

Smart Transport for Sustainable Tourism

NECTAR Cluster 5 (Leisure, Recreation and Tourism) international workshop

University of Évora, Portugal

NEW DATES: September 12-14, 2022

Call for papers

It is our pleasure to invite you to join the workshop organized by NECTAR Cluster 5 (Leisure, Recreation and Tourism) and CEFAGE (Centre for Advanced Studies in Management and Economics) which will be held at the University of Évora, Portugal, on September 12-14, 2022.

Main topic

Tourists looking for destinations in less urbanized areas are often attracted by the ecological and cultural features of rural regions and landscapes. It is also documented that these tourists tend to be highly sensitive to environmental problems, to the need to protect local ecosystems, and to prevent global impacts of CO₂ emissions. However, when visiting these areas with relatively low population density, they also have to face a relative scarcity of public transport, which constitutes a high incentive for the utilization of private forms of transportation.

Although bicycles tend to be increasingly popular, they require a physical effort that is not always compatible with the characteristics of travelers (mostly for small children or older visitors) and with the morphology of many rural destinations. On the other hand, attractive tourism resources in these areas are often dispersed along the territory, implying movements with relatively long distances. In this context, private cars may appear as the only effective solution to ensure the mobility of tourists.

Assuming the importance of reducing the utilization of private cars and related problems of traffic congestion and CO₂ emissions, this workshop aims at discussing the problems caused to tourism activities by the lack of public transport in less urbanized areas, along with potential solutions and alternatives, keeping in mind the importance of ensuring an enjoyable, satisfactory and memorable experience, that mobilizes the diversity of territorial resources existing in these areas.

Topics of interest

The workshop will focus on the following specific topics:

- Transport modes for tourism in areas of low population density;
- Public transports and satisfaction with rural tourism experiences;
- Transports and territorial dispersion of tourism attractions in non-urban areas;
- Sustainable tourism and sustainable transports in non-urban territories;
- Sustainable transports for touristic routes and networks in non-urban areas;
- Use of "soft modes" of transportation to differentiate a tourism area as an "eco-friendly" destination.

The organizing committee may consider contributions focused on other aspects of the relation between tourism and smart or sustainable forms of transportation. However, priority will be given to works addressing the specific problems of non-metropolitan areas.

The workshop will ideally comprise 15 paper presentations (3 papers per session).

Publishing opportunities

We are pleased to inform that a special issue based on the contributions submitted to this workshop will be published by the *International Journal of Tourism Research* (IF: 3.791). We expect to put together a consistent, diverse and high-quality set of articles focusing on this under-researched topic. All the papers must follow the usual peer-review process.

Venue and date

University of Évora (Portugal); September 12-14, 2022.

Participation and fees

This workshop is funded by the University of Évora and NECTAR. With this co-funding, we will be able to fund accommodation for two nights, meals (one dinner and one lunch) and the social events during the event (one author per paper). For the other dinner, the organization will propose an optional plan based with good quality local food for a very reasonable price. Social events (wine tasting and visit to the historical center) are also offered by the organization.

NECTAR membership for the year 2022 (€70 or, for those under the age of 30, €40) is required in order to attend the meeting. Non-members can find details on how to join the association on the 'Membership' page of NECTAR's website: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu/membership/>.

Preliminary program:

The **opening** and **closing sessions** will include a guest speaker and members of the organizing committee from NECTAR and CEFAGE. The **Panel Discussion** will also involve a representative of a regional authority and contributions from all the participants. 3 papers will be presented in each of the 5 regular sessions, with appropriate time for presentation and discussion.

	September 12 Monday	September 13 Tuesday	September 14 Wednesday
Morning		Session 2	Session 5
		Session 3	Closing session
Afternoon	Opening session	Session 4	
	Session 1	Panel discussion	
Evening	Social event and dinner	Social event and dinner	



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CEFAGE

center for advanced studies in management and economics



Network of European Communications and Transport Activities Research

Guest speakers:

Lucie Kirstein

Transport research analyst - International Transport Forum / OECD (www.itf-oecd.org)

Promoting sustainable and innovative mobility for tourism promotion – a review of international best practice

Rural areas across the globe struggle with population aging, outmigration and the loss of economic opportunities due to international industrial competition (e.g. OECD, 2020). Sustainable tourism is often part of a larger strategy to revive or maintain the rural economy. At the same time, Covid-19 and travel restrictions have led to both instances of decline and growth of local tourism. While some rural and mountainous areas in Europe have struggled with increased car influx from city dwellers escaping lockdown, faced congested villages and ecosystem impacts, other areas have lost out due to less international visitors. Further, the climate crisis is a major argument for many to rethink their travel behavior and future carbon taxes may discourage flights and car trips, making rail access more important in the future.

There is a large scope for shifting travel demand to low-carbon transport solutions in tourism, with significant socio-economic side-benefits, especially for those unable to drive or afford a car. Communities across Europe have tested and promoted the use of bicycles, car-and ridesharing and flexible public transport linked with digital MaaS-type solutions and intermodality improvements (mobility hubs). However, many of these initiatives are small and of a short duration that make it difficult to observe lasting impacts on travel behaviour. Innovative approaches to mobility are also emerging in a broader context of long-standing deficits in rural and regional transport, in relation to policy, service provision, funding, institutional capacity and research. In the absence of target-based policy, legal recognition, structured funding programmes and technical assistance, many rural communities have to rely on private means of transportation, with alternatives available only through isolated local initiatives. Local transport provision is often in the hands of municipalities, some of which face severe financial constraints for transport provision and lack the knowledge and tools to implement novel solutions.

Defining a national or regional sustainable mobility and tourism strategy, based on target-based policy and a financial framework, is therefore key to both manage potential changes, ensure accessibility for all and attract a new class of socially and environmentally conscious travelers. There is also a need for adapting legal systems where non-conventional, innovative mobility solutions are not recognised. In addition, investments in transit-oriented development and provision of low-carbon transport systems outside the big cities should be recognised through their wider social, economic and environmental benefits. More efforts are needed to support communities in collecting information and quantifying these effects to make them part of appraisals and evaluations. The presentation will discuss these and other results and recommendations from the forthcoming ITF report on Rural mobility innovations and link them with sustainable rural development strategies.

Lucie Kirstein is a transport research analyst with several years of experience in policy advice with a focus on regulation, competition and energy. Her most recent projects at the International Transport Forum (OECD) dealt primarily with the questions of how accessibility can be guaranteed in sparsely populated and remote areas and how the legal and planning frameworks will need to adapt in order to allow for the development of cost-effective and sustainable mobility solutions. Her report on Rural Mobility Innovations will be released this autumn. Lucie holds a Master's Degree from Sciences Po Paris, France, with a focus on political economy and international economics. In October 2021, she will start a position as a scientific advisor at the German Academy of Technical Sciences.

Suggested readings:

ITF (2021). Connecting Remote Communities: Summary and Conclusions, ITF Roundtable Reports, No. 179, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://www.itf-oecd.org/connecting-remote-communities>.

ITF (2021, forthcoming), Rural mobility innovations: Opportunities and policy challenges. OECD, Paris.

OECD (2020) Rural Well-being - Geography of Opportunities. OECD, Paris. DOI: 10.1787/d25cef80-en.

The SMARTA Project, <https://ruralsharedmobility.eu/>.

The MAMBA Project, <https://www.mambaproject.eu/database/>.

John Östh

Chair professor in Urban analytics at Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

Tourism, the pandemic and the survival of destinations: Introducing GOLD (Global Open-street-map Longitudinal Database) for the study of resilience and change in tourism destinations.

The list of destinations, sports and cultural activities, restaurants and other similar hospitality activities that were severely affected by the restrictions COVID19 pandemic is long. Nonetheless, the list varies between countries due to national or regional variations in stringencies, meaning that the pandemic-related effect for the tourism industry largely depended on regulations implemented in the issuing and receiving countries. In particular, charter tourism, cruise tourism and other tourism activities involving large concentrations of people in constricted areas, more or less came to a global, full stop. For several different reasons, many resorts built around crowd activities (such as amusement/theme parks, beaches, historical sites, etc.) were either closed or subject to strong limitations. Also, the typical demographic groups participating in cruise tourism, can generally be described as elderly and vulnerable. Even more importantly, the idea of cruising between destinations in different countries/regions violated national and regional restrictions, making cruising more or less impossible. This example shows how some destinations were more dependent on tourism than others, while variations in national policies and economic support imply that the pandemic-related effects on destinations varied. In this context, we developed and used a new database - GOLD (Global Open-street-map Longitudinal Database) - to follow how tourism related services develop over time. The database contains several global cross-sectional downloads of around 9.6 billion objects from before the pandemic (2019) until 2022, including aspects related to the location and mobility of tourists. By studying the variation in survival of destination services, we hope to be able to indicate which factors are associated with a stronger resilience, and how destination managers may adapt and develop the industry to reduce vulnerability.

***John Östh** is an urban analyst and geographer with long experience in GIS and spatial analysis-oriented research. Trained as a human geographer and academic at Uppsala University (Sweden), John is now a chair professor in Urban analytics in Oslo Metropolitan University, and long-term guest professor at the institute for Urban and Housing Studies at Uppsala University. His interest in tourism research is primarily focused on tourism-oriented mobility trajectories, local and regional opportunity structures and tourism destination resilience. John is currently leading the national coordination for the H2020 INCULTUM project, where development of tourism and cultural activities in rural parts of Sweden is studied: He has previously hosted an international tourism workshop, together with the Uppsala university campus at Gotland. Other recent tourism-related works (available or under review) focused on the spatial distribution of Airbnb facilities, transport choices among tourists, and changes in destinations due to the pandemic.*

ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-4536-9229>

Abstract and CV submission:

If you are interested to participate in this workshop, please send an **abstract** of your presentation (about 500 words) including author names and affiliations and keywords, and your **CV** (2-4 pages) in PDF format to joao_romao@me.com before July 10, 2022. The abstracts will be reviewed by the organizing committee. The notification of abstract acceptance will be distributed by July 15, 2022. Please note that 12 papers were already approved by the Organizing Committee for the original dates of the call. In case all participants confirm their attendance, we can only accept 3 more participants. Priority will be given to the first submissions received, as long as they are in accordance with the aims, scope and quality standards of the call.

Organizing committee

João Romão, Yasuda Women's University and CEFAGE (Cluster 5 co-chair)
Luca Zamparini, University of Salento (Cluster 5 co-chair)
Peter Nijkamp, Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam (Cluster 5 co-chair)
Susana Cró, Universidade de Évora, Sociology Department, CEFAGE
Andreia Dionísio, Universidade de Évora, Management Department, CEFAGE

NECTAR is a European-based scientific association. The primary objective is to foster research collaboration and exchange of information between experts in the field of transport, communication and mobility from all European countries and the rest of the world. It is a multidisciplinary social science network. It brings together a wide variety of perspectives on transport and communication problems and their impacts on society in an international perspective. For further information see: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu>

CEFAGE (Center for Advanced Studies in Management and Economics) was created in 2006, with the aim of promoting research in the areas of Management and Economics. CEFAGE is now a Research Unit that brings together the best researchers in Economics and Management from various institutions. It has a main office at the University of Évora and branches at the University of Algarve, University of Beira Interior, Faculty of Sciences and Technology at the New University of Lisbon and Lisbon Accounting and Business School (ISCAL). The research interests of CEFAGE's members cover, among other fields, agricultural economics, econometrics, environmental resources, finance, industrial organization, innovation and entrepreneurship, international economics, labour economics, operations research, tourism economics, spatial economics and sustainable growth. <http://www.cefage.uevora.pt/en/>