

Tourism Mobilities, Sustainability and Well-Being: New Challenges for Tourism Destinations

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Rationale and Relevance to the Conference Theme

Tourism destinations are increasingly shaped by interconnected mobility systems and platform-based tourism economies that influence how people travel, live, consume, and interact within tourism ecosystems. Low-cost aviation, short-term rental platforms, digital nomadism, AI-enabled mobility systems, and digital infrastructures are transforming tourism flows, territorial accessibility, housing markets, resident wellbeing, and destination governance. These transformations are not merely technological or operational. They represent structural changes in how tourism systems function socially, economically, and spatially. As tourism moves toward 2040, destinations face growing pressure to balance accessibility, competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life for residents and visitors.

Within the context of Tourism 2040: Human-Centered Futures in Smart and Regenerative Ecosystems, this track examines how tourism mobilities and platform economies can be governed through more human-centered and regenerative approaches. Rather than treating technology and mobility growth as ends in themselves, the track focuses on how destinations can develop adaptive tourism systems that support community wellbeing, social equity, climate resilience, and long-term sustainability.

The track positions tourism mobilities as a key driver of tourism transformation, exploring how destinations can move beyond growth-oriented models toward more balanced, inclusive, and regenerative futures through smarter governance and sustainable mobility transitions.

Attention will be given to the relationships between:

- tourism accessibility and destination pressure,
- short-term rental ecosystems and housing sustainability,
- aviation connectivity and territorial development,
- platform economies and governance challenges,
- mobility systems and resident wellbeing,
- digital infrastructures and regenerative destination management.

The track welcomes conceptual, empirical, methodological, and interdisciplinary contributions from tourism studies, transport and mobility research, urban and regional planning, geography, sustainability science, hospitality management, digital governance, and public policy.

Intended Audience and Scholarly Contribution

This track aims to bring together tourism scholars, destination managers, policymakers, transport and mobility researchers, urban planners, sustainability scholars, and industry practitioners interested in understanding how tourism mobilities and platform economies are reshaping destination futures.

The track advances tourism research by integrating perspectives from tourism mobilities, platform economy studies, sustainability transitions, smart tourism governance, and regenerative destination management. It seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on how destinations can transition toward more resilient, inclusive, and human-centered tourism systems capable of balancing mobility, accessibility, competitiveness, and community wellbeing toward 2040.

Expanded Themes and Sub-Themes

1. Tourism Mobilities and Destination Transformation

- Contemporary tourism mobilities and destination restructuring
- Tourism accessibility, connectivity, and territorial development
- Tourism flows, spatial concentration, and overtourism management
- Tourism mobilities in urban, coastal, island, and rural destinations
- Hyper-mobility, proximity tourism, and slow tourism transitions
- Digital nomadism and hybrid tourism-living patterns
- Sustainable mobility choices and changing tourist expectations

2. Platform Tourism Ecosystems, Accommodation and Governance

- Short-term rentals and destination sustainability
- Housing affordability, gentrification, and tourism pressure
- Platform economies and tourism governance
- Regulation and institutional management of platform-based tourism
- Resident perceptions, community wellbeing, and social license
- Professionalisation and commercialisation of accommodation
- Collaborative governance and stakeholder co-creation

3. Sustainability, Resilience and Regenerative Tourism Futures

- Climate-sensitive tourism mobility systems
- Regenerative destination planning and governance
- Community resilience and social sustainability
- Circular economy approaches in tourism destinations
- Policy frameworks for tourism mobilities and platform economies
- Smart carrying capacity monitoring and adaptive governance
- Tourism resilience under environmental and economic pressures

4. Smart Mobility, Aviation Connectivity and Intelligent Tourism Systems

- Low-cost carriers and destination competitiveness
- Air connectivity and regional tourism development
- Secondary airports and tourism dispersal strategies
- Sustainable aviation and tourism decarbonization challenges
- Smart tourism destinations and mobility management
- AI-driven tourism flow forecasting
- Real-time destination management
- Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS), micro-mobility,
- Integrated transport systems

5. Innovation, Tourist Behaviour and Future Tourism Ecosystems

- Tourist behaviour in smart and digital tourism ecosystems
- Experience personalisation and digital mediation
- Visitor decision-making and platform influence
- Innovation ecosystems and tourism entrepreneurship
- Public-private partnerships in tourism and mobility systems
- Human-centered innovation and future tourism experiences
- Data-driven tourism policy, workforce transformation, and strategic leadership