



19th and 20th of June 2024

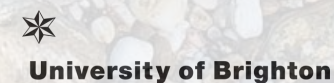
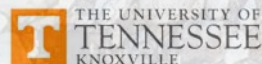
Slowing Down: Tourism and Leisure Scholarship and Practice in the Era of the Anthropocene II

A free online symposium to book your ticket please use this [link](#) or the QR code



Geographies of Leisure and Tourism Research Group (GLTRG), Tourism Education Futures Initiative (TEFI) and Tourism RESET

Organising committee: Dr Tijana Rakić (De Montfort University, UK, Chair), Dr Jenny Hall (York St John University, UK), Dr Alberto Amore (University of Oulu, Finland), Dr Stefanie Benjamin (University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA), Dr Brendan Paddison (York St John University, UK), Dr Karla Boluk (University of Waterloo, Canada), Katharina Bürger (University of Brighton, UK).



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Note: all timings are given in both Eastern and UK Time

DAY 1

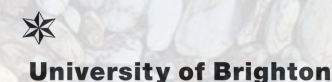
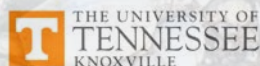
TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
11:00 – 11:15 EST time (16:00 – 16:15 GMT/UK time)	Welcome Address	co-ordinating committee
11:15 – 11:45 EST time (16:15 – 16:45 GMT/UK time)	<p>Session 1: The Slow Movement in Academia and Beyond</p> <p>In this collaborative talk we first provide a brief overview of the slow movement which challenges the often-dominant culture of speed across a variety of spheres of life and work - including those of leisure and tourism and their respective academic fields of studies - before moving on to vignettes from our own academic careers and lives in which we have attempted to, and sometimes succeeded in, resisting the culture of speed. We conclude our talk with a reflexive account of why slowing down in the era of the Anthropocene might also be seen an ethical act not only in the context of tourism and leisure academia but also in the context of the tourism and leisure sectors.</p>	<p>Dr Tijana Rakić (De Montfort University, UK) and Prof Kellee Caton (Thompson Rivers University, Canada)</p>
11:45 – 12:15 EST time (16:45 – 17:15 GMT/UK time)	<p>Session 2: We are not ok</p> <p>Academic capitalism has influenced the ways university institutions are governed. One recent critique reflected the similarities between the ways some neoliberal universities are managed with organizations inspired by Chinese dictator Xi Jinping (Fleming, 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the omnipresence of burnout, shone a light on the prevalence of mental health challenges, and spurred a movement of academics who have had enough to leave the academy. The pandemic exacerbated challenges to already full workloads which faculty are often tasked with negotiating. Emerging from the pandemic we have observed deeper cuts as universities seek cost-recovery strategies attempting to recover from the debts incurred. Contemporary neoliberal institutions are reeling, and faculty and staff are made to feel as though we are not enough. We are observing a lack of humanity,</p>	<p>Dr Stefanie Benjamin (University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA), Dr Brendan Paddison (York St John University, UK), and Dr Karla Boluk (University of Waterloo, Canada)</p>



	a lack of accountability, carelessness as the wounds continue to get bigger and deeper. We are not ok.	
12:15 - 12:30 EST time (17:15 – 17:30 GMT/UK time)	Comfort Break	
12:30 – 13:00 EST time (17:30 – 18:00 GMT/UK time)	<p>Session 3: Nature Matters: a love letter to nature and a call to action to protect it</p> <p>In October 2023 York St John University launched the Nature Matters film. This beautiful and powerful short film is a love letter to nature and a call to action to protect it. The film reminds us of our innate relationship with nature, exploring our need for balance in a changing world. The demand for resources, drive for profits and progress is offset against our fundamental human rights to access green spaces, clean air, water, and fertile soils to grow healthy food. It focuses on the human spirit, as individuals and communities fight to be on the right side of history, on a quest for environmental harmony and more sustainable lifestyles. Commissioned by the University's Cinema and Social Justice project and York Business School, the film was produced by the Yorkshire and North East Film Archives. It uses over a century of archive news and documentary footage from Yorkshire and the North East of England.</p>	<p>Dr Jenny Hall and Dr Brendan Paddison (York St John University, UK)</p>

DAY 2

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS
09:00 – 09:05 EST time (14:00 – 14:05 GMT/UK time)	Chair's Welcome	Dr Tijana Rakić (De Montfort University, UK)



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<p>09:05 – 09:50 EST time (14:05-14:50 GMT/UK time)</p>	<p>Session 4: Reflecting on progress with UNWTO SDGs in times of crises</p> <p>The Agenda 2030 framework is the sole globally accepted guide for addressing contemporary challenges, with 17 SDGs aspiring to create a just society by eradicating extreme poverty and promoting sustainability. Despite the UNWTO positioning tourism as an SDG catalyst due to its economic strength and potential to address inequities, a growing scholarly debate questions this narrative. Critics argue that the troubling impacts of the tourism sector hinder SDG mobilisation. The contemporary polycrisis exacerbates these challenges, impeding progress and leaving half the world's population behind. Such setbacks may either diminish hope or spur a collective recalibration to reconceptualise tourism for just transformations. This session critically explores the role of tourism in SDG progress, reflecting on epistemological and structural barriers and proposing bottom-up alternatives in a polycrisis context.</p>	<p>Dr Raymond Rastegar (Griffith University, Australia), Dr Alberto Amore (University of Oulu, Finland), Dr Karla Boluk (University of Waterloo, Canada) and Mahshad Akhoundoghl (University of Waterloo, Canada)</p>
<p>09:50 – 10:05 EST time (14:50 – 15:05 GMT/UK time)</p>	<p>Comfort Break</p>	
<p>10:05 – 10:50 EST time (15:00 – 15:50 GMT/UK time)</p>	<p>Session 5: Re-negotiating leisure, events and tourism in the age of Anthropocene</p> <p>Building from advancements in human geography, this session reflects on notions of the Anthropocene considering the ongoing environmental crisis and the necessity for alternative epistemological approaches in leisure, tourism, and events studies. The discussants in this session will reflect on the contemporary imaginaries that the Anthropocene conjures and how these influence current recreational lifestyles. The discussion will delve into the changing relationships between tourism, leisure, events, and the natural world in a context of increasing vulnerability, heightened social awareness, and pressing environmental endangerment. Finally, the session will reflect on how to carry forward a much needed and enhanced research agenda to better understand ethical, emotional, and political underpinnings of individuals and institutions in these fields in response to the challenges of the Anthropocene</p>	<p>Dr Alberto Amore (University of Oulu, Finland), Dr Solène Prince (Linnaeus University, Sweden), Dr Barbara Grabher (University of Brighton, UK), Dr Valeria Pecoreli (University of Iulm, Italy), and Dr Jenny Hall (York St John University, UK)</p>



10:50 – 11:05 Eastern time (15:50 – 16:05 GMT/UK time)	Comfort Break	
11:05 – 11:50 EST time (16:05 – 16:50 GMT/UK time)	<p>Session 6: The Dark Matters: an exploration of our relationship with the Dark Skies</p> <p>Building on Nature Matters, a pilot research project in partnership with the North York Moors National Park explores our relationship with Dark Skies in the United Kingdom (UK). Light pollution has severe consequences for biodiversity and human health, therefore, conserving our night sky is critical. In the UK, several internationally recognized Protected Dark-Sky Places exist where the night-sky is unobstructed by light pollution – the North York Moors is one such location. To advance the protection of the night sky the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) has established a dark-sky public outreach programme to facilitate community awareness and engagement in dark-sky conservation and environmental protection. Our research explores understand how dark-sky conservation in protected reserves can be sustained through engaging host communities as active stewards, and the benefits this creates socially and environmentally.</p>	<p>Dr Jenny Hall and Dr Brendan Paddison (York St John University, UK)</p>
11:50 – 12:05 EST time (16:50 – 17:05 GMT/UK time)	Comfort Break	
12:05 – 12:50 EST time (17:05 – 17:50 GMT/UK time)	<p>Session 7: Degrowth in tourism and leisure: recalibrating the balance between people and environment</p> <p>This panel will debate the opportunities and challenges presented by the paradigmatic shifts in tourism and leisure. As tourism growth approaches pre-pandemic levels, there is an urgent need to grapple with impacts from the sector including climate change, cultural commodification and socio-ecological challenges facing communities. Conversely, the rethinking of leisure for wellness, learning, environmental preservation, and as a tool for community building can support a healthy balance between people and environment. The</p>	<p>Dr Christina Cavaliere (Colorado State University, USA), Prof Sandro Carnicelli (University of the West of Scotland, UK), and Dr Bailey Ashton Adie (University of Oulu, Finland)</p>



	degrowth of tourism presents us with an opportunity for the development and expansion of more meaningful leisure.	
12:50 – 13:35 EST time (17:50 – 18:35 GMT/UK time)	Session 8: Where next? In recent decades, critical tourism scholars have shifted their focus towards viewing tourism and travel as potent agents for positive social change. This paradigmatic shift away from materialism, competition, and individualism underscores a commitment to advancing social justice agendas. Mintz (2022) contends that the prevailing commodification and transactional approach in higher education merit scrutiny and critique, necessitating what scholars term as a "social justice turn." Advocating for this transformative shift, critical scholars are rallying fellow academics and practitioners to challenge entrenched systems. They call for a curriculum fostering inclusivity and humanity, urging deeper dialogues on actionable strategies. Efforts to promote inclusive pedagogy and scholarly inquiry have encountered significant resistance, prompting a collective plea for unity to forge a coalition of change agents. In this session we discuss future directions and collective endeavours.	Dr Stefanie Benjamin (University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA) and Dr Karla Boluk (University of Waterloo, Canada)
13:35-13:50 EST time 18:35-18:50 GMT/UK time	Comfort Break	
13:50-14:20 EST time (18:50 – 19:20 GMT/UK time)	Yoga / Breathing Session	Dr Nancy Stevenson (University of Westminster, UK)