

# The Genesis of Tourism studies : European Workshop for Interdisciplinary Reflexivity

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Convenors : Bertrand Réau- Clotilde Luquiau

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The degree of “internationalization” of the main journals in this field, such as *Annals of Tourism Research*, remains very weak. The vast majority of the authors come from the United States, Australia and United Kingdom, while there is a growing readership in China (Tribe, Xiao & Chambers, 2012). As a consequence the English-speaking area dominates research in terms of distribution and visibility. Yet, for a large part of non-Anglophone countries, the institutional concerns and issues surrounding publications are potentially national and/or disciplinary. And, de facto, the publications in other languages merely circulate in the Anglophone universe. However, this weak internationalization neither stops the circulation of scholars, nor the spread of concepts, methods, and theories between North America, Great Britain, other European countries, Australia and Asia. How does this circulation of ideas and people function? In order to answer this question, a theoretical and methodological framework that allows one to grasp the emergence, the development and the structuring of Tourism Studies should be defined. John Tribe (1997) shows that approximately two large branches of study on tourism exist. One comes from business and management studies and the other is rooted in social sciences. What ties do they maintain with each other? How should we consider the academic work that deals with tourism as a peripheral element of research? There were very few researchers who first started working on tourism in the Anglophone

world and they were relatively isolated. The majority of these scholars did not set out to make 'tourism' a permanent research subject. Tourism was considered as a phenomenon enabling the study of social, historical and psychological transformations. How should we explain the development of this field of study? Starting in the 1990s, the epistemology of research on tourism gave rise to numerous debates. Among the many inquiries taken up during these debates, two cross-disciplinary questions can be distinguished: could tourism be considered as a science in its own right that takes on different names (tourismology, tourology, etc.)? Or conversely, is tourism indebted to a multi-disciplinary approach and does it therefore represent a sub-space in the various disciplinary spaces that are concerned? Darbellay & Stock (2012) show that a science of tourism is not on the agenda. Consequently, how do we produce a more "integrated" scientific knowledge from a variety of disciplines?

This workshop aims at questioning the recomposition at work in Tourism studies. It will bring together researchers from different European countries and various disciplinary backgrounds to collectively reflect on a research program about Tourism studies. What are the conditions needed to develop an approach that builds on the progress of different disciplines? How to implement a transdisciplinary approach through a research program and complementary methods ?

*The discussions will be held in french and english.*

# **Program**

## ***Morning***

- 9.00-9.25 : Welcome. JP VERNANT room. EHESS
- 9.30 10.00: Inaugural Conference by Iona Popa, research at CNRS, ISP, Université Paris Ouest/ ENS Cachan : *Analysing a historical stage of the 'area studies' : some sociological issues and Methodological aspects.*
- 10.30-12.30 : Interdisciplinary Groups

Axes around the analysis of Tourism Studies :

- Institutional and national histories (host institutions of researchers)
- Conceptual circulation between disciplines
- The intellectual networks (conferences, associations, etc.)
- Methodological transfers between disciplines
- The issue of overcoming disciplinary boundaries

## ***Lunch***

- 12h30-13h45 : lunch at the restaurant of EHESS

## ***Afternoon***

- 13h45-14h45 : Synthesis of the workshops and debates
- 14h45-15h30 : Round table discussion
- 15h30-15h45 : Pause
- 15h45-16h30 : Networks, resources and funding
- 16h30-17h00 : Conclusions

List of participants (4Feb15)

Ioana Popa, Chargée de recherches en sociologie, CNRS, ISP, Université Paris Ouest/ ENS Cachan

John Tribe, Professor of Tourism and Chief Editor of *Annals of Tourism Research*, University of Surrey

Naomi Leite (sous réserve), Lecturer in Anthropology, University of London

Mathis Stock, Professeur de Géographie, Université de Lausanne

Saskia Cousin, Maîtresse de Conférences en Anthropologie, Université Paris 5 Paris Descartes

Hasso Spöde, Professeur d'Histoire, Université de Berlin

Sébastien Jacquot, Maître de Conférences en Géographie, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Sylvain Pattieu, Maître de conférences en Histoire, Université Paris 8

Christophe Guibert, Maître de conférences en Sociologie, Université d'Angers

Clotilde Luquiau, Docteure en géographie, Centre d'Asie du Sud Est (CNRS)

Bertrand Réau, Maître de conférences en Sociologie, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

### Selected bibliography

Darbellay Frédéric & Stock, Mathis « Tourism as complex interdisciplinary research object », *Annals of Tourism Research*. 2012, 39(1), p. 441-458.

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Spöde Hasso, « La recherche historique sur le tourisme. Vers une nouvelle approche » *Mondes du tourisme*, n°2, décembre 2010.

Tribe John, Xiao Honggen, Chambers Donna, « The reflexive journal: Inside the black box », *Annals of Tourism Research*, Volume 39, Issue 1, January 2012, Pages 7-35.

Tribe John, « The Indiscipline of Tourism », *Annals of Tourism Research*, 1997, 24(3), p. 638-657.