism one should adopt a systems-based approach, which holistically examine tourism's role within a broader sustainable development context (Ioannides & Stoffelen, 2025; Stoffelen & Ioannides, 2022).

It is important to mention that since the early 1990s, tourism geographers demonstrated a growing awareness of new theoretical directions in other geographic subfields, including rural geography, urban geography, economic geography, and political geography to name but a few to improve their understanding of the tourism phenomenon. Moreover, just like the broader discipline of human geography, tourism geography was also influenced by the multiplicity of turns in the social sciences,

including the critical turn, the relational turn, and the evolutionary turn (Ioannides & Debbage, 2014).

Some of us (Ioannides & Debbage, 1998) argued that the theoretical ties between economic geography and tourism must be strengthened while others explored the interlinkages of political geography and tourism by examining the implications of cross-border travel flows (Timothy, 2002). Each year during the 1990s and 2000s, the number of RTS sponsored sessions at the Annual AAG conference grew steadily while several round table discussions at the same venue set the scene for the future direction of tourism geographies. Though I am unsure who first came up with the term "tourism geographies", it was mentioned by Alan Lew in one of these RTS sponsored sessions and quickly became the obvious choice for the journal's name.

Over the last couple of decades, geographers have been especially active in expanding our understanding of tourism. Numerous researchers have graduated from geography programs and related fields having investigated and significantly theoretically boosted our understanding, not only of the tourism's spatial characteristics, but the phenomenon in its entirety.

Given my research interests, from my own perspective, among the most impressive contributions of geographers in the last decade or so has been the considerable improvement in our understanding of how tourism destinations rise and fall in popularity by building on the earlier-mentioned TALC model. Prompted by the emergence of evolutionary economic geography (EEG), researchers including Patrick Brouder, Doris Carson, Alison Gill, Sanz-Ibánez & Anton Clavé have made strides in understanding, among others, how path dependence influences the destinies of tourism-dependent regions and, alternatively, how processes such as path-creation may lead to new trajectories (e.g., see Brouder et al., 2017). Meanwhile, among others, the cultural turn, the critical turn, and the relational turn in geography have also left their respective marks in our academic investigations of tourism.

I should also mention the considerable contributions geographers have made in investigating the nexus of tourism and sustainable development over the last three decades. Whereas early studies on this topic focused overwhelmingly on economic versus environmental dimensions of sustainability, increasingly attention turned towards issues revolving around social justice and equity. Moreover, a growing number of geographers have offered insightful studies relating to topics including pro-poor tourism, the geography of tourism work and workers, tourism and resilience, sustainability transitions, tourism and degrowth, and tourism and climate change to name but a few.

Earlier this year, I was fortunate enough to read an outstanding PhD dissertation by a young scholar as I prepared to attend their defense as part of the examination committee. The theoretical and methodological depth and maturity in that student's work made me realize how far tourism research has blossomed since I first began to explore the topic all those years ago and, indeed, since *Tourism Geographies* first appeared on the scene. This dissertation was one of the latest examples of a growing number of geographers' contributions towards transforming tourism geogra*phies* into a bona fide geographical sub-discipline.

## Closing thoughts

Over a period spanning more than six decades, geographers have been among the most active tourism researchers and their contributions have had a major impact in shaping the field. Certainly, establishing and developing our flagship journal, namely *Tourism Geographies*, as the key vehicle through which much of the evolving cutting-edge tourism-related research is showcased has helped enormously in this process.

Undoubtedly, Alan Lew's leadership and vision in adroitly steering the journal in its formative years into a highly respected academic periodical must not be underestimated. In many respects, *Tourism Geographies* has been Alan Lew's key legacy to our field. By the time he stepped down as editor-in-chief a few years ago, the journal was already in very good stead. Now that its new co-editors (Joseph & Mary) have assumed the reins, there is no doubt in my mind that exciting times lie ahead both for the journal and, more importantly tourism geographies as a key theme of study.

## Jennie Germann Molz, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, College of the Holy Cross, USA

### *Travel stories and tourism imaginations*

In his lecture, Alan tells a compelling story about his ancestors' journeys, his parents' migrations, and his own life of travel. Hearing it made me realize how little I know about Alan's background—or about most of my colleagues' personal backgrounds—and how paltry our academic bio blurbs are for this purpose. What if, instead of a paragraph listing titles published and positions held, our bios told stories of fears faced, mountains climbed, or lessons learned through our pursuits of adventure? We are very good at talking about tourist selves (see, for example, Cohen, 2010; Noy, 2004) but not so good at talking about *our* selves.

I suspect that most scholars in our field have fascinating tourism biographies that explain how their travels transitioned into their scholarly pursuits. Although a few colleagues discovered tourism and hospitality studies in school, most of the tourism scholars I know arrived here from a different direction. I've gleaned a bit about their backgrounds from in-person conversations rather than their formal publications. They first worked as tour guides or cabin crew or behind hotel reception desks or behind the counter scooping ice cream at a summer beach destination. Or they backpacked around the world when they were younger or traveled every year to visit family members in another country or went on an English-language study tour or volunteered abroad. Or they immigrated from one country to another in parallel with tourists, or vice versa. These were often the experiences that seeded questions that then hatched into doctoral research projects and a life of researching travel mobilities and tourism geographies that has, in turn, kept many of us on the road. I would love to hear more of those stories from my colleagues: the things they noticed, or felt, or wondered about while doing tourism earlier in their lives. What was it that captured their scholarly curiosity?

For example, Alan mentions his own personal and academic mobilities, including the fact that he attended eight colleges and universities before graduating with his bachelor's degree in geography. I have a similar story. When I was a child, my family moved so often that I attended eleven different schools before graduating with my high school degree. As soon as I did graduate, at the age of 17, I left the United States to study abroad in Italy. Those blue tissue-paper-thin aerograms Alan mentions were still the only way to communicate with family back home. I returned to the United States to complete my bachelor's degree at The University of Texas, but I left again as soon as I could. I ended up spending most of my twenties and thirties traveling, studying, and working abroad in Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, England, and Italy. Is it any wonder that I've been fascinated by themes of travel and tourism mobilities or intrigued by how these mobilities intersect with identity, togetherness, or hopes for a good life?

The origin stories of our scholarly pursuits are captivating and revealing. Our personal stories, perhaps more so than our disciplinary backgrounds, are what connect us to our field and to each other. Alan concedes that he may have overemphasized geography in those early years of *Tourism Geographies*, but the field and the journal are now far more multi-disciplinary. Even a sociologist like me feels at home here. The sociological imagination and the geographical imagination share a common purpose to connect life at the small, personal, and intimate scale to larger-scale cartographies, to broader environmental, social, and geopolitical contexts. As such, our individual biographies and the personal stories our research excavates are an integral part of the scholarly work we do.

By sharing these stories more widely and more candidly, I wonder what insights tourism geographers can bring to the field from their own experiences and, perhaps, what blind spots we might also acknowledge. In his lecture, Alan puts *Tourism Geographies* in context by listing the other journals that were launched in the 1990s and early 2000s and the founding editors who shaped the intellectual landscape of tourism studies across several disciplines and subfields. But when we see Alan's documentation of this prolific moment in our field's history and note that every single founding editor is a man, I think it's fair to wonder what blind spots there have been in the scholarly agenda. The key to illuminating those blind spots is not to suppress anyone's own personal story but rather to bring more stories and more voices into the conversation. As the gender imbalance among editors-in-chief begins to shift and editorial and advisory boards become more diverse, I hope we will also see a wider variety of perspectives, representing more corners of lived experiences, posing different and disruptive questions, and prompting more theoretical insights to move the field forward. I think this is key to co-creating the global consciousness and resilience Alan foresees in the future, not just for our field of study, but for the planet.

Alan concludes his lecture by reminding us that "nothing stands still. We live in a world that is in constant motion and constant change. In that motion, there seem to be cycles of coming together and falling apart, followed by another coming together in a new and unpredictable way." I find Alan's emphasis on the cyclical nature of tourism and of life thought provoking. His words remind us that the future is always unfinished and that we always have a new opportunity to imagine and bring to life a future worth wanting.

I have been revisiting the work of the radical Brazilian theorist and educator Paolo Freire and his concept of unfinishedness, which I think is related to the cyclical nature of life Alan describes and to the future he envisions. For Friere, human beings are always "in the process of *becoming* … unfinished, incomplete beings in and with a likewise unfinished reality" (Freire, 2018, p. 84). From his perspective as an educator, Freire saw unfinishedness as the precondition for learning. As long as life is unfinished, he wrote, then "there is always and inevitably something to be done, to be completed, to be taught, and to be learned" (Freire, 2000, p. 79). What might this concept of unfinishedness tell us about tourism's future?

This is and always will be an open question. But ever since the pandemic, we have had plenty of opportunities to ponder the unpredictable and unfinished future of tourism. The special issue on COVID that *Tourism Geographies* published in 2020 was precisely such a moment. In this landmark issue (see Lew et al., 2020), scholars used the global disruption of the pandemic to crack open a view of a different world and tell alternative future stories for tourism. They showed us glimpses of sustainable, regenerative, and decolonial tourism futures in the making. It seems that the answer to the seemingly intransigent problems of today's unjust, extractive, and exploitative arrangements of tourism is not necessarily to pin down an equally inflexible future, even if it is deemed to be more sustainable—but rather to lean into that indeterminate space between here and the horizon as a space of possibility.

As vital as it is to look forward, it is also important to look back and to commemorate significant milestones. According to the timeline Alan provides, 2024 marked both a silver anniversary and a golden anniversary—silver for the 25$^{th}$ anniversary of the *Tourism Geographies* journal's first issue in February 1999 and a golden 50$^{th}$ anniversary for the AAG's Recreation, Tourism and Sport specialty group launched in 1974. On that note, I offer heartfelt congratulations to Alan Lew, the journal's founding editor, to its current editors, Mary Mostafanezhad and Joseph Cheer, and to the editorial board members, contributors, and reviewers over the past 25 years. And to the founding chairs of RTS, the dedicated board members and volunteers who have kept it going these past five decades, and to generations of RTS members who have helped the field flourish, I express deep appreciation for the welcoming place you have created for our scholarly community.

## Jarkko Saarinen, Geography Research Unit, University of Oulu, Finland

### *Tourism geographies' journey from esoterica to the global sense of place*

The AAG 2024 Alan Lew Distinguished Lecture included three interwoven parts. They reflected Alan Lew's personal journey, a historical formation of a community of practice (aka tourism geographers), and existential questions on tourism, tourism geographies and being a tourism geographer. This commentary focuses mainly on the latter parts of the raised issues, involving our constant need to understand tourism

and tourism geographies, their changing nature and the critical research questions we try to develop and find answers to.

What appears to be characteristic for different generations of tourism geographers, at least among (a relatively more) seasoned cohorts, is almost an accidental nature of becoming a tourism scholar. We were drawn to study geography based on its holistic nature and promoted capacity to provide a wider understanding for the increasingly wicked problems of the Earth as home to humankind and more-than-humans. In this context tourism research did not easily come to our student-mind as the thing to do for a geographer. Indeed, as Alan indicates, it seems to take some time to realize that tourism is not just a free-time activity or a compulsory part of international conferencing enabling deep discussions on 'serious geographies'. Against this backdrop, it is understandable that also a wider realization of the academic prospects of tourism research took some time in human geography. As Richard Peet (1998, p. 109) has outlined the situation in the context of Marxist perceptions on the reactionary nature of the discipline in the turn of 1970s: "There was a growing intolerance to the topical coverage of academic geography, a feeling that it was […] an irrelevant gentlemanly pastime concerned with esoterica like tourism […], when geography should be a working interest in ghettos, poverty, global capitalism…".

It is fair to assume that tourism geographies was not in the forefront of the radical side of the transforming discipline in the 1960s and 1970s. Still, the history of geographical research on tourism does not support the referred esoteric idea of tourism geography: from the very beginning, tourism and tourist activities were firmly contextualized in and connected with the issues of environmental and social carrying capacities and problems in regional planning and development, for example (see Jones, 1933; McMurray, 1930). In contemporary terms, those early issues refer to topics, such as sustainability, resilience and uneven regional development. These are not esoteric topics in geographical research. Furthermore, the core manifestation of our current community of practice—the journal of *Tourism Geographies*– does not support the obscure and unserious nature of tourism or the sub-discipline. From volume and issue one, steered by Alan, the critical discussions on the problematic relations between tourism and sustainability, for example, and the genuine call for sustainable development have been in a constant focus in tourism geographies (see Butler, 1999; d'Hauteserre, 1999; Williams & Montanari, 1999).

While this sustainability turn is still highly topical issue in tourism geographies, with close connections to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (Scheyvens & Cheer, 2022), it has been followed by inclusive, moral, resilience and regenerative turns in tourism geographies (see Bellato & Pollock, 2025;; Guia & Jamal, 2025;; Lew, 2014), for example. All these turns are also at the core of contemporary human geographical thinking. These evolved themes support critical research on tourism that is one of the largest and highly impactful economic sectors of the world with serious consequences on climate change, the sixth mass extinction, expansion of global capitalism, uneven urban developments, and poverty, for example. So, what we once assumed to be a solid criticism has melted into air (see Saarinen, 2019).

The establishment of the *Tourism Geographies* provided a platform for demonstrating the rich and versatile nature of geographical research on tourism and its' connections with the mother discipline. Furthermore, the journal transformed geographers doing tourism research into the community of practice with their own identity and better visibility among tourism scholars. In this respect, and as outlined by Alan, tourism geographers' community of practice shared an interest on what they were doing and progressed while interacting in publishing (see Wenger, 1998). This community of practice was much needed. As noted by Alan tourism geographers were often overshadowed not only by the mainstream human geographers but also by other tourism scholars at the time. For identity creation and boost, the *Tourism Geographies* journal has served more than well. In addition, increasing interaction among tourism geographers took place also outside the covers of the journal. In this respect, the *American Association of Geographers*' (AAG) Recreation, Sports and Tourism Research Group and the *International Geographical Union's* Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change have played their critical roles, and Alan Lew served both the AAG and IGU groups during his long journey and career. The latter group also created the academic push for the establishment of the journal in the late 1990s as vividly described by Alan.

For us, tourism is ultimately a geographical phenomenon. To have tourism in certain places is to use it for developmental reasons, such as regional economy and its diversification needs or fostering sustainable development in a destination scale. As such, tourism is often deeply embedded in places, and it impacts both positively and negatively places, place identities, people, and communities. What tourism does for sure is that it changes places and us. This process is linked to the fundamental question Alan raised: why do we travel? Geographically, the following sub-questions would be: why do we want to leave our—often cozy—home environment for the sake of temporal mobility, and why do we go to certain (kind of) places? For Alan the reason for this mobility is built on Doreen Massey's (1994) idea of a 'global sense of place' and how to apply that in tourism. One obvious application is based on using it as a framework for thinking spatial injustices that the transnational tourism industry and its networks would reveal in global power relations. This is what many tourism geographers have done (see Britton, 1991; Lapointe, 2025;; Saarinen & Wall-Reinius, 2019), and also many core human geographers have noted the relevance of tourism in thinking and analyzing the nature of global capital accumulation and neoliberalism.

Alternatively, Alan connects the idea of global sense of place on David Harvey's (1990) thinking on a time-space compression that makes the world increasingly interconnected and, thus, smaller for us. Ideally, this could foster a global sense of place, leading to a growing consciousness about our environment and that the planet is who we—humans and more-than-humans—are. This combination of the time-space compression, the global sense of place, and related consciousness is also his answer to the question why we travel. Ultimately, the realization of the deep interconnectedness of people and nature is highly needed in the current age of the Anthropocene that is considered as the new epoch in which human activity has become the dominant force influencing natural systems and our future (see Huijbens, 2025). Furthermore, the Anthropocene represents a human driven global environmental crisis, which is interestingly challenging the traditional duality division between human societies and nature. This should empower us to see, hopefully in a relatively near future, that there is no us without nature.

All this calls for new interpretations on evolution cycles, systems, sustainability, and resilience in tourism geographies and how we position tourism and its consequences on ecological and socio-economic environments in the future. In this respect, an alternative question to 'why travel' is an obvious one in the context of current climate crisis. That is: *why we should not travel*? It is easy to provide a carbon emission informed answer to this question. However, the future of tourism and tourism geographies calls also for questions on 'what' and 'how', as indicated by Alan. For example: what will be the impacts of climate change and related mitigation and adaptation measures for tourism-dependent communities, and how these tourism places would build resilience to transform their existence in the future? Furthermore, while it is relatively easy to create future climate change scenarios, it is much more challenging to predict what kind of societies we will have in the 2050s or 2080s, for example, and what kind of tourism we will have then and what role it may play for people and places at the time.

Alan's idea on the global consciousness as a driving force in tourism calls for research on the *tourism geographies of hope* that would integrate the personal scale and wellbeing of the body and the macro-scale of global political economy and ecology (see Harvey, 2000) by connecting the hosts and guests. In this respect, it is interesting that many of the notions and theories Alan uses in his inaugural lecture to understand and explain why we travel are largely derived from Marxist geographers (see Harvey, 2020; Massey, 1991), who (also) have learned to use tourism and related mobilities as a lens to understand contemporary people and societies. In this respect, tourism as a phenomenon has made an interesting journey from pastime esoterica to the forefront topic in human geographical research. For tourism geographers this provides a fruitful moment to continue and critically discuss and explain the nature of and changes in contemporary tourism in their socio-spatial context. By doing this well the current and forthcoming early career researchers may not be accidental tourism geographers. Instead, they will have a well-informed and firmly set aim to study tourism geographies and contribute to the geographical research on tourism, its impacts and governance, with a vision of how to create a better understanding on the questions such as: why we travel? For this future, the contributions by Alan have been immense.

## Regina Scheyvens, School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University, New Zealand

### *Tourism geographies, travel and the quest for social and climate justice*

I would like to start by acknowledging the significant influence that Alan Lew has had in our field, playing a critical role in carving out and defining the space for 'tourism geographies'. Through the journal, in particular, Alan has provided a platform for scholars at all stages of their careers to contribute to discourse on tourism, often bringing in unique perspectives based on their geographical leanings. In essence, his hard work and leadership elevated the status and significance of tourism geographies.

Of course, Alan in his humility would never take all of the credit for defining a field a study. In his address at the 2024 Association of American Geographers (AAG) conference in Hawaii, Alan shared the accolades around, listing eight other tourism journals started by geographers.

While I have utmost respect for Alan's contributions to scholarship, and deep appreciation for the way in which he revealed so much of his background and broader life and interests in his AAG 2024 address, in the spirit of good scholarship I am inclined to take issue with some of the sentiments Alan expressed about 'Why Travel?'. Two key themes in my response are social justice, and climate justice.

Alan stated that,

> Whether anyone knows it, every trip they go on expands their individual consciousness and the collective consciousness toward a 'global sense of place'. That is because those who travel cannot avoid growing their consciousness into one that (1) is more knowledgeable about the planet, (2) is more engaged in bringing about meaningful change that respects all beings, and (3) is more aware that the planet is who they are. This is why we travel (Alan Lew, AAG Hawaii, 2024).

While I agree that tourism *can* lead to global consciousness and connectedness, I do not believe it always actually delivers on this aspiration. And I definitely do not think this is a why many people travel. Certainly not all tourists are interested in being educated about a new place or its people when they travel. As tourists of all classes we are—to some extent at least - pre-occupied with indulging our passions for recreation or adventure, rather than really getting to know our hosts or immersing ourselves in nature or culture. Some of us just want sunshine, fine food, and instagrammable backgrounds. Tourism has long been recognised as a means to indulge our hedonistic tendencies (Krippendorf, 1987), rather than having intellectual aspirations of expanding our minds.

While I would like to believe that travel means that people are 'more engaged in bringing about meaningful change that respects all beings', that sentiment is hard to reconcile in a world in which we often hear about the environmental and social harms that tourism and tourists often bring (Kelman, 2022). Many of us are self-interested, and more concerned with indulging our senses than being respectful of local people or nature in the places we visit. Overtourism (Butler & Dodds, 2022), descreation of sacred sites (McNally, 2023), and damage to the natural environment (Holden, 2016), often go hand-in-hand with the growth of tourism. Whether we are thinking of backpackers in southeast Asia bargaining down prices of impoverished street vendors or luxury tourists insisting on their own plunge pool rather than swimming in the sea/using a shared pool, or people who helicopter to remote locations for a photo shoot, or will only stay in hotel rooms kitted out with luxury brands rather than locally-produced items, we cannot kid ourselves: power and privilege are embedded in the tourism industry (Saarinen & Wall-Reinius, 2019). As Mowforth and Munt (2016) reminded us, even those tourists seeking out supposedly more eco-friendly or sustainable tourism experiences can ultimately be more concerned about returning home with a good story for their next dinner party rather than ensuring the company they travel with is ethical, responsible and pays employees a living wage.

But yes, let us seek to deliver on Alan's aspiration that tourism contributes to greater global consciousness and connectedness. As academics perhaps we could think a bit more deeply about ways to invert the narrative so that tourists understand it is a privilege to be able to travel, it's not a right, and if we are allowed to visit somewhere outside of our own country, we should treat the place we are going to and it's people with utmost respect. We need to expect more of the tourism industry, and also, of tourists. As Pacific leaders said at the Sustainable Tourism Leaders' Summit

in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in 2022, rather than seeing Pacific nations as dependent on tourism, we should focus on the fact that tourism to the region depends on the Pacific and its people and their natural environments surviving and thriving (Apisalome Movono, personal communication).

We could achieve better outcomes if tourism was structured so that tourists are better informed and there are clear expectations of them. We already see examples of this in practice, such as the Palau Pledge (Albrecht & Raymond, 2023) and, while in Hawaii, I visited the famed snorkeling spot of Hanauma Bay State Park in Oahu, where there is a cap on the number of daily visitors, the park is completely closed to the public two days a week to let nature recover, and all tourists must watch an educational 10 min video before entering the water. I could not help noticing that this approach to tourism was in strong alignment with some of the Native Hawaiian principles guiding the AAG conference we were attending. Notably,

> *He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauwā ke kānaka* - ***Literally:***The land is a chief; humans are its servant. ***Figuratively:*** Land has no need for humans, but humans need the land and work it for a livelihood.
> *Mōhala i ka wai ka maka o ka pua* - ***Literally***: Unfolded by the waters are the faces of the flowers. ***Figuratively:*** Flowers (metaphor for children/people) thrive where there is water, as thriving people are found where living conditions are good.

Readers will no doubt be aware that Indigenous knowledges and values are often used to provide inspiration for more regenerative approaches to tourism. There is much we could learn here if we want tourism to lead to global consciousness and connectedness. Could we also perhaps push a little further? If a social justice approach is adopted, we would see how tourism can contribute to self-determination for Indigenous people, or give people a chance to share their own stories of historical injustice (Benjamin & Laughter, 2023). Importantly, tourism can raise consciousness and help to achieve social justice but this will not happen automatically. Resources need to be invested and steps need to be taken by those with power, including ourselves as tourism scholars, to make social justice through tourism a reality.

Finally, when thinking about 'Why Travel?', Alan reminds us of the many, many countries he has been fortunate to travel to over the years. I, too, have been fortunate in this respect. But we live in a world where we can no longer ignore the devastating impacts that climate change is having on people on a daily basis: often the poorest and less powerful are suffering the most. Examining the tourism sessions at the 2024 AAG, it was apparent that a lot of the tourism talks at this conference were linked to resilience. And in so many cases, resilience was required because of the impacts of climate change.

Thus, as tourism geographers, we need to stop ignoring the elephant in the room, and start moving towards climate justice…not just in our writing, but in our own actions. Some of us are seen as role models or leaders in the field. Thus I argue that we also should think carefully about our own travel in the face of the climate emergency. In this regard, I recently heard someone say that *guilt* is not a particularly helpful emotion, as it can make us feel rather defeated, or defensive. Rather, perhaps we can feeling a sense of *responsibility* and make decisions on future travel based on this?

This is tricky territory. We all know that online participation in conferences, for example, cannot replace the value of face-to-face engagement. That is why I chose

to fly for 8 h to come to the AAG in Hawaii. I am certainly not advocating a 'do not travel at all' philosophy, and I do not think I am in any position to judge others. But could we each think about limiting the number of long distance flights we take, whether for conferences or research? Could we decline some invitations to participate in face-to-face forums or ask the organisers to provide hybrid participation options? Could we get creative with our conference formats, thinking up engaging ways to make hybrid conferences work well, to that they provide enriching experiences and are far more inclusive for participants who wouldn't normally have the resources to travel? If we are part of research teams, could we prioritise early career staff as those who will travel to present our work at conference since they have the most to gain from making connections? And for those of us whose research necessitates travel, could we take on board some lessons from the Covid pandemic: there are other ways of doing fieldwork including collaborating more with in-country researchers and empowering them to collect and analyse data and, in some cases, co-author with us (Nguyen et al., 2022; Scheyvens et al., 2020). Finally, could we think of ways in which we can use our power to provide opportunities for colleagues in resource-poor universities of the global south to have the chance to travel? This might include devoting funds from resource projects for this purpose, or influencing our scholarly societies (such as the AAG and IGU) to dedicate some of their resources to enable travel for global south scholars. Perhaps it is time for the Recreation, Tourism and Sport specialty group of the AAG to structure their awards so that they are not only available to scholars who regularly attend the AAG in person?

I am aware there are pros and cons to all of the above suggestions, but as we—tourism geographers who think critically about issues every day - delay thinking and talking about various options, cyclones increase in frequency and severity, forests burn, heatwaves strike, droughts or floods have devastating impacts, and so the impacts of climate change intensify.

As Alan Lew said, "We can't know why travel. We can only create the best stories we can…". I am suggesting that we include in those stories our efforts to strive for social and climate justice.

## Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

## Notes

1. "Authors are listed in alphabetical order. All authors are equal contributors to the piece".
2. Here and through the rest of the commentary I use the first name "Alan" instead of "Lew" to better acknowledge the careful, conversational way he writes.
3. Asia easily leads the world in self-described tourism geographers but the descriptor is also embraced in Oceania, to a lesser extent in Europe, South America, and Africa, and almost never in North America.
4. This was certainly my overall experience through my postgraduate training in the US.
5. On 11 June 2024 *Tourism Geographies* has a 2022 impact factor of 9.8. First was *Dialogues in Human Geography* with a 27.5 impact factor.

## Notes on contributors

***Chris Gibson*** is Australian laureate Fellow and Professor in the Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney, Australia. He is an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, and is currently editor of the academic journal Progress in Human Geography.

***Jamie Gillen*** is Associate Professor in Global Studies at the University of Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand. Jamie works around the human geography canon, with particular attention to the geopolitics of tourism. He is an editor for Tourism Geographies and one of the co-hosts for the Tourism Geographies podcast.

***Dimitri Ioannides*** is the Chaired Professor of Human Geography in the Department of Economics, Geography, Law and Tourism and a member of the European Tourism Research Institute (ETOUR) at Mid Sweden University. He has long been interested in aspects related to tourism planning and sustainable development. His most recent co-edited book was *Polar Tourism and Communities: Experiences, Knowledge Building, Challenges and Opportunities* (2025, CABI).

***Jennie Germann Molz*** is a Professor of Sociology at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. Her research focuses on travel and technology, mobile lifestyles, digital nomads, traveling families, and network hospitality. She is the author of *The World is Our Classroom* (NYU Press, 2021) and co-editor of *Affect and Emotion in Tourism* (Routledge, 2023).

***Jarkko Saarinen*** is a Professor of Human Geography (Tourism Studies), University of Oulu, Finland, and he also serves as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. He is the Director of the Frontiers of Arctic and Global Resilience (FRONT) Research Program at the University of Oulu. His research interests include sustainability and tourism development, tourism-community relations, tourism, resilience and climate change adaptation, political ecology and community-based natural resource management.

***Regina Scheyvens*** is Professor of Development Studies at Massey University in New Zealand, with a background in Human Geography and Social Anthropology. At Massey, Regina combines a passion for teaching about international development and the SDGs with research on tourism, community empowerment and sustainable development, especially focusing on the Global South. Along with books on 'Tourism for Development: Empowering Communities', 'Development Fieldwork: A Practical Guide', 'Tourism and Poverty' and 'Inclusive Tourism Development', she has published a wide range of articles and blogs and is producing a Youtube series on 'Indigenous Voices on Tourism'.

## ORCID

Jamie Gillen http://orcid.org/0000-0002-1618-724X

## References

Adams, K. M. (2021). What western tourism concepts obscure: Intersections of migration and tourism in Indonesia. *Tourism Geographies*, *23*(4), 678–703. 10.1080/14616688.2020.1765010

Adams, K. M., Choe, J., Mostafanezhad, M., & Phi, G. T. (2021). (Post-)pandemic tourism resiliency: Southeast Asian lives and livelihoods in limbo. *Tourism Geographies*, *23*(4), 915–936. (10.1080/14616688.2021.1916584

Adey, P., & Lisle, D. (2025). Tourism infrastructures. *Tourism Geographies*, *27*(3-4), 756–766. https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2024.2412543

Albrecht, J., & Raymond, E. (2023). Best practice in developing and implementing visitor pledges. In *Handbook on tourism and behaviour change* (pp. 285–303). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Bellato, L., & Pollock, A. (2025). Regenerative tourism: A state-of-the-art review. *Tourism Geographies*, *27*(3–4), 558–567. 10.1080/14616688.2023.2294366
Benjamin, S., & Laughter, J. (2023). Toward critical race tourism: Valuing counter-narratives and endarkened storywork. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, *31*(12), 2628–2644. 10.1080/09669582.2022.2093358
Britton, S. G. (1982). The political economy of tourism in the Third World. *Annals of Tourism Research*, *9*(3), 331–358. 10.1016/0160-7383(82)90018-4
Britton, S. (1991). Tourism, capital, and place: Towards a critical geography of tourism. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, *9*(4), 451–478. 10.1068/d090451
Brouder, P., Clavé, S. A., Gill, A., & Ioannides, D. (Eds.). (2017). *Tourism destination evolution* (p. 2017). Routledge.
Brundtland, G. H. (1987). Brundtland commission, Report of the world commission on environment and development: Our common future.
Butler, R. W. (1980). The concept of a tourist area cycle of evolution: Implications for management of resources. *Canadian Geographer*, *24*(1), 5–12.
Butler, R. W. (1999). Sustainable tourism: A state-of-the-art review. *Tourism Geographies*, *1*(1), 7–25. 10.1080/14616689908721291
Butler, R. W., & Dodds, R. (2022). Overcoming overtourism: A review of failure. *Tourism Review*, *77*(1), 35–53. 10.1108/TR-04-2021-0215
Christaller, W. (1964). Some considerations of tourism location in Europe: The peripheral regions-underdeveloped countries-recreation areas. *Papers in Regional Science*, *12*(1), 95–105. 10.1111/j.1435-5597.1964.tb01256.x
Cohen, E. (1979). A phenomenology of tourist experiences. *Sociology*, *13*(2), 179–201. 10.1177/003803857901300203
Cohen, S. A. (2010). Chasing a myth? Searching for 'self'through lifestyle travel. *Tourist Studies*, *10*(2), 117–133. 10.1177/1468797611403040
Crossley, E. (2020). Ecological grief generates desire for environmental healing in tourism after COVID-19. *Tourism Geographies*, *22*(3), 536–546. 10.1080/14616688.2020.1759133
Crossley, É. (2021). Deep reflexivity in tourism research. *Tourism Geographies*, *23*(1-2), 206–227. 10.1080/14616688.2019.1571098
Dekeyser, T. (2023). Worldless futures: On the allure of 'worlds to come'. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, *48*(2), 338–350. 10.1111/tran.12579
d'Hauteserre, A. (1999). The French mode of social regulation and sustainable tourism development: The case of Disneyland Paris. *Tourism Geographies*, *1*(1), 86–107. 10.1080/14616689908721296
Dixon, A. D., Peck, J., Alami, I., & Whiteside, H. (2023). Making space for the new state capitalism, part III: Thinking conjuncturally. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, *55*(5), 1207–1217. 10.1177/0308518X231185587
Fogle, E. V., Duffy, & L. N., & Hunter, W. (2024). On being a Black woman 'Mzungu' researcher. *Tourism Geographies*, *26*(1), 51–69. 10.1080/14616688.2024.2381061
Fraser, N. (2014). Can society be commodities all the way down? Post-Polanyian reflections on capitalist crisis. *Economy and Society*, *43*(4), 541–558. 10.1080/03085147.2014.898822
Freire, P. (2000). *Pedagogy of freedom: Ethics, democracy, and civic courage*. Rowman & Littlefield.
Freire, P. (2018). *Pedagogy of the oppressed, 50th Anniversary Edition*. Bloomsbury Academic.
Gibson, C. (2010). Geographies of tourism: (Un)ethical encounters. *Progress in Human Geography*, *34*(4), 521–527. 10.1177/0309132509348688
Gibson, C. (2021a). Critical tourism studies: New directions for volatile times. *Tourism Geographies*, *23*(4), 659–677. 10.1080/14616688.2019.1647453
Gibson, C. (2021b). Theorising tourism in crisis: Writing and relating in place. *Tourist Studies*, *21*(1), 84–95. 10.1177/1468797621989218
Guia, J., & Jamal, T. (2025). Entangled engagements: A posthumanist and affirmative ethics for tourism geographies. *Tourism Geographies*, *27*(3-4), 608–619. 10.1080/14616688.2024.2330574
Hall, C. M., Scott, D., & Gössling, S. (2020). Pandemics, transformations and tourism: Be careful what you wish for. *Tourism Geographies*, *22*(3), 577–598. 10.1080/14616688.2020.1759131
Harvey, D. (1990). *The condition of postmodernity: An enquiry into the origins of cultural change*. Blackwell Publishing.

Harvey, D. (2000). *Spaces of hope*. Edinburgh University Press.
Harvey, D. (2020). *The anti-capitalist chronicles*. Pluto Press.
Holden, A. (2016). *Environment and tourism*. Routledge.
Huijbens, E. H. (2025). Tourism earthly attachments in the Anthropocene. *Tourism Geographies*, *27*(3-4), 438–446. 10.1080/14616688.2023.2269534
Iaquinto, B. L., Gillen, & J., & Mostafanezhad, M. (2024). The new tourism geopolitics: Bridging tourism geographies and political geography. *Tourism Geographies*, *26*(5), 723–734. 10.1080/14616688.2024.2394693
Ioannides, D., & Debbage, K. G. (Eds.). (1998). *The economic geography of the tourist industry: A supply-side analysis*. Routledge.
Ioannides, D., & Debbage, K. G. (2014). Economic geographies of tourism revisited. In A.A. Lew, C.M. Hall, & A.M. Williams (Eds.), *The wiley blackwell companion to tourism* (pp. 107–119). London: Wiley Blackwell.
Ioannides, D., & Stoffelen, A. (2025). Can tourism impact studies become more meaningful? *Tourism Geographies*, *27*(3-4), 447–456. 10.1080/14616688.2023.2269544
Jones, S. B. (1933). Mining and tourist towns in the Canadian rockies. *Economic Geography*, *9*(4), 368–378. 10.2307/140491
Kelman, I. (2022). *Critiques of island sustainability in tourism*. Routledge.
Krippendorf, J. (1987). Ecological approach to tourism marketing. *Tourism Management*, *8*(2), 174–176. 10.1016/0261-5177(87)90029-X
Lapointe, D. (2025). The tourism periphery: From structural hierarchies of place to relational ontology. *Tourism Geographies*, *27*(3–4), 725–734. 10.1080/14616688.2024.2404643
Lew, A. (1999). Editorial: A place called Tourism Geographies. *Tourism Geographies*, *1*(1), 1–2. 10.1080/14616689908721289
Lew, A. (2002a). A new world of travel and care. *Tourism Geographies*, *4*(1), 1–2.
Lew, A. (2002b). Editorial: Geotourism and what geographers do. *Tourism Geographies*, *4*(4), 347–348. 10.1080/14616680210158119
Lew, A. (2011). Tourism's role in the global economy. *Tourism Geographies*, *13*(1), 148–151. 10.1080/14616688.2010.531046
Lew, A. (2014). Scale, change and resilience in community tourism planning. *Tourism Geographies*, *16*(1), 14–22. 10.1080/14616688.2013.864325
Lew, A. (2018). "Why travel? Travel, tourism, and global consciousness. " *Tourism Geographies*, *20*(4), 742–749. 10.1080/14616688.2018.1490343
Lew, A. (2024). Why travel?: Life explorations and 'Tourism Geographies' in a world of travel. *Tourism Geographies*, *26*(8), 1433–1442. 10.1080/14616688.2024.2423160
Lew, A., Cheer, J., Brouder, P., Teoh, S., Clausen, H. B., Hall, M., Haywood, M., Higgins-Desbiolles, F., Lapointe, D., Mostafanezhad, M., Pung, J. M., & Salazar, N. (2020). Visions of travel and tourism after the Global COVID-19 transformation of 2020. *Tourism Geographies*, *22*(3), 455–466. 10.1080/14616688.2020.1770326
Marschall, S. (2015). 'Travelling down memory lane': Personal memory as a generator of tourism. *Tourism Geographies*, *17*(1), 36–53. 10.1080/14616688.2014.925963
Massey, D. (1991). A global sense of place. *Marxism Today*, *38*, 24–29.
Massey, D. (1994). *A global sense of place: Space, place, and gender*. The University of Minnesota Press.
Mathieson, A., & Wall, G. (1982). *Tourism: Economic, physical and social impacts*. Longman Group.
Massey, D. (1993). Questions of locality. *Geography*, *78*(2), 142–149. 10.1080/20436564.1993.12220547
McMurray, K. C. (1930). The use of land for recreation. *Annals of Association of the American Geographers*, *20*(1), 7–20.
McNally, M. D. (2023). The sacred and the profaned: Protection of native American sacred places that have been desecrated. *California Law Review*, *111*, 395.
Mowforth, M., & Munt, I. (2016). *Tourism and sustainability: Development, globalisation and new tourism in the Third World*. Routledge.
Mostafanezhad, M. (2020). Covid-19 is an unnatural disaster: Hope in revelatory moments of crisis. *Tourism Geographies*, *22*(3), 639–645. 10.1080/14616688.2020.1763446
Murphy, P. (2013). *Tourism: A community approach (RLE Tourism)*. Routledge.

Nguyen, P., Scheyvens, R., Beban, A., & Gardyne, S. (2022). From a distance: The 'new normal' for researchers and research assistants engaged in remote fieldwork. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, *21*, 16094069221089108. 10.1177/16094069221089108

Noy, C. (2004). Performing identity: Touristic narratives of self-change. *Text and Performance Quarterly*, *24*(2), 115–138. 10.1080/1046293042000288353

Osborne, N. (2015). Intersectionality and kyriarchy: A framework for approaching power and social justice in planning and climate change adaptation. *Planning Theory*, *14*(2), 130–151. 10.1177/1473095213516443

Osborne, N. (2019). For still possible cities: A politics of failure for the politically depressed. *Australian Geographer*, *50*(2), 145–154. 10.1080/00049182.2018.1530717

Pacific people. *Development Studies Working Paper 1/2020*. Palmerston North: Massey University. http://hdl.handle.net/10179/15742

Pearce, D. (1989). *Tourist development* (2nd ed.). Longman Group.

Peet, R. (1998). *Modern geographical thought*. Blackwell.

Polanyi, K. (2001). *The great transformation*. Beacon. (Original work published 1944)

Rosenman, E. (2024). From relational thinking to relational politics of responsibility: Reclaiming outrage in economic geography. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, *56*(5), 1577–1583. 10.1177/0308518X241266761

Ruez, D., & Cockayne, D. (2021). Feeling otherwise: Ambivalent affects and the politics of critique in geography. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, *11*(1), 88–107. 10.1177/2043820621995617

Saarinen, J. (2019). Not a serious subject?! Academic relevancy and critical tourism geographies. In D. Muller (Ed.), *Tourism geographies: A research agenda* (pp. 33–41). Edgar Elgar.

Saarinen, J., & Wall-Reinius, S. (2019). Enclaves in tourism: Producing and governing exclusive spaces for tourism. *Tourism Geographies*, *21*(5), 739–748. 10.1080/14616688.2019.1668051

Scheyvens, R., & Cheer, J. M. (2022). Tourism, the SDGs and partnerships. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, *30*(10), 2271–2281. 10.1080/09669582.2021.1982953

Scheyvens, R., Movono, A., Strickland, D., Bibi, P., Tasere, A., Hills, G., & Teama, F. (2020). Development in a world of disorder: Tourism, COVID-19 and the adaptivity of south pacific people/Professor Regina Scheyvens & Dr Apisalome Movono; with Danita Strickland, Patricia Bibi, Apakuki Tasere, Georgie Hills, Norah Rihai & Fiona Teama. Working paper series (Massey University. Development Studies) 2020/1.

Stoffelen, A., & Ioannides, D. (2022). Introduction to the handbook of tourism impacts: Social and environmental perspectives. In *Handbook of tourism impacts* (pp. 2–19). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Swab, J. (2024). Assessing geography's place in US higher education: An analysis of undergraduate geography course enrolment from 1948 to 2000. *The Professional Geographer*, *76*(4), 476–489. 10.1080/00330124.2024.2326940

Timothy, D. J. (2002). *Tourism and political boundaries*. Routledge.

Wall, G. (1997). Sustainable development – unsustainable development. In S. Wahab & J.J. Pigram (Eds.), *Tourism development and growth: The challenges of sustainability* (pp. 33–49). Routledge.

Wang, N. (1999). Rethinking authenticity in tourism experience. *Annals of Tourism Research*, *26*(2), 349–370. 10.1016/S0160-7383(98)00103-0

Wenger, E. (1998). *Communities of practice: Learning, meaning, and identity*. Cambridge University Press.

Wolfe, R. I. (1951). Summer cottagers in Ontario. *Economic Geography*, *27*(1), 10–32. 10.2307/141807

Williams, A. M., & Montanari, A. (1999). Sustainability and self-regulation: Critical perspectives. *Tourism Geographies*, *1*(1), 26–40. 10.1080/14616689908721292

Young, M., & Markham, F. (2020). Tourism, capital, and the commodification of place. *Progress in Human Geography*, *44*(2), 276–296. 10.1177/0309132519826679