

CSPA Graduate Workshop ***Critical Tourism Studies (3 ECTS)***



3 – 11 April 2025

Run in tandem with the 'Political Ecologies of the Countryside: agrarian roots, environmental transformations and capitalist conflicts' held from 7-11 April (see here)

Introduction

Through the democratization of travel, transport technology developments, ubiquitous internet use and growing global affluence, international tourism is booming despite recent temporary setbacks. Globetrotting tourists are seen as part of the frictionless flow of capital, information, culture and goods and most places on the planet are keen to compete in a global marketplace to entice them. As such tourism is generally promoted as a motor for economic growth and regularly cited as the world largest industry, employing one in ten people of the planetary workforce. Under these terms there is a need to tend to the diverse relations through which tourism places and spaces emerge, and thus define tourism development successes from a broader perspective than merely as measurable economic growth. The course will enable PhD students to unravel the multiple relations surrounding tourism and its development in a range of settings refracted through their own on-going research. The course will equip students with a nuanced appreciation of the socio-material and cultural dimensions of power manifest in tourism destination development, in tandem with an appreciation of the production and mobility aspects of tourism. These will be embedded with an understanding of the forces of structural power that characterize twenty-first century capitalism, empire and globalization.

Moreover, this graduate workshop is to engage graduate scholars of tourism in thinking about a plurality of tourism futures. The course is organised around theories that move beyond dichotomous understandings of tourism, such as good/bad tourism, global/local, production/consumption and mass/alternative. It will equip the student with the conceptual tools to transgress highly abstracted and often idealised notions of tourism development. Tourism is mainly constructed through grounded socio-material, cultural, and economic practices and bound together by accepted participants, labelled 'stakeholders', whose roles are prescribed under the idealised conditions of tourism development and dynamics. In this course we will explore and scrutinise these power geometries and unravel alternative tourism capacities for inducing a positive change to destinations and in the context of individual research projects. Moving beyond tourism defined as an industry based only on a particular economic logic derived from perceived structures and essence of a society *sui generis*, is the leitmotif of the course. We are all tourists all the time is the point of departure and thereby the workshop will explore how tourism grows through relations and the act of being-with others, more-than/non-humans and the earth itself. Therefore, it is imperative that our conceptual frameworks assist in critically engaging with the realities tourism performs.

The course is organized around theories that link tourism with Marxian, poststructuralist, relational and political ecology scholarship. The course thus moves beyond theories on tourism as a social construct and industry. It offers students a solid theoretical basis to problematize the relation between tourism and its cultural and socio-material setting. Faculty contributions draw on different disciplines (history, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, political ecology, geography, economics) to rethink the relation between tourism and the world. The various sessions in the course combine the reading of foundational texts with readings of more recent academic work from critical tourism studies.

Learning outcomes

During the course, participants develop a conceptualization of tourism relevant to their research questions and setting. Students will engage directly with foundational texts on critical tourism studies

and link these to the manifold ways in which tourism unfolds in a range of settings. Students learn to see how tourism development trajectories are created and maintained and what are the impacts on their research projects and on their research population.

After successful completion of this course, participants are expected to be able to:

- **Identify** core theoretical frames to rethink the ways in which tourism and development are linked
- **Understand** the importance of historical, abstract and theoretical texts and **apply** them to contemporary debates on critical tourism studies
- Critically **reflect** on the implications of different theoretical framings for their research projects
- **Develop** a conceptualisation of tourism for his or her own research project.

Activities

Being a graduate workshop, more demands will be made on reading, self-study, active pre-class preparation, reflections and development of own research project and in-class dialogue. Tutorial sessions take place every morning setting the tone for the day and reflecting on previous days. Thereafter two lectures take place, one before lunch and one after lunch and after these scope is provided for team work with focus on individual projects. The workshop concludes with a presentation symposium wherein members of the Tourism@WUR cluster and other invited faculty will join and engage with talks/presentations from each of the participants on how their project developed with input from the graduate workshop. Readings will be provided at least two weeks before the start of the course.

Participants are expected to read the literature, and prepare questions and points for discussion for the session!

- **Session one** will serve as an introduction into the topic and set-up of the course. We will allow participants to get to know each other, briefly discuss each other's research projects, set the overall theme, and align expectations.
- **The literature-based lectures** will discuss foundational texts and relate these to contemporary work that addresses the relation between tourism and theory. Where appropriate we discuss how the specific literature of that day is applied in empirical research. The sessions will introduce the literature based in engaging lecture format. The active contribution of participants to bring in their observations and reflections is encouraged.
- **Activities** will take place on two days, where we will visit Utrecht and Amsterdam. Travel will be co-ordinated using public transport and in these sessions we focus on practical experience and observations and hope to learn from your insights.
- The **final day** of the course is a symposium with tourism scholars of the Tourism@WUR cluster. Throughout the day participants present their research in relation to the different perspectives discussed in the course. In the afternoon, the school will be rounded off with some drinks and pleasantries.

Coordinators

Prof. dr. Edward. H. Huijbens (GEO) (coordinator, contact person)

Other participants

- Members of the CSPA cluster Tourism@WUR (33 faculty and PhDs)

Programme (Please note the programme may be subject to minor changes)

Time/Place (TBC)	Theme	Facilitator	Core reading(s)
Th 3/4, 9am-6pm Forum B0106 – early start Molen de Ster (Molenpark 3, 3531 ET Utrecht).	Tutorial session <u>Lecture (09.00-11.00):</u> Introduction: What is the ‘critical turn’ in tourism studies about? A - look at the readings <u>Afternoon activity – start 2pm:</u> 'Tourism as a tool for intercultural encounter and dissonant heritage-making'– note long day	E. Huijbens Meghann Ormond	Tribe, 2005; Morgan et.al 2018; Mura and Wijasinghe, 2025 Ormond and Vietti, 2022; Wilson, 2017
Fr 4/4, 9am-5pm Forum B0106	Tutorial session <u>Lecture I (09.00-10.30):</u> Planetary boundaries and steady state economics <u>Lecture I (11-12.30):</u> Violence, Capital and Tourism <u>Lecture II (13.30-15.00):</u> Environmental mobilities and tourism <u>After work activity:</u> walk around WUR campus through PEEK	Bas Amelung and Nowella Anyango-van Zwieten Bram Büscher Machiel Lamers	Richardson et al., 2023 and Sun, Gossling and Zhou, 2022 Devine and Ojeda, 2017 and Büscher, Fletcher, 2017 Linde et.al., 2017 and Boas et.al., 2018
Sa 5/4, 9am-5pm	Joint excursion and talks around ‘The many futures of Scheveningen’	Martijn Duineveld	Olsson and Besussi, 2023 and Andruszkiewicz, 2022
Mo 7/4, 9am-5pm Forum B0106	Tutorial session <u>Lecture I (11.00-12.30):</u> Tourism geographies-cultural memory nexus <u>Lecture II (13.30-16.30):</u> Critical Gender Studies Afternoon tutorial with Chizu	Emmanuel Adu-Ampong Chizu Sato	Adu-Ampong and Berg, 2024; Adu-Ampong, 2023 and Pfoser and Keightley, 2021 Gibson-Graham, 1996; Cole, 2017; Podcast

<p>Tu 8/4, 9am-5pm</p> <p>Forum B0106</p>	<p>Tutorial session</p> <p><u>Lecture I (11.00-12.30):</u> Tourism world system analysis and power geometries</p> <p><u>Lecture II (13.30-15.00):</u> The affective turn: Bio- politics in and beyond tourism</p> <p><i>Reflection session, building the ppt.</i></p> <p><i>Group PhD project work</i></p> <p><u>After work activity:</u> Short film: Framing the Other</p>	<p>Robert Fletcher</p> <p>Chih-Chen Trista Lin</p>	<p>Bianci, 2018; Fletcher, 2011</p> <p>Tzanelli, 2022; Lin, 2023 and Minca 2025</p>
<p>We 9/4, 9am-5pm</p> <p>Forum B0106</p>	<p>Tutorial session</p> <p><u>Lecture I (11-12.30):</u> Earth-led priorities in tourism and convivial design</p> <p><u>Lecture II (13.30-15.00):</u> Consumerism in tourism</p> <p><u>After work activity:</u> Movie night: The Last Tourist</p>	<p>E. Huijbens</p> <p>Stasja Koot</p>	<p>Gren and Huijbens, 2016; Huijbens, 2022</p> <p>Koot, 2021</p>
<p>Th 10/4, 9am-5pm</p> <p>Forum B0106</p>	<p>Tutorial session</p> <p><u>Lecture I (11-12.30):</u> The digital turn in tourism</p> <p><u>Lecture II (13.00-15.30):</u> Exploring actors in sustainable tourism: The power of gaming - note longer session</p> <p><i>Reflection session, building the ppt.</i></p> <p><i>Group PhD project work</i></p>	<p>Maartje Roelofsen</p> <p>WUR Gaming Hub/Jillian Student and Machiel Lamers</p>	<p>Ash et al. 2018; Minca and Roelofsen, 2021</p> <p>Student, Lamers & Amelung 2020; Wanvik and Bjørnstad, 2023 Book</p>
<p>Fr 11/4, 9am-5pm</p> <p>Forum B0106</p>	<p>Participant symposium event with Tourism@WUR starting at 14.00</p> <p>Drinks and concluding celebrations with the Political Ecology Summer School after 16.00</p>	<p>Me teaching in the PE school in the morning</p>	

Assessment

The assessment consist of 1) an evaluation of the student's participation in the sessions and 2) a short essay (3-5.000 words) in which participants will reflect on the ways in which aspects of critical tourism studies affected their PhD research.

- 1) Preparation through reading all required literature in advance, labelled 'readings'.
- 2) The active participation in class is assessed through the submission of at least one question for debate and comments on the reading.
- 3) In the final essay, students are asked to work with the theory of one or two sessions and make a connection between the theoretical debates and their own research.

How are the intended learning outcomes assessed?

	Participation	Final Essay
Identify core theoretical frames to rethink the ways in which tourism and development are linked	X	
Understand the importance of historical, abstract and theoretical texts and apply them to contemporary debates on critical tourism studies	X	X
Critically reflect on the implications of different theoretical framings for their research projects	X	X
Develop a conceptualisation of tourism for his or her own research project		X

Assumed prior knowledge

This course gives a thorough introduction to important debates in the social and environmental sciences and cultural studies on tourism theory and development. Participants are expected to have a basic level of knowledge about debates in the broader sciences. Please contact the course coordinator in case of doubt about the required entry level.

OUTLINE PER SESSION:

Each day starts with a tutorial session, where the course coordinator is available for conversations and feedback with each of the students reflecting on the readings, their project or their bigger PhD project more generally. This will start 9am and last till 11am.

Thereafter a lecture will take place, introducing a critical tourism conceptual component. Discussion and questions are embedded in the session, which takes place from 11-12.30am. After catered lunch (included), a second lecture will take place (apart from first day, excursion day and final day), again introducing the key conceptual components of critical tourism studies. Again discussion and questions are embedded in the session, which takes place from 1.30-3pm. Thereafter spaces are provided for group work on student projects. Groups will be made and each day meant to engage with particular topics of individual PhD projects, so all participants will get active group reflection on their individual larger project. This will take place 3-5pm.

Afterwork activities are planned for some days, which are more informal team building exercises, yet with focus on the topics of the day.

What follows is an outlined of the lectures provided;

Day 1: Introduction: What is the 'critical turn' in tourism studies about?

Edward H. Huijbens

THURSDAY 3 APRIL 9.00-12.30

During the introduction session we start with an elaboration on the objectives of the graduate workshop and the ideas on how the sessions are organised. We will make a round of introductions to

get to know each other and the research projects. Then we will engage in a more formal lecture and familiarise ourselves with the topics of the 'critical turn' in tourism studies and the biannual Critical Tourism Studies conference. There will also be room to discuss the expectations of participants regarding the programme.

Readings:

- Morgan, N. Pritchard, A, Causevic, S. and Minnaert, L. (2018). Ten Years of Critical Tourism Studies: Reflections on the Road Less Traveled. *Tourism Analysis*, 23: 183–187.
- Mura, P. and Wijesinghe, S.N.R. 2025: Tourism and the Anthropocene. In J. Wilson and D.K. Müller (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Tourism Geographies 2nd Ed* (pp. 39-48). London: Routledge.
- Tribe, J. (2005). New tourism research. *Tourism Recreation Research*, 30(2): 5–8.

Additional Reading:

- Tzanelli, R. and Korstanje, M.E. (2020). Critical thinking in tourism studies. *Tourism, Culture & Communication*, 20: 59–69.

Afternoon: 'Tourism as a tool for intercultural encounter and dissonant heritage-making'

Meghann Ormond

THURSDAY 3 APRIL 14.00-18.00

What are some of the key tools of tourism, and how can they be tweaked to advance civic learning and engagement with others different from ourselves? In this session, course participants first take the Migrantour Utrecht guided walking tour in Utrecht's Lombok neighbourhood. They then participate in an interactive session that engages with the concepts of 'heritage', 'visiting' and 'encounter' explored in the readings to critically examine the making and running of the Migrantour Utrecht responsible tourism initiative (<https://www.migrantourutrecht.nl/>).

Readings:

- Ormond, M., & Vietti, F. (2022). Beyond multicultural 'tolerance': guided tours and guidebooks as transformative tools for civic learning. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 30(2-3): 533-549. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09669582.2021.1901908>
- Wilson, H.F. (2017). On the Paradox of 'Organised' Encounter. *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 38(6): 606-620. <https://durham-repository.worktribe.com/OutputFile/1371663>

Additional readings:

- Amin, A. (2002). Ethnicity and the multicultural city: living with diversity. *Environment and Planning A*, 34(6): 959-980.
- Ashworth, G. & Tunbridge, J. (1996). *Dissonant heritage: The management of the past as a resource in conflict*. Chichester: Wiley.
- Cheng, W., Barraclough, L. & Pulido, L. (2010). Radicalising teaching and tourism: A People's Guide as active and activist history. *Left History*, 15(1): 111-127. <https://lh.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/lh/article/view/35827>

Day 2: Planetary boundaries and steady state economics

Bas Amelung and Nowella Anyango-van Zwieten

FRIDAY 4 APRIL 09.00-10.30

The reality of the Anthropocene presents humanity with a new responsibility: to keep the Earth system as close as possible to the "safe operating space for humanity". This safe operating space for humanity has been conceptualized and operationalized with the Planetary Boundaries framework. Six out of nine such boundaries are already crossed. And environmental sustainability is not the only goal: social

sustainability is just as important. In the context of climate change, for example, climate justice issues are of critical importance, also for tourism. According to some estimates, 1% of people cause half of global aviation emissions. This small minority of often privileged people would therefore be disproportionately affected by mitigation measures to sharply reduce aviation emissions. From the perspective of travel behaviour, that is. The picture looks very different from the perspective of destinations: in particular small island developing states (SIDS) and other 'long-haul' destinations in the Global South would be disproportionately affected; communities that, by and large, contribute little to climate change, but depend heavily on tourism. Does environmental sustainability come at the expense of social sustainability? Does this pose a sustainability dilemma? This session explores the potential friction between social and environmental sustainability objectives, as well as possible ways forward.

Readings:

- Richardson et al. (2023). Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries. *Science Advances*, 9(37); <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adh2458>
- Sun, Y. Y., Gossling, S., & Zhou, W. (2022). Does tourism increase or decrease carbon emissions? A systematic review. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 97, 103502. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2022.103502>

Additional reading:

- <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2023-09-13-all-planetary-boundaries-mapped-out-for-the-first-time-six-of-nine-crossed.html>

Day 2: Violence, Capital and Tourism

Bram Büscher

FRIDAY 4 APRIL 11.00 – 12.30

The tourism industry likes to represent itself as a benign force that enables much-needed leisure for people while contributing to economic development and environmental sustainability. According to UN secretary general Guterres, "tourism brings progress. As one of the biggest sectors in the global economy, it has great power to bridge cultures, generate new opportunities and promote sustainable development" (<https://www.unwto.org/>). The class challenges this naïve assumption by analyzing tourism as a capitalist industry that produces myriad forms of violence and dispossession. It focuses on how forms of violence embedded in the pursuit of capital relate to and are (re)produced by tourism and how the latter intensifies this violence through its peculiar forms of self-representation and branding. It ends by speculating how the global authoritarian turn will further influence the link between violence and capital in tourism.

Readings:

- Devine, J. and Ojeda, D. (2017). Violence and dispossession in tourism development: a critical geographical approach *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 25(5): 605-617.
- Büscher, B. and Fletcher, R. (2017). Destructive Creativity: Capital, Value and the Structural Violence of Tourism. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 25(5): 651-667.

Additional readings:

- Marijnen, E. (2024). Eco-war tourism: Affective geographies, colonial durabilities and the militarization of conservation. *Security & Dialogue*, 1-17.
- Bianchi, R. and Milano, C. (2024). Polycrisis and the metamorphosis of tourism capitalism. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 104: 103731.

Day 2: Environmental mobilities and tourism

Machiel Lamers

FRIDAY 4 APRIL 13.30 – 15.00

Many of the contemporary challenges and interrelations between tourism and environment have a transnational and dynamic character. Inspired by the work of sociologists like Manuel Castells, John Urry and Mimi Sheller, this lecture discusses the concepts of networks, flows and mobilities as lenses for analysing the challenges of tourism development in coastal and marine environments. Based on an analysis of the characteristics of tourism and environmental mobilities, and the mobility regimes that are steering these intersected flows, we will discuss questions around justice.

Readings:

- van Bets, L.K.J., Lamers, M.A.J. and van Tatenhove, J. P. M. (2016). Governing cruise tourism at Bonaire: a networks and flows approach. *Mobilities*, 12(5): 778–793. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17450101.2016.1229972>
- Boas, I., Kloppenburg, S., van Leeuwen, J. and Lamers, M. (2018). Environmental Mobilities: An Alternative Lens to Global Environmental Governance. *Global Environmental Politics*, 18(4): 107–126. https://doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00482

Day 3: The many futures of Scheveningen, the most beautiful seaside resort in the world.

Martijn Duineveld

SATURDAY 5 APRIL, full day

According to the world's most reliable source, the Internet, Scheveningen is one of the three beaches in The Hague. For some people, however, Scheveningen is an old fishing village haunted by tourists, for others it is the name of a seaside resort, and still others, with a penchant for formalities, will see Scheveningen as an organisational unit: a district in and of The Hague. The boundaries of each of the Scheveningen mentioned are different and only partly overlap. The modern Scheveningen is a plural form. On this excursion to the seaside resort of Scheveningen, we will explore its many faces. Based on and inspired by the critical theories and insights that have been shared in this summer school, we will develop a series of future visions for the Scheveningen of 2072.

Will it then be the elite seaside resort that some investors are hoping for? Will the western part of the Netherlands be under water and Scheveningen a touristic island off the coast of the new Netherlands? Is it forbidden to swim in swimsuits and is beach life under strict government control? Who has access to Scheveningen? Who is excluded? Is it still possible to fish and to sell fish, or is it only the vega 'kibbeling' (fried fish) that reminds us of a time when it was possible and uncontroversial to take living animals out of the sea to kill them for human consumption?

In this 'futuring-' assignment, we will explore the many imaginary futures of Scheveningen. We will then constructively and critically recalibrate and, if necessary, deconstruct our critical thinking about the Scheveningen of 2072.

Readings:

- Olsson, L. and Besussi, E. (2023). Lefebvre's right to the city and a radical urban citizenship: struggles around power in urban planning. In M. Gunder, K. Grange and T. Winkler (Eds.) *Handbook on Planning and Power* (pp. 26-41). London: Edward Elgar.
- Andruszkiewicz, P. (2022). *Scheveningen. From a fishing village to the seaside resort*. TUDelft Thesis.

Day 4: Tourism geographies-cultural memory nexus

Emmanuel Akwasi Adu-Ampong

MONDAY 7 APRIL 11.00 – 12.30

This session starts with an overview of key geographical concepts that provide a critical edge to tourism research in relation to cultural memory politics. Through a series of interactive elements we will consider how tourism as a socio-cultural, political and economic phenomenon offers an arena to address key societal challenges in relation to contested/difficult heritage and memories. We will draw on concepts and theories that helps to problematise tourism research in this area. In particular, this session will draw on (ongoing) research on the tourism geographies of slavery and colonial heritage across sites in Africa, Caribbean (South America) and Europe to interrogate the role of tourism in dealing with these histories, heritage and memories. Through a series of interactive activities, participants will navigate the ethical tensions underlying the tourism-cultural memory nexus particularly in relation to race, power, and privilege. The session involves engaging in candid discussions and reflective activities as participants learn to unpack historical legacies and analyze the current socio-political and cultural landscapes through which the tourism phenomenon is (re)produced. The learning goal is for participants to emerge with a heightened awareness of the potential role of tourism in addressing racial injustices and equipped with tools to foster equity and inclusivity in their personal, research and professional spheres. This workshop serves as a transformative journey towards advocating for meaningful change within tourism research - as applicable to the research project of participants.

Required Readings

- Adu-Ampong, E. A. and Berg, S. (2025). The spatial narratives and representation of slavery and colonial heritage on guided tours in Amsterdam. *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, 20(1): 59-77.
- Adu-Ampong, E.A. (2023). THE EMBODIED ABSENCE OF THE PAST: slavery heritage and the transformative memory work of tourism. *Annals of Tourism Research* 101(2023): 103590
- Pfoser, A., and Keightley, E. (2021). Tourism and the dynamics of transnational mnemonic encounters. *Memory Studies*, 14(2): 125-139.

Additional Readings

- Adu-Ampong, E.A. and Dillette, A. (2024). Commemoration and commodification: slavery heritage, Black travel and the #YearofReturn2019 in Ghana. *Tourism Geographies*, 26(1): 120-139.
- Boukhris, L. (2017). The Black Paris project: The production and reception of a counter-hegemonic tourism narrative in postcolonial Paris. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 25(5): 684-702.
- Knox, D. (2024). The spectral geographies of slavery: tourism and the hauntings of dissonant colonial heritage. *Tourism Geographies*, 1-14.
- Yankholmes, A., & McKercher, B. (2015). Rethinking slavery heritage tourism. *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, 10(3): 233-247.

Day 4: Critical Gender Studies

Chizu Sato

MONDAY 7 APRIL 13.30 – 16.30 – **longer session**

This session centers one of the foundational concepts in Critical Gender Studies – intersectionality – along with others, such as queer(y)ing, subjectivity, labour, care, emotions, and solidarity, to explore the social difference-bodies-tourism-nature nexus. How do these analytics enable us to do our research differently? How do they help us deepen our understanding of power dynamics between hosts and guests, Global North and Global South, and human and nature embedded in tourism? We

will critically reflect on how these analytics may help us develop solidarity with our research objects/subjects.

Readings [listed in the order to be read]:

- Gibson-Graham, J. K. (2006[1996]). Chapter 1: Strategies. In *The end of capitalism (as we knew it): A feminist critique of political economy*. University of Minnesota Press. [*Read only pp.1-20].
- Cole, S. (2017). Water worries: An intersectional feminist political ecology of tourism and water in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 67: 14-24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2017.07.018>
- Sandilands, C., MacGregor, S. & Andr e, P. (Hosts). (2020, October 11). Episode 9: Ecofeminism & Queer Ecology [Audio podcast episode]. In *The ecopolitics podcast*. Carlton University. <https://www.ecopoliticspodcast.ca/episode-9-ecofeminism-and-queer-ecology-2/>

Additional readings:

On feminist political ecology and gender

- Lin, C.-C.T. and Roelofsen, M. (2024). Feminist tourism geographies as reflected in their emergent histories. *Tourism Geographies*, 1–14.
- <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2024.2381061>
- Nightingale, A. (2006). The nature of gender: Work, gender, and environment. *Environment and planning D: Society and Space*, 24(2): 165-185.

On intersectionality

- Kaijser, A. & Kronsell, A. (2014) Climate change through the lens of Intersectionality. *Environmental Politics*, 23(3): 417-433.
- Puar, J.L. (2012). "I would rather be a cyborg than a goddess": Becoming-intersectional in assemblage theory. *philoSOPHIA*, 2(1): 49-66.

On queer ecology

- K ppers, W. (2020). Queer(ing) Moves: Beyond Anthropocene, Toward Convivial, Sustainable Futures. *World Futures*, 76(5–7): 287–313.
- Seymour, N. (2020). Queer ecologies and queer environmentalisms. In S. B. Somerville (Ed.), *Cambridge companion to queer studies* (pp. 108-122). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sandilands, C. (1994). [Lavender's green? Some thoughts on queer\(y\)ing environmental politics](#). *Undercurrents* 6 (1994), 20-24.

On care

- Tronto, J. (2013). *Caring democracy: Markets, equality and justice*. New York; London: New York University Press.
- Puig de la Bellacasa, M. (2017). *Matters of care: Speculative ethics in more than human worlds*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.

On feminist political ecology and emotion

- Nightingale, A. J. (2011). Beyond design principles: Subjectivity, emotion, and the (ir) rational commons. *Society and Natural Resources*, 24(2): 119-132.

On Whiteness

- Ahmed, S. (2007). A phenomenology of whiteness. *Feminist Theory*, 8(2): 149–168.
- Slocum, R. (2007). Whiteness, space and alternative food practice. *Geoforum*, 38(3): 520-533.

On labour and economy

- Sato, C. (2014). Toward transnational feminist literacy practices. *Rethinking Marxism*, 26(1): 44-60. DOI: 10.1080/08935696.2014.857843

On (transnational) feminist solidarity

- Mohanty, C.T. (2003). "Under western eyes" revisited: Feminist solidarity through anticapitalist struggles. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 28(2): 499-535.

Day 5: Tourism World System Analysis and power geometries

Rob Fletcher

TUESDAY 8 APRIL 11.00 – 12.30

This session examines how tourism is embedded in a global system of flows in terms of transport and capital, through the lenses of world systems theory and Marxian geographies. As one of the world's largest industries, tourism is a powerful global political and socio-economic force, a dynamic often unappreciated by those who consider it merely a frivolous leisure activity. In this session, we will explore how the political economy of tourism and how this influences not only how tourism develops but the overarching global political-economy as well. We will discuss the potential implication that international tourism may be one important means by which the capitalist world-economy as a whole seeks to sustain itself in the face of inherent contradictions that threaten its long-term survival. In other words, advocacy of sustainable tourism may play an important role not only in endeavouring to green the specific industry but in sustaining capitalism as well.

Readings:

- Fletcher, R. (2011). Sustaining Tourism, Sustaining Capitalism? The Tourism Industry's Role in Global Capitalist Expansion. *Tourism Geographies*, 13(3), 443-461. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2011.570372>
- Bianchi, R. (2018). The political economy of tourism development: A critical review. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 70: 88–102. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2017.08.005>

Additional reading:

- Eisenschitz, A. (2016). Tourism, class and crisis. *Human Geography*, 9(3): 110-124. <https://doi.org/10.1177/194277861600900308>
- Yrigoy, I. (2021). Strengthening the political economy of tourism: profits, rents and finance, *Tourism Geographies*, 25(2-3): 405-424, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2021.1894227>
- Fletcher, R., I. Murray Mas, A. Blanco-Romero and M. Blázquez-Salom. (2019). Tourism and Degrowth: An Emerging Agenda for Research and Praxis. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 27(12), 1745-1763. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2019.1679822>

Day 5: Tourism World System Analysis and power geometries

Chih-Chen Trista Lin

TUESDAY 8 APRIL 13.30 – 15.00

Biopower is the power to develop, manage and regulate diverse aspects of any population from its biological life to its formation as a body politic. The objective of this session is twofold: First, it examines the ways in which biopower manifests through diverse political and technological operations related to tourism mobilities and tourism work; second, it introduces considerations of affect and affective labour in tourism as both the target of biopower and potential for appropriating or transforming this power of life. By going through the assigned readings and the learning activities during this session, and exploring the additional readings, participants will become familiarized with the lenses of biopolitics and affect, as well as a range of related analytical tools for critically engaging with the power relations at stake in tourism and hospitality industries.

Readings:

- Tzanelli, R. (2022). Biopolitics in critical tourism theory: a radical critique of critique. *Tourism Review*: 21. <https://journals.openedition.org/viatourism/8242>
- Lin, C.-C.T. (2023). Affirmative Alternatives to the Biopolitics of Air Travel: Actions by the Taoyuan Flight Attendant Union During the COVID-19 Pandemic. In Roelofsen and Minca (Eds). *Tourism and Biopolitics in Pandemic Times* (pp. 85-101). London: Palgrave Macmillan.

- Minca, C. 2025. On tourism, geography and the biopolitical. *Tourism Geographies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2025.2457766>

Additional readings:

- Lin, C.-C. T. and Minca, C. (2020). Affective life, “vulnerable” youths, and international volunteering in a residential care programme in Cusco, Peru. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 45(4): 735-749. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tran.12374>
- Alderman, D.H. (2018). The racialized and violent biopolitics of mobility in the USA: an agenda for tourism geographies. *Tourism Geographies*, 20(4): 717-720. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2018.1477168>

Day 6: Earth-led priorities in tourism

Edward Huijbens

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 11.00 – 12.30

This session pivots on understanding the present as a state of planetary emergency, with the looming prospect of a catastrophic earthly near future for the human species. The session will deliver a critical perspective engaging with this earthly dire matter of both facts and concerns in the context of tourism futures. Tourism themes to be visited, range from issues of climate and environmental change on a planetary scale, specific practices with planetary ramifications, and, in particular ways of re-thinking the Earth in geography (for example as “Earth System”, “Gaia”, “Critical Zone”, Hägerstrand’s “fabric of geographical existence”). Crucially important is that all underpin the urgent need and fragile possibilities for developing an earthly, or terrestrial, politics to navigate our present state of planetary unsustainability and challenges for tourism. Developed from sombre research findings, and the recent IPCC-report, of our current state of planetary emergency, this session will thus engage terrestrial tourism beyond the confinement of modern tourism practices.

Readings:

- Huijbens, E. H. (2024). Reframing the Antarctic as polar planetary commons: moving beyond rights of nature. *The Polar Journal*, 14(2), 493–513. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2154896X.2024.2414647>
- Gren, M. and Huijbens, E. (Eds.) (2016). *Tourism and the Anthropocene*. London: Routledge, tourism series.

Additional reading:

- Huijbens, E. (2021). *Developing Earthly Attachments in the Anthropocene*. London: Routledge.

Day 6: Consumerism in tourism

Stasja Koot

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 13.30 – 15.00

In this lecture we explore the changing landscape of development and conservation, and how NGOs and the tourism industry have become increasingly dependent on and involved in CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility). We highlight ‘philanthrocapitalism’: Based on case material from Kenya, Ethiopia and South Africa, we analyse how capitalist values and ideologies continuously affect philanthropy and development, creating novel types of ‘ethical’ tourism (‘philanthrotourism’, ‘environmentourism’), to be consumed mainly by wealthy donors and tourists.

Readings:

- Koot, S. (2021). Enjoying extinction: philanthrocapitalism, jouissance, and ‘excessive environmentourism’ in the South African rhino poaching crisis. *Journal of Political Ecology* 28(1): 804-822. <https://doi.org/10.2458/jpe.2984>

Additional readings:

- Farrell, N. (2015). 'Conscience capitalism' and the neoliberalisation of the non-profit sector. *New Political Economy*, 20(2): 254-272. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2014.923823>
- Koot, S. and Fletcher, R. (2021). Donors on tour: Philanthrotourism in Africa. *Annals of Tourism Research* 89. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annals.2021.103216>

Day 7: The digital turn in tourism

Maartje Roelofsen

THURSDAY 10 APRIL 11.00 – 12.30

This session is devoted to the long and close relation between tourism and *the digital*. Various understood as a set of material technologies, as a powerful discourse, as a process of ordering, and as aesthetics, the digital has enveloped almost all aspects of contemporary tourism, including how we research tourism. This session considers how tourism's so-called "digital revolution" has developed in geographically highly uneven ways, with implications for how spaces and places are understood, how mobility is coded and structured, and how tourism labour is mediated and valued. Relatedly, the session explores some of the major social, economic, environmental, and political consequences that have seemingly become reinforced through the digital rather than resolved, and how it contributes to long-standing global issues, such as climate change, colonialism, and labour exploitation. Finally, the session examines the societal circumstances that give rise to digital technologies in tourism and considers the specific possibilities that these technologies might still afford.

Readings:

- Roelofsen, M. (2024). Digital Tourism Geographies. In J. Wilson and D. Müller (eds) *The New Routledge Handbook of Tourism Geographies* (pp. 273-283). London: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003286301-30>
- Ash, J., Kitchin, R., & Leszczynski, A. (2018). Digital turn, digital geographies? *Progress in Human Geography*, 42(1): 25–43. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132516664800>
- Minca, C., & Roelofsen, M. (2021). Becoming Airbnbings: on datafication and the quantified Self in tourism. *Tourism Geographies*, 23(4): 743–764. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2019.1686767>

Additional readings:

- Roelofsen, M. (2018). Performing "home" in the sharing economies of tourism: the Airbnb experience in Sofia, Bulgaria. *Fennia - International Journal of Geography*, 196(1): 24–42. <https://doi.org/10.11143/fennia.66259>
- James, D., Condie, J., & Lean, G. (2019). Travel, Tinder and Gender in Digitally Mediated Tourism Encounters. In C. J. Nash & A. Gorman-Murray (Eds.), *The Geographies of Digital Sexuality* (pp. 49–68). Springer Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-13-6876-9_4

Day 7: Exploring actors in sustainable tourism: The power of gaming

Jillian Student and Machiel Lamers

THURSDAY 10 APRIL 13.00 – 15.30 – longer session

This session shifts the perspective from the consumer side of tourism to the supplier side (i.e. tourism operators). Here, students explore the roles and heterogeneity of actors in the tourism system and how encounters among actors in the tourism system change both to the tourism and environmental system. This change can affect their identities (e.g. entrepreneur, planner, victim, perpetrator, individual, competitor). The session will begin with the serious game *Coasting*, where students will experience tourism operators roles and encounters among other operators and with the environment. This will be followed by a debriefing on the developments in coastal tourism system and broadened to

discussions on agency of actors, identities and encounters in the wider tourism context. Finally, the students will have the opportunity to reflect on how the production and consumer side influence each other.

Reading:

- Student, J., Lamers, M., & Amelung, B. (2020). A dynamic vulnerability approach for tourism destinations. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 28(3), 475-496.

Additional reading:

- Etienne, M., Du Toit, D. R., & Pollard, S. (2011). ARDI: a co-construction method for participatory modeling in natural resources management. *Ecology and Society*, 16(1), Art. 44.

Day 8: FINAL SYMPOSIUM

All participants and invited guests

FRIDAY 11 JULY 9.00 – 17.00

In this session all participants are invited to revisit and present their research project through the lens of (some of) the literature that we have been reading.

WUR campus, Leeuwenborch room B66	9.00-12.00	Preparations of presentations
	12.00-13.30	Lunch
	14.00-16.00	Symposium
	After 16.00	Reception with Political Ecology Summer school and graduate workshop wrap up

About the Centre for Space, Place and Society

This course is initiated by the Tourism@WUR cluster of the Centre for Space, Place and Society (CSPA) that is a platform of collaboration and outreach for researchers from four chair groups within Wageningen University & Research (WUR), straddling the environmental and social sciences. Including Cultural Geography (GEO), Health and Society (HSO), Rural Sociology (RSO) and Sociology of Development and Change (SDC), the aim of the CSPA is to facilitate and advance creative, critical and engaging scholarship within and beyond the social sciences. CSPA meets this aim with particular focus on issues of earthly, socio-spatial and environmental justice. Through facilitating research collaboration and a range of activities across and beyond the four chair groups, the CSPA investigates dynamics of spatial and social rootedness, connections, and circulations, with special attention to questions of inequality, exclusion, difference and plurality. CSPA aspires to translate this knowledge into practical action in pursuit of a more just and equitable world

Location

The sessions, apart from excursions, will be held in the Leeuwenborch building (#201) on the WUR campus in Wageningen, The Netherlands. The room is B71 (first two days) and B66 in Leeuwenborch.

Further information

On *course content* please contact the course contact person, Edward H. Huijbens. He can be reached via email at: edward.huijbens@wur.nl

WASS Graduate workshop supported by CSPA and Atlas

For details about the *logistics, accommodation, registration, fees, study materials*, etc. please contact

Marcella Haan

Tel +31 317 484126

marcella.haan@wur.nl