

EDITORIAL NOTE

This Issue includes some of the papers discussed at the Italian Meeting “Giornate del turismo” (Naples, October 21-22, 2019), proposed by the Authors to this Journal for publication and approved after submission to two referees. The meeting was focused on “Tourism in the progress of peripheries” and the articles here published deal with various topics and problems of peripheries, the role and characters of tourism, at global, regional and urban scale.

The first contribution, an introductory manuscript I wrote, firstly defines and distinguishes the geographical “peripheries”, then discusses the characters and effects of the development of tourism, mainly in the countries of the South. These are seen as peripheries of the world, where international flows have grown greatly even in years of depression of the world economy. It also gives some critical reflections on the role of tourism both in poor countries and in peripheral regions and regional peripheries in developed nations. In conclusion, for the progress of tourism and local economy, that is for promoting a sustainable and competitive development, it stresses the need of a systemic and participatory planning.

The second and third contributions deal with two case-study on Basilicata, one of the peripheral regions of Italy and Europe. They provide an overview of various initiatives and report the growing ferment to promote local progress.

Angela Pepe and Annalisa Percoco discuss the big event “European Capital of Culture” and consider the case of Matera 2019, viewed as an opportunity to relaunch the image and attractiveness of the town (known for its “Sassi”, two neighbourhoods formed by buildings and architectures carved into the rock) but also as a chance to promote the whole regional territory.

Marcella De Filippo discusses the case of a peripheral area within a peripheral region, one of the least-favoured lands because of its morphological situation, which began its resilience process from poverty with the opening of a tourist attraction (“Flight of Angel”, a cable between two peaks of the Lucanian Dolomites). This case shows the importance of participatory initiatives for promoting sustainable development.

Two other contributions relate to problems, initiatives and potential resources in the peripheries of two different cities, Turin and Naples.

The work on Turin, by Francesco Vietti, is focused on the complex connection between tourism, migration and heritage. It offers an ethnographic account and a critical discussion about the Migrantour, an international project that has been developing an innovative urban tourism involving migrants as intercultural companions for walking tours.

The work on Naples, by Giorgia Iovino, investigates the role that street art practices can play, in degraded complex suburban realities, as identity markers and instruments for territorial enhancement. The intent is to understand to what extent these unconventional artistic practices are able to favor the planning of alternative tourist routes.

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