



Newsletter of the International Association for Tourism Economics

Vol. 2, No 3, 8 May 2019

2019 IATE Conference update

We kindly remind you that the VII Conference of the International Association for Tourism Economics will take place on the premises of the Faculty of Economics of the National University of La Plata, in Argentina, from 3 to 6 September 2019.

If you already know that you are participating in the conference, we suggest that you book your stay in advance, as La Plata is a strong MICE destination and September is the high season in terms of academic and social events.

In this edition, we will have the following prestigious keynote speakers:

- **Onil Banerjee** is a natural resource economist at the Inter-American Development Bank in the United States, and his presentation, prepared together with Matías Cicowiez from the University of La Plata, will be titled 'Economic Analysis of Public Investments in Tourism'.
- **Gabriel Brida** is a professor in Economic Dynamics and Director of the Department of Quantitative Methods in Economics from the University of the Republic, in Uruguay. His presentation at the conference will be titled 'Economic growth, development and tourism performance: a comparative analysis for Latin America'.

The key dates to remember are:

- Full paper submission: 31 May 2019
- Early bird registration up to 15 July 2019

- Conference dates: 3-6 September 2019

Outstanding papers will be considered for publication in a Special Focus in Tourism Economics, published by SAGE.

We look forward to seeing you in La Plata, Argentina!

More information is available at <https://iateconferencelaplata.wordpress.com/>.

Natalia Porto & the organising committee

News from the Journal, Tourism Economics

March, May and June 2019 issues – We are pleased to introduce three new issues of Tourism Economics.

March 2019 is a regular issue covering the following topics:

- Low-cost carriers and their economic impact in a saturated transport market
- Host attitudes and tourism development
- Relational norms and outsourcing in the hotel sectors
- Dynamic pricing decisions by potential tourists under uncertainty and advertising
- Cash regimes and the franchise system
- Impact of a multiday special event
- International tourism demand
- Tourism-growth nexus and spatial spillovers

May 2019 is a special issue on "Tourism Forecasting" edited by Gang Li and

Chenguang Wu. The special issue covers the following topics:

- Search query data
- Multivariate singular spectrum analysis
- Seasonal forecasting performance
- The predictive ability of LIKES of posts on Facebook
- Judgemental adjustments in tourism forecasting practice
- Tourist arrivals at attractions and search engine empowered methodologies
- Hot topics and emerging trends in tourism forecasting research
- A review of methodological developments over the last decade

June 2019 is a special issue on the “Economic Implications of Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability in Tourism and Hospitality”, edited by Seoki Lee, Sunny Ham and Yoon Koh. The special issue covers the following topics:

- Responsible gambling and negative social impacts in gaming communities
- Culture-based approaches
- Competitiveness of tourist enterprises
- Casino loyalty
- Green awards and certifications
- Consumers’ evaluation and support
- Brand equity in the restaurant industry

We 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

The hotel performance reports for the first quarter of 2019 are currently available from STR. In this newsletter, interesting developments during the first quarter of 2019 in four regions of the world are shared with the IATE community.

Asia-Pacific

The following regional statistics summarise this region’s hotel activity during 2019’s first quarter:

- Occupancy growth: -1.3% to 67.4%
- Average daily rate (ADR) growth: -0.9% to US\$103.63
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR) growth: -2.2% to US\$69.81

The islands of Asia-Pacific showed mixed results, with Bali, Indonesia welcoming more than 890 000 international visitors (+10.2%) during the first two months of 2019, according to the Bureau of Statistics in Bali. On the other hand, Phuket, Thailand had the lowest occupancy levels for the first quarter since 2015. Possible reasons for this include the elections that were held in Thailand in March.

Central/South America

For the continent in total, the following performance indicators for the first quarter of 2019 show mixed results:

- Occupancy: +0.6% to 58.1%
- Average daily rate (ADR): -4.5% to US\$100.35
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR): -4.0% to US\$58.27

Rio de Janeiro gained significantly due to the Carnival, with both occupancy and ADR increasing significantly, leading to a 62.5% growth in RevPAR. Santiago, Chile performed consistently due to more corporate business. Chile experienced relatively stable economic and political conditions, which have led to large brand investment in the country.

Europe

European hotel performance reported mostly positive results during the first quarter, with:

- Occupancy: -0.2% to 63.7%

- Average daily rate (ADR): +1.6% to EUR101.28
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR): +1.3% to EUR64.56

Madrid, Spain recorded its highest occupancy and RevPAR levels, due to a number of major events, including the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Madrid, ARCOmadrid, World ATM Congress, Motortec Automechnika and the annual match between Real Madrid and Barcelona. In contrast, Athens recoded a decline in demand, worse than quarter 1 of 2014.

Middle East and Africa

For the first quarter of 2019, hotels in the Middle East and Africa showed the following trends:

Middle East

- Occupancy: +0.9% to 71.0%
- Average daily rate (ADR): -8.8 to US\$148.43
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR): -7.9% to US\$105.33

Africa

- Occupancy: +1.2% to 59.4%
- Average daily rate (ADR): +2.2% to US\$116.64
- Revenue per available room (RevPAR): +3.5% to US\$69.31

While hotels in the Middle East are still recording mixed performance, Manama, Bahrain, recorded strong growth in all performance measures due, partially due to the F1 Grand Prix. Occupancy and ADR increased, causing RevPAR to increase by 14.3%. Africa's strong growth performance continued with Egypt recording strong growth due to increased stability and active efforts from government to attract more tourists.

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

Steve Hood (STR)

Upcoming events

ENTER 2020
8-10 January 2020,
University of Surrey in Guildford, UK

ENTER2020, the leading eTourism conference organised annually by the International Federation for IT and Travel & Tourism (IFITT), will be held at the University of Surrey in Guildford, UK on 8 to 10 January 2020.

Renowned for its topical debates, inspiring keynotes, and highly practical workshops, ENTER has brought together leading academics and industry professionals in travel and technology since 1994. Over the years, the conference has firmly established its place as a platform showcasing cutting-edge research in eTourism and shedding light on current developments as well as future challenges in the area.

ENTER2020 will provide a unique venue for researchers, industry representatives, government officials, students and entrepreneurs to come together and share, discuss and challenge the latest developments in information technology in the fields of travel and tourism. With the theme "Responsible eTourism" ENTER2020 Conference will focus on exploring ways that technology can be used to ensure a positive impact of tourism on society, environment and economy. The conference will discuss major topics that contribute to our capabilities in developing more responsible information and communication technology (ICT) in travel and tourism, covering the following areas:

- Artificial intelligence and machine learning
- Big data and large-scale systems
- Smart destinations
- Augmented and virtual reality
- Platform economy
- Privacy and internet security
- Legal, ethical and social aspects of ICT.

For more information, visit:
<https://enter2020.ifitt.org/>

Projects to participate in and follow

New project: Data collection day visitors Netherlands

The Breda University of Applied Sciences and the HZ University of Applied Sciences, both in the Netherlands, are about to start a research project that has a goal to create an overview of methods to collect information about day visitors – their numbers, categories, behaviour and expenditure.

For each method, the two institutions will identify advantages, disadvantages and success conditions and determine to what degree they could be applied in the Netherlands.

Subsequently, this might result in several experiments. The project is part of the Data Development Lab, an initiative to improve the quality of data collection about tourism, recreation and hospitality in the Netherlands.

Included in the project is an exploration of methods that are currently applied to collect data on day visitors in destinations outside of the Netherlands, with a focus on new and innovative ideas.

To find and analyse these initiatives, the two institutions will review the literature and consult experts. They would also like to call upon your cooperation.

If you know of any relevant practices in data collection about day visitors (applied in certain destinations), new developments, innovative ideas, documents, experts, or anything else that could be of relevance for this research project, they would highly appreciate if you are willing to share this.

For this, you can contact Jeroen Klijs (klijs.j@buas.nl).

Thank you very much in advance!

Jeroen Klijs

In Memoriam



Melville Saayman

Professor of Tourism Management and Economics, North-West University, South Africa (1965-2019)

Members of IATE were shocked to hear the sad news that their esteemed colleague and dear friend, Melville Saayman had died from cancer on 14 March at the age of 53. Mel's passion for tourism led him to become a world-renowned researcher in the field. At the time of his death, Mel was director of the research unit TREES (Tourism Research in Economic Environs and Society) formerly known as the Institute for Tourism and Leisure Studies, at the North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus) in South Africa.

TREES is the leading tourism research entity in Africa. Mel was instrumental in establishing this research unit and led it since 2009.

Mel served on several boards, including the South African Tourism Board (SATOUR), North-West Parks and Tourism Board, Institute of Environment and Recreation Management, National Zoological Council, South African National Recreation Council (SANREC), North West Recreation Council

(PROREC-NW) and North West Development Corporation. He also served on the World Tourism Organisation's panel of experts.

Mel was the most published tourism academic in South Africa, with outputs comprising books, scientific articles, technical reports, and in-service training manuals. He also supervised 90 master's and doctoral students during his career. His accomplishments in the field include being the first National Research Foundation (NRF)-rated researcher in tourism in South Africa and being the first in the country to write tourism textbooks at tertiary level. As acknowledgement for his individual contributions to tourism, the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) honoured him with their Special Annual Theme Award in 2017. As an expert in his field, he was frequently featured in the media on tourism-related topics, and was a prolific contributor on various platforms. On receiving one of his numerous awards Mel stated:

"One of the key things I do is determine how tourism makes a contribution to people's

lives and to the broader community — how does tourism impact on poverty in South Africa and in Africa?"

To perpetuate Mel's association with IATE, the Executive will introduce a new honour to be awarded at each biennial conference. Known as the "*Melville Saayman Award*", it will go to the author of the best paper submitted from a developing country (based on UN/World Bank definitions).

Mel's contribution to the advancement of tourism economics is substantial and will retain its importance well into the future. In addition to his academic contributions and support for IATE, Mel still found time to pursue his interests in running, scuba diving, gardening, travel and music and family time with his wife Andrea and their daughters. We share their loss. IATE and its members within the tourism economics community have lost a valued colleague and dear friend.

Members of IATE Council



A note from the editors

Thanks to all our contributors! 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).