

Latin American and Caribbean Tourism: Smart, Regenerative, and Human-Centered Pathways



Track Chairs

Professor Eduardo Parra-López, Universidad de La Laguna, Spain
Adriana F. Chim-Miki, University of the Azores, Portugal

Track Overview

Latin America and the Caribbean constitute one of the most diverse and strategically important tourism regions globally, yet remain comparatively underrepresented in dominant theoretical and empirical debates within tourism research. The region presents unique configurations of tourism development, institutional structures, socio-economic conditions, and environmental vulnerabilities, offering fertile ground for advancing research on tourism transformation, resilience, digitalization, and sustainability transitions.

Aligned with the conference theme “Tourism 2040: Human-Centered Futures in Smart and Regenerative Ecosystems,” this track invites contributions that explore how tourism systems across Latin America and the Caribbean are being reshaped by technological change, governance dynamics, innovation processes, and regenerative development paradigms. The track emphasizes theoretically informed and empirically grounded research that moves beyond descriptive regional analysis to address broader conceptual and strategic questions relevant to tourism futures.

This track seeks to:

- Provide a dedicated forum for scholarship on Latin American and Caribbean tourism systems;
- Foster dialogue on smart, digital, and AI-driven transformation processes;
- Advance debates on regenerative tourism, sustainability transitions, and resilience;
- Examine governance, competitiveness, and socio-economic restructuring dynamics;
- Encourage interdisciplinary and methodologically diverse contributions.

Tourism systems in Latin America and the Caribbean are confronting fundamental transitions linked to digitalization, climate pressures, governance complexity, and evolving development paradigms. The track, therefore, contributes directly to forward-looking debates on tourism futures, systemic change, and strategic adaptation. The track positions the region not merely as a geographical setting but as a context of theoretical relevance, capable of informing global tourism debates on transformation, innovation, and human-centered futures. We welcome conceptual, empirical, and methodological contributions.

Expanded Themes and Topics

Smart Technology Innovations

- Smart destinations and digital transformation
- Smart tourism ecosystems and destination intelligence
- Artificial intelligence and data-driven decision-making
- Platform economies and digital intermediation
- Digital governance and data ethics
- Technology adoption and socio-technical transitions

Innovation, Competitiveness, and Business Models

- Innovation systems and tourism clusters
- Digital capabilities and organizational transformation
- Competitive strategies in emerging tourism markets
- Entrepreneurship and SME adaptation
- New value creation mechanisms

Regenerative and Sustainability Transitions

- Regenerative tourism models and practices
- Circular economy and resource efficiency
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Resilience and adaptive capacity
- Environmental governance and policy innovation

Human-Centered and Socio-Economic Dynamics

- Social justice, equity, and inclusion
- Community-centered tourism development
- Workforce transformation and digital skills
- Cultural sustainability and identity
- Governance asymmetries and institutional challenges

Destination Governance and Policy

- Multi-level governance and coordination
- Institutional innovation
- Tourism policy and development trajectories
- Public-private collaboration models
- Territorial and regional development