



Newsletter of the International Association for Tourism Economics

Vol 1, No 2, 31 January 2018

Some perspectives on the past IATE conferences

We start this second newsletter with a review of the origins and progression of the Association. During the 2017 IATE conference that was held in Rimini, Italy, Stephen Pratt and Stephen Wanhill presented a paper on the past IATE conferences. With their permission, a brief summary is presented in this newsletter for all IATE members.

The International Association for Tourism Economics (IATE) was inaugurated on 26 October 2007 in Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain at the Universitat de les Illes Balears on the final day of the 1st IATE conference held at the same location. The conference in Rimini last year was the 6th of the Association, with the previous conference locations being:

- 2007 in Spain, hosted by University of the Balearic Islands.
- 2009 in Thailand, hosted by the Chiang Mai University.
- 2011 in the UK, hosted by Bournemouth University.
- 2013 in Slovenia, hosted by the University of Ljubljana.
- 2015 in Hong Kong, hosted by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

These conferences facilitate collaboration between scholars and improve communication between senior and junior researchers.

Across the five conferences prior to 2017, there have been 629 individual

registrations with 466 different attendees. In general, the conferences held in Europe have attracted a higher number of attendees. The average number of conference attendees across the five conferences is almost 136 persons.

The average number of conferences attended is 1.35. Over four in five conference attendees have only attended a solitary IATE conference. This means that only one in five conference delegates are repeat attendees – an aspect we hope would improve over time.

Across the five previous IATE conferences, 214 different organisations have been represented. On average, there are almost 67 different institutions represented at each conference. Conference delegates from 57 different countries have attended at least one IATE conference. On average, almost 29 different countries are represented at a single conference. The table below shows the top 10 countries that attended the previous five IATE conferences:

Country	Number	Percentage
Spain	151	24.1%
UK	84	13.4%
Italy	59	9.4%
Australia	33	5.3%
Thailand	22	3.5%
South Africa	21	3.4%
France	19	3.0%
Greece	17	2.7%
USA	15	2.4%
Slovenia	14	2.2%

In terms of papers presented, there have been 444 presentations across the five

tourism studies. Some of the main topics include.

- The relationship between hotel efficiency and tourism destination competitiveness
- Individual rationality and differences in spa hotel choice measurement issues
- Data measurement and the change in persistence of tourist arrivals to the United States in the aftermath of September 11th
- Income elasticity of demand for tourism
- Substitutability between low-cost carriers and charter airlines in the long-haul market
- Travel agencies and IPOs
- Factors influencing luxury shopping of tourists
- The increase in visa fees and its impact on tourism flows
- Aboriginal tourism in Australia
- Business model of cruise tourism

We would like to thank all contributors, in particular the IATE members, and we look forward to receiving your future submissions!

Albert Assaf and Raffaele Scuderi

Global hospitality industry overview

STR has an unprecedented, worldwide view of the hospitality industry. The soon to be released **Global Hotel Study** report includes detailed insights for more than 100 global markets, exploring the highs, the lows, and the factors tipping the scale in each direction. Beyond the numbers, the greatest value of this report is that it ties together the on-the-ground industry knowledge from STR experts located across 15 countries. Below are some key findings in the report for each region:

US & Canada

- Presidential elections increased demand, although lending market slowed down.
- Hurricanes impacted performance in Florida and Texas.
- Supply growth weakens growth in revenue per available room (RevPAR).
- Canada is expected to have a stellar year.

Central & South America

- There was a demand recovery for the first time since 2012 in this region.
- Supply and demand growth is expected for 2018, with average daily rate (ADR) at risk.
- Strong pipeline in Brazil, with luxury developments in São Paulo as well as various Colombian cities.

Caribbean & Mexico

- Improved business confidence and weak peso drive Mexican hotel demand, despite concerns over US relations.
- Rates drive growth in the Caribbean, despite hurricanes

Europe

- There is a sea of positivity across the region.
- UK hotels see Brexit boost, while Dublin is expected to have another great year.
- Mediterranean markets continue to shine.
- Eastern Europe further establishes itself.

Middle East & Africa

- Mixed performance across this region, driven by some of the following factors:

- Oil prices continue to make a huge impact.
- Supply expansion still weighing on Dubai's performance.
- Cheap currency (rand) boosts South Africa's tourism and hospitality industries.

Asia-Pacific

- Intra-APAC travel and eased visa regulations drive growth in this region.
- Supply balance is a major factor for several markets.
- Geopolitical issues impacted South Korea's performance, while Malaysia shows signs of recovery.

For more information, contact the STR SHARE Center, sharecenter@str.com.

Steve Hood (STR)

Research projects to follow

Identifying the most accessible tourism destinations in the world

Master's research candidate Ms Ana Rucci and Dr Natalia Porto from the University of La Plata (Argentina), in collaboration with the University of Technology (Sydney, Australia) are undertaking a joint research project inspired by the UN World Tourism Organization's commitment to accessible Tourism. The project aims to develop a universal methodology that can measure accessibility in tourism as a competitive factor across different countries. The methodology covers three different stages of measurements, which are sequential: diagnosis, political will, and implementation. The first one, *diagnosis*, is to determine the importance (in numbers) of people with disabilities and the international tourism weight to the country. Then, *political will* shows normative policies and government programmes related to tourism and accessibility. The third and final stage, *implementation*, aims to recognise the access conditions in the

World Heritage Sites as the main international tourist attractions of countries. This research is built on an examination of overarching tourism destination competitiveness from a disability and accessibility perspective. Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and Brazil are the study cases of this investigation.

Moreover, the researchers from Argentina are applying this methodology to extensive research of the Latin American countries with a focus on Argentina and the province of Buenos Aires. The challenge of this research is that accessibility in tourism would be considered as a competitiveness unit of measurement, and in the future, to be taken into account in the World Economic Forum Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index.

Natalia Porto

Valuing the privately-owned wildlife industry in Namibia

Many tourists travel to Africa, and especially southern Africa, to experience the continent's unspoilt natural beauty and wildlife. The "safari experience" is one sought by many tourists. In many southern African countries, the private sector has played a key role in providing tourists with such an experience, and, in doing so, contribute to the conservation of various wildlife species as well as employment. Namibia is a country on the south-west coast of Africa that only recently (1990) gained independence from South Africa and where the majority of wildlife can be found on private game farms.



Tourism Research in Economic Environs and Society (TREES) based at the North-West University, South Africa, has been asked by the Namibian Wildlife Ranching Association and the Namibian government to investigate this important sector in their economy. The project entails an analysis of the size and scope of the game farm industry, its contribution to the economy and employment, the distribution of various wildlife species and their value as well as a market analysis of visitors to these game farms.

Follow the TREES Facebook page (/TREESNWU) for updates on the project and for more information contact Melville Saayman, melville.saayman@nwu.ac.za

Melville Saayman

Upcoming events

Asia:

9th APacCHRIE Youth Conference (1-2 June, 2018)

The 16th APacCHRIE (31 May to 2 June, 2018, hosted by Business School, Sun-Yat Sen University, China) hosts the 9th APacCHRIE Youth Conference (1-2 June, 2018). The purpose of the Youth Conference is to encourage high quality research by undergraduate students and to foster an opportunity for networking and communications between and among the undergraduate students in hospitality and

tourism. The best papers will be selected and awarded. Papers can be submitted and presented either in English or Chinese.

Research themes

Undergraduate students are invited to submit papers across a wide spectrum of tourism- and hospitality-related research topics.

Submission information

Two submission formats are available for conference presentations: Abstract (500 words) or full paper (fewer than 4 000 words). Please submit a paper in English for English session, but a paper in Chinese for Chinese session.

For the AWARD Competition, a full paper manuscript of fewer than 4 000 words (typed, single-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman) should be submitted. Please indicate the author's name and affiliation only on the cover page of the manuscript and they should not be indicated anywhere in the paper. A Best Paper Review Committee will conduct a refereed review of the full papers submitted.

Once the paper is submitted, at least one of the authors must register for and present the paper at the Conference.

Deadline for submission: 13 April, 2018.

Submit your papers and enquiries to the following co-chairs of the Youth Conference:

For submissions from mainland China, Dr Ben Haobin Ye (youthconference@163.com)

For submissions from countries and regions other than mainland China, Dr Sam Kim (sam.kim@polyu.edu.hk)

16th Asia Pacific CHRIE (APac-CHRIE) Conference 2018

31 May 31 to 2 June 2018, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

We are pleased to announce the 16th Asia Pacific CHRIE (APac-CHRIE) Conference to be organised by Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China. We welcome all delegates to the beautiful city and great country.

Call for papers

The conference will focus on a broad range of topics related to tourism and hospitality. The conference organisers invite papers, abstracts and presentations relevant to the theme of the conference, namely “Innovation and Sustainability” in hospitality/tourism.

Abstracts submission

Abstracts (three (3) pages extended abstract, typed, single-spaced and maximum 1500 words) should be submitted for review and selection. The abstracts should summarise the key points of the paper and with a maximum of six keywords that define the subject matter. The paper is reviewed based on the quality of the abstract. Therefore, ensure that a complete abstract is submitted.

Authors should write their name and indicate their affiliation (e.g. university name, country) only below the title of the paper. All the abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Paper Review Committee and authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to submit full papers.

Deadlines for submission

Abstracts submission: 31 January 2018

Full paper submission: 21 April, 2018

Submission e-mail:

paper_apac2018@163.com

Once the abstract is accepted, at least one of the authors must register and present the paper at the Conference. Best papers will be competitively selected and authors will be acknowledged with a plaque and certificate. Selected papers will be considered for

publication in Sponsor Journals of the Conference.

Full papers submission

Manuscripts submitted to the 16th APacCHRIE Conference 2018 should be original contributions and should not have been previously published nor should it be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Individual and multiple authors are welcome to contribute. For more information, visit the website:

www.apacchrie2018.com

Europe:

TTRA 2018 Europe conference

The Travel and Tourism Research Association 2018 Europe conference will be hosted by the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 24 to 26 April 2018 (<http://www.ttra.com/events/2018-europe-chapter-conference/>).

The Faculty of Economics, University Ljubljana and TTRA Europe invite researchers and practitioners to share their research and expertise in tourism. The theme of the conference will be “*Tourism: A Vehicle for Sustainable Development*” and will cover a broad range of themes connected to sustainable development in tourism research.

Conference keynotes include:

- Prof Tanja Mihalič
- Prof Sara Dolnicar
- Prof Geoffrey Lippman
- Prof Larry Dwyer

The first day of the conference will be reserved for doctoral students. Doctoral seminar co-chairs are Mike Peters (University of Innsbruck) and Scott McCabe (Nottingham University Business School).

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, where the IATE 2013 conference took place!

Co-chairs of the TTRA Europe Conference: Kir Kuščer and Tanja Mihalič (Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia).

All papers must be submitted via EasyChair:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=tt-raeurope2018>

For more information, contact Prof Tanja Mihalič tanja.mihalic@ef.uni-lj.si

Latin America:

VII Latin American Congress of Touristic Investigation, Cancún, México

The Academia Mexicana de Investigación Turística (AMIT), the Universidad del Caribe and the Red de Confluencia Latinoamericana de Investigación Turística are organising the XII International Conference of the AMIT, the XVI Seminar on Tourism and Sustainability of the Universidad del Caribe and the VIII Latinoamerican Congress of Touristic Investigation (CLAIT) that will be held during October in Cancún, Quintana Roo, México. The aim of the conference is to discuss, reflect and disseminate research findings of tourism scholars in Latin America about the contribution of tourism to sustainable development, as well as recent contributions to this field of knowledge from different disciplines and perspectives. Abstracts and proposals for panels are received until 15 April. For more information, visit

<http://fatuweb.uncoma.edu.ar/ft/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Convocatoria-XII-Congreso-AMIT-CLAIT-Primera-Circular.pdf>

IX Workshop “Tourism and Transport Economics”, Universidad de Anahuac, Oaxaca, Mexico

The University of Anahuac, Oaxaca, México is organising the IX Workshop on Tourism and Transport Economics that will take place during June. Approximately 20 researchers from Ibero-America meet every year, in different universities, in order to discuss challenging topics of tourism economics, transport economics and management of tourism. Every year, some of the papers presented are published in *Transitare*, a journal edited by this institution. For more information, contact Martín Rodríguez Brindis, martin.brindis@anahuac.mx

North America:

49th Annual TTRA International Conference

The 49th annual Travel and Tourism Research Association 2018 North American conference will take place in Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, from 26 to 28 June. Follow the link below to access the call for papers:

<http://www.ttra.com/events/2018-call-for-papers/>

National Travel and Tourism Week

The US National Travel and Tourism week is scheduled for 6 to 12 May 2018. More information on the events during this week can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.ustravel.org/events/national-travel-and-tourism-week>

A note from the editors

We hope you found something of interest in this second edition of the quarterly newsletter of the IATE. Again, we call on all of you to keep sending news, updates, research projects, conference and other calls to include in the newsletter. These can be sent to Andrea Saayman (andrea.saayman@nwu.ac.za) and/or Mondher Sahli (Mondher.Sahli@vuw.ac.nz).