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## **'TOURISM GEOGRAPHIES ARE MOVING OUT' – A COMMENT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF INSTITUTIONAL GEOGRAPHIES OF TOURISM GEOGRAPHIES**

**Dieter K. Müller**

Chair of the IGU Commission on Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change

Umeå University  
Department of Geography and Economic History  
SE-901 87 Umeå: Sweden  
e-mail: [dieter.muller@umu.se](mailto:dieter.muller@umu.se)

### **Abstract**

Tourism geographies are a vibrant field of scientific inquiry. Despite this, it is obvious that the sub-discipline is met with disinterest within geography departments, at the same time as tourism geographers are welcomed and acknowledged within the wider tourism community. This article offers some reflections and an institutional perspective on the tourism-geography nexus. This is accomplished by reviewing the institutional and geographical affiliations of authors in the journal *Tourism Geographies*. It is shown that tourism geographies are successful globally, but for various reasons are increasingly marginalized within geography departments. Hence, it is concluded that tourism geographies seem to be moving out of geography departments, which may turn out to deprive students of learning about the geography of a major driver of global and regional change.

### **Key words**

tourism geographies • geography departments • institutional perspective • IGU • mainstream geography

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### **Introduction**

Considering the recent global and regional conferences organized by the International Geographical Union (IGU), it seems that tourism geographies hold a strong position within the organization. And indeed, the Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change and its predecessors have managed to maintain a vital schedule of conferences in all parts

of the world. Likewise, its members have contributed extensively to the scientific literature. Recent reviews impressively demonstrate the development of the sub-discipline (Butler 2004; Gibson 2008, 2009; Hall & Page 2009; Wilson & Clavé 2013). In addition, several monographs summarize the findings of tourism geographical research, highlighting the variations in and richness of the field. Particularly *The Geography of Tourism and Recreation*

(Hall & Page 2014), published in its fourth edition in 2014, has become popular reading for interested scholars and students. Similarly, other mandatory reading includes *A Companion to Tourism* (Hall et al. 2004) and *The Routledge Handbook of Tourism Geographies* edited by Wilson (2013), mainly based on the contributions of tourism geographers and included in a geography series. Hence, it can be noted that tourism geographies have had a positive and lively development, manifested in conferences and scientific publications. Still, this positive image is not uncontested, which becomes clear when one looks at the leading journals within the field.

*Tourism Geographies* and *Current Issues of Tourism* have established themselves as influential tourism journals with relatively high rankings. For example, Google Scholar Metrics rank *Current Issues in Tourism* as number 12 with a H5-index of 18 for the years 2008-2012. The respective rank and H5-index for *Tourism Geographies* are 14 and 16. Interestingly, however, the journals can be found in the category "Business, Economy & Management" and the sub-category "Tourism & Hospitality" rather than among other geography journals, which are ranked among the social sciences. Moreover, Hall (2013) has demonstrated that major reference work on geography usually lacks references to tourism and tourism geographies. Instead, it seems that tourism research is developing in a parallel realm without any great interconnection to other sub-fields within geography (Gibson 2008).

This detachment from geography can also be noted when one scrutinizes various reports on being a tourism geographer. It is reported from different parts of the world that tourism journals are not listed among the more esteemed journals in various ranking systems, making it in fact impossible to achieve 'excellence' in publication (Visser 2009). Thus, Saarinen (2013: 52f) notes that "(...) prominent PhD students and early career geographers will have to consider carefully where they want to place and contextualize their research in order to survive and proceed in their academic endeavors in future." Moreover, tourism

geographers sometimes witness that tourism is not always taken seriously in public debate and policy, and not least among fellow geographers (Butler 2004). Scherle and Hopfinger (2013:89) point at the experience that "(...) one repeatedly hears statements to the following effect: 'Avoid the t word [tourism] and go for the m word [mobility]'" in order to avoid comments on the respectability of tourism as a research topic. Hence, disrespect regarding tourism geographies can also be detected by fellow geographers.

Similar debate on the relation of various geographies to mainstream geography can also be found in relation to geographies produced outside the Anglo-American realm (e.g. Visser 2013) and with respect to linguistic dimensions (e.g. Garcia-Ramon 2003). Even here, hegemonic structures tend to marginalize research findings and dictate which topics are worth academic investigation. In this context, regional needs are neglected or characterized as regional case studies with little value for global generalization. Nevertheless, even non-Anglo-American geographers are increasingly integrated into the global industry of knowledge production, creating a split situation whereby global requirements regarding publishing have to be fulfilled at the same time as academics struggle to conduct research relevant to their regional context. It can be assumed that even geographers within the Anglo-American realm experience similar clashes; however, the language dimension and other academic traditions form additional challenges.

Against this background, the article aims to review tourism geographies from an institutional perspective, and does this not least by scrutinizing the journal *Tourism Geographies*, the primary publication channel for research in the field. This is introduced through a discussion of the relationship between tourism and tourism geographies.

## Tourism and geographies

Tourism is a spatial phenomenon and is thus intrinsically related to geography and geographical research, as the editors of *A Companion*

to *Tourism* note (Hall et al. 2004). However, tourism has never been the concern solely of geographers. Sociologists, anthropologists, psychologists and economists, to mention just a few, have regularly engaged in the analysis of tourism and its impacts. This has recently also led to an institutionalization of tourism and to the still debated question of whether tourism should be considered an independent discipline. Tribe (1997, 2006, 2010) repeatedly notes that he sees tourism as a field of study rather than a discipline. Hall, Williams and Lew (2004), in contrast, show no unison opinion and point at the fact that tourism could be considered a discipline depending on the definitions applied. Indeed, international organizations, academic publications and institutions like departments and chairs indicate that tourism is at least a powerful tool for attracting funding and students. Moreover, Leiper (1981) and organizations like the Association for Tourism and Leisure Education (ATLAS) have argued for a distinct discipline of tourism with a clearly defined curriculum (Hall 2005).

At any rate, it can be argued that virtually anything can develop into a science. Obviously, the academic canon just a hundred years ago was much more limited, and sciences like sociology were just emerging, while informatics and tourism had not yet even been conceived of. Still, societal needs justify the emergence of new fields of research and require new bodies of knowledge. It is not always the case that this results in new sciences. Instead, obviously, established sciences also change and adapt to new challenges and questions. The history of geographical inquiry is a good example of these changes (e.g. Livingstone 1992). But regarding tourism, a greater interest in the topic did not arise, at least when it comes to mainstream geography. Hence, as Hall (2013) and Ioannides (2006) point out, major readings within geography fail to acknowledge tourism as a field of research, and ignore the achievements of those geographers dedicated to it. Thus the sub-title of Hall's book *Tourism: Rethinking the Social Science of Mobility* (2005) may be interpreted not only as an attempt to define a discipline

but also as a reaction to the failure of mainstream geographical research to acknowledge the importance of temporary mobility in changing environment and modern society.

Against this background, it is reasonable to ask whether the development of tourism as a separate discipline is owing to disrespect and disinterest within geography departments. Shaw (2010) illustrates the complexities of such a statement by describing the processes in UK departments under the recent research evaluation exercise. The UK rating system values tourism journals rather low in comparison to other geography journals, and hence tourism geographers become less attractive members of staff, preferably to be replaced by more mainstream geographers. Still, even less sophisticated reasons, as mentioned in the introduction, are often given as justification for a rejection of tourism research. After all, even leading tourism geographers (e.g. Wolfe, who has been honored by having the most known specific tourism geography award, offered by the Specialty Group on Recreation, Tourism and Leisure within the AAG, named for him) have characterized tourism as inessential (Wolfe 1977). Although tourism geographers certainly do not agree with such a statement today, it has to be recognized that many people do. And hence, some may agree with Ioannides (2006: 84), who claims: "(...) if we wish to entrench tourism as a legitimate sector of study within the sub-field of economic geography, or indeed other branches of the discipline, we have to expand our sphere of knowledge dissemination by submitting our work not only to tourism journals but also to mainstream geographical publications (...)."

Explaining the thorny relationship between tourism, tourism geographies and geography has to be done with respect to the institutional settings in different countries as well. For example, in Sweden, which as yet does not suffer from the obsession with metrics and evaluation reported from the UK, the development of tourism geographies away from geography departments and into tourism departments has to be seen in the light of the expansion

of higher education and the labor market. The establishment of university colleges in the late 1970s also meant the introduction of tourism programs, at that time not available at universities and hence regarded as a competitive advantage for the newly established university colleges. In the late 1990s many of these colleges attempted to be transformed into full universities, which among other things implied a desire to upgrade their staff by employing PhDs. Hence, during the 2000s tourism geographers with a PhD had an easy time acquiring tenured positions in tourism departments at the new universities (Müller 2010).

Another reason for the development of tourism as a discipline of its own and its movement away from geography departments can be constructed with reference to the logics of the publishing industry and the power struggle within academia. Barnett (1998) argues that the development of a new field of study – in his example, the cultural turn and cultural studies within geography – is very much about reconfiguring authority within an academic field. In this process, capitalist interests like those of publishing houses concerning launching new textbooks and journals are interwoven elements of the struggle. One could argue that the development of tourism can be seen in a similar way, and that the emergence of tourism as a discipline allowed publishing houses to launch new series of journals and books and at the same time provide scholars with a platform from which a new scientific authority could be achieved.

There are certainly different processes in place, depending on institutional settings and histories. Sometimes these may turn out to be push factors driving tourism geographers away from geography departments, as in the UK case, or they may turn out to be pull factors as in the Swedish case, where job openings for graduates could be found in tourism departments rather than geography departments. Against this background, one can wonder whether there is a problem with this development.

One could argue that this is not a problem. In McKercher's (2008) bibliometric analysis

of the influence of tourism researchers, many tourism geographers are among the most influential scholars in the field, and hence it can be said that tourism geographies have a great impact on tourism research in general. Even Gibson (2008) sees a positive development within tourism geographies that could be related to the greater institutional variety within the field compared to other sub-disciplines of geography. He notes that tourism geography seems to be more cosmopolitan than other geographies when it is published in mainstream geography journals. Moreover, Coles, Hall and Duval (2006) highlighted the hybrid characteristics of modern tourism and thus also saw a need to acknowledge these by using post-disciplinary approaches, drawing knowledge from different research strands rather than being guided by traditions within one discipline only. In this context the question of being a tourism geographer or not becomes obsolete, as does academic affiliation.

Still, despite these rather positive comments on the development of research, they fail to convince. Not because they make no sense, but rather because they are not embraced by all tourism geographers. Obviously, as earlier comments have shown, there seems to be distress at not being appreciated and acknowledged within the discipline in which many emotionally feel at home. Moreover, funding agencies and governments are hardly interested in hybrid approaches and thinking outside the box. Instead, the constant struggle for resources, something many scholars are all too familiar with, strengthens the role of academic disciplines as stakeholders and pressure groups. In this context, tourism as a discipline of its own stands weak and is most often classified as sub-category under more established disciplines. But being suddenly classified under headings of marketing and business in research assessment exercises (Coles et al. 2006) does not always fit the self-perception of many tourism geographers, turning them into something they feel they are not.

Two more questions deserve attention regarding the consequences of an institutional divide for tourism geographers outside

geography departments and for geography departments without tourism geographers, respectively. The first is perhaps the easier one to answer, though geographical and individual variations certainly apply. Obviously, knowledge is in constant change, and even 'turns' of various kinds seem to occur with ever-increasing frequency. This applies to geography as well, and hence implies a risk that tourism geographers outside geography departments may be detached from the development within the discipline, further increasing the divide and creating anachronistic tourism geographies without acknowledging the intellectual development within geography. To what extent this is a risk is up to speculation. Ioannides (2006) comments that, at least with respect to economic geography, tourism geographers seem to be up to date. And, of course, geography journals are often also accessible for reading outside geography departments, and geography conferences are also accessible to people outside geography departments. Moreover, even today geography is characterized by a variety of co-existing ideas and theoretical approaches (Livingstone 2010); hence, independent tourism geographies may after all be just another variety of the issue.

A question that is more seldom asked is what it means for geography departments and their students when tourism is no longer represented within research and education. This is of course up to individual speculation and perception as well. At any rate, there are many reasons why tourism geographies deserve attention, even without repeating doubtful claims such as the assertion that it is the largest industry in the world. On an individual level it is obviously important to people, as more and more are getting involved in tourist travel. It is also important with respect to investment, since travel and particularly an annual holiday trip are among the greatest individual investments made during a year. Moreover, considering the scope of the tourism industry and its role in regional development, not only in peripheral regions but increasingly in urban places

as well, it is remarkable that tourism as an agent of global and local change is deselected as a research and education topic. With respect to Ioannides's (2006) and Hall's (2013) reviews of geography textbooks, it can be noted that few geographers have been as insightful as Harvey (2000), who identified tourist industries as a source of geographical knowledge and hence an important facilitator of globalization and new economic geographies.

The consequences of such neglectful behavior were recently highlighted by Müller (2011) with respect to second-home tourism in rural areas. Here, geographers led the field during the 1960s and 1970s but then lost interest until the 2000s. Meanwhile, research on second-home tourism was evolving within the tourism literature and discussed not least with respect to mobility and rural development. When rural geographers re-entered the field, they failed to acknowledge the achievements published in tourism journals and instead tended to depart from historical information gained in the 1970s.

Against this background, the paper now moves forward to a discussion of the state of tourism geographies as it can be seen within the framework of the IGU Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change and the main publication in the field, *Tourism Geographies*.

### **The IGU Commission for Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change**

The IGU Commission for the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change is one of currently 41 commissions of the IGU. As such, it has a limited lifespan of usually six years, which can be prolonged for another six-year period. This limited lifespan is related to the general notion that the geographical challenges are constantly in change. Still, a study group or commission within the IGU has existed under different labels and guises since 1972 (Hall et al. 2004), and hence

it has to be noted that the IGU has truly been supportive of the development of tourism geographies.

At recent IGU conferences in Cologne and Kyoto, the Commission was most successful in attracting tourism geographers to the events. Moreover, pre-conference meetings further offered opportunities for scientific exchange, which otherwise would have been difficult to host within the framework of the main events owing to the number of participants. Thus, during the 2013 Kyoto event, tourism geographies were presented during 20 sessions requiring parallel slots. Hence, it can be noted that tourism geographers are certainly more interested in joint geographical events than geographers from many other more prominent sub-disciplines, who are increasingly absent at major IGU events.

Besides sessions at the annual IGU meetings, the Commission sponsors and organizes plenty other meetings and sessions within conferences. Not least, its presence at the American Association of Geographers' annual meeting provides important platforms for its work. A great number of conferences in Asia further boosted the interest in tourism geographies, and likely contributed to Gibson's (2008) impression of tourism geographies as being cosmopolitan.

The positive global development of tourism geographies can also be noted in the number of corresponding members of the Commission. Although figures need to be treated with caution, the positive trend cannot be overlooked. The first directory in 1997 listed 247 members in 42 states. Since 2008 the Commission member directory has been based on the Commission IGUST-listserv (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/TourismGeography/>). The listserv information does not support country-based member listing as it is based on members' names and email addresses only. In 2013 a manual inventory was done, allowing the identification of 631 individual addresses, of which 526 could be related to 67 countries. The membership table below combines this inventory with the previous membership register (Tab. 1).

Not surprisingly, the inventory shows a dominance of European and North American geographers. However, the recent Commission activities in Asia certainly improved the integration of Asian geographers into the Commission's work. The US (69 members) and the UK (50) are the countries with the most corresponding members, followed by Australia (33), Canada (27) and New Zealand (23). Germany was the non-English-speaking country with the most members (23). India (21) and China (17) play a leading role in Asia, while South Africa (13) and Brazil (7) and Mexico (7) are the most represented countries in Africa and Latin America, respectively. Notable, however, is the absence of representation from Russia and Africa, besides South Africa. At any rate, the mapped patterns roughly mirror the overall patterns of representation in the IGU commissions rather well, and demonstrate the necessity to reach out to hitherto less represented countries in order to become a truly global organization.

Unfortunately, there is no systematized information on the institutional affiliations of tourism geographers attending the IGU conferences or on those listed on the Commission's listserv. However, anecdotal evidence certainly indicates that there is a great variety of affiliations. Far from all tourism geographers are employed at geography departments. Instead, specialized tourism departments, sometimes integrated into business schools, and other social science departments are well represented. In order to provide a more systematic account of this situation, an analysis of *Tourism Geographies* is now presented.

## Tourism Geographies

The establishment of the journal *Tourism Geographies*, featuring four issues annually, has been a further boost to the development of tourism geographies. It is edited by the Vice Chair of the IGU Commission Alan A. Lew, Northern Arizona University, and has on its editorial board many former and current Commission members. Though certainly

**Table 1:** Number of Corresponding Members in 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2013

	1997	1999	2004	2005	2007	2013
Argentina	2	3	8	9	10	6
Australia	10	22	31	33	34	33
Austria	8	7	7	7	7	8
Azerbaijan	-	-	1	1	1	-
Bangladesh	1	1	2	2	2	1
Barbados	-	-	2	2	2	1
Belgium	5	6	8	8	8	3
Bolivia	-	-	-	1	1	1
Botswana	-	-	-	-	1	-
Brazil	1	1	6	6	8	7
Bulgaria	2	2	2	2	2	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cameroon	-	-	-	1	1	-
Canada	36	37	42	46	57	27
China	-	3	8	10	14	17
Costa Rica	-	1	1	1	1	1
Croatia	1	1	2	3	3	2
Cuba	-	1	1	1	1	-
Cyprus	-	-	1	1	1	-
Czech Republic	3	3	5	6	6	2
Denmark	-	1	1	1	2	2
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	1
Egypt	-	-	1	1	1	-
Finland	2	4	6	6	6	9
France	23	25	33	33	33	17
Germany	27	25	30	32	32	23
Ghana	-	-	-	1	1	2
Greece	1	1	2	3	3	3
Guatemala	-	-	1	1	1	-
Guyana	-	-	-	1	1	-
Honduras	-	-	-	1	1	-
Hong Kong SAR	-	1	3	3	5	.*
Hungary	4	4	3	3	3	3
Iceland	1	2	3	3	3	4
India	1	4	9	12	13	21
Indonesia	-	-	3	3	3	3
Iran	-	-	3	2	2	2
Ireland	5	3	5	5	6	5
Israel	2	3	5	7	7	6
Italy	6	8	11	13	14	22
Japan	2	2	5	5	5	10
Jordan	-	-	1	1	1	1
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kenya	-	-	-	4	4	-
Korea (South)	2	3	3	3	3	5
Laos	-	-	-	-	-	1
Latvia	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lithuania	-	-	1	1	1	-

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	1997	1999	2004	2005	2007	2013
Luxembourg	-	-	1	1	1	-
Malaysia	-	-	3	3	3	3
Maldives	-	-	1	1	1	1
Martinique	-	-	1	1	1	-
Mexico	2	2	5	5	5	7
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	1	1
Morocco	1	1	4	4	4	-
Namibia	-	-	1	1	1	2
Nepal	-	6	7	7	8	3
Netherlands	5	6	7	7	7	5
New Zealand	3	9	18	21	21	23
Nicaragua	-	-	2	2	2	-
Nigeria	1	1	3	3	3	-
Norway	4	4	6	6	6	3
Pakistan	-	-	-	-	-	1
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	1	1	1
Peru	-	-	1	1	1	2
Philippines	-	-	-	-	1	1
Poland	6	6	6	6	6	3
Portugal	2	4	11	13	13	15
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	1
Romania	-	-	-	4	4	7
Russia	2	2	2	2	2	-
Samoa	1	1	1	1	1	-
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	3	3	2
Serbia	-	-	-	-	1	2
Singapore	1	5	6	7	7	5
Slovenia	2	2	3	4	4	2
South Africa	5	7	13	14	16	13
Spain	4	8	14	16	16	12
Suriname	-	-	-	-	1	-
Sweden	6	7	14	14	15	16
Switzerland	4	5	7	7	7	6
Taiwan ROC	-	1	1	1	1	5
Tanzania	-	-	-	-	-	3
Thailand	-	2	4	4	4	2
Trinidad	-	-	1	1	1	-
Turkey	2	2	7	9	11	6
Uganda	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ukraine	-	-	-	-	-	2
United Arab Em.	-	-	1	1	1	1
United Kingdom	11	11	39	47	50	50
United States	37	41	75	84	89	69
Vietnam	-	-	1	2	3	-
Yemen	-	-	-	-	1	-
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	1	1	-
<i>Unknown</i>	-	-	-	-	-	106
Total	246	308	525	604	637	631

\* For 2013, Hong Kong is included in China.

not the only journal featuring current research on tourism geographies, thanks to its title it is already the obvious channel for research within the field. Moreover, a loose affiliation with the Commission further contributes to highlighting the journal's role as an outlet of research related to Commission activities.

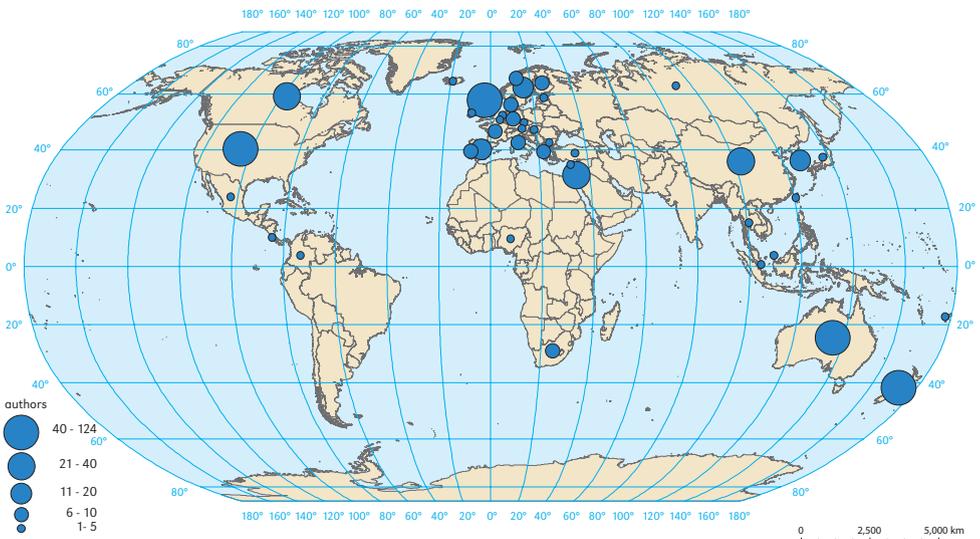
In order to further analyze the development of tourism geographies with respect to institutional affiliations, an analysis of the 15 volumes published to date (1999-2013) has been conducted. The focus has not been on the content of the articles but rather on the affiliations of the authors. Hence, for every article the author's affiliation was noted in a database. Authors who have published on several occasions were listed for each of these occasions. This procedure resulted in 587 entries in the database.

It comes as no surprise that many affiliations can be found in English-speaking countries, but more unexpected countries are among the top ten (Tab. 2). Hence, even China, Israel, South Korea, Spain and Sweden are on the list. However, more than 21 percent of the authors were affiliated with universities in the US, and 14.7 and 12.6 percent with universities in the UK and Australia, respectively.

**Table 2:** *Tourism Geographies* authors' top ten countries of affiliation, 1999-2013

Country	Number	Percent
USA	124	21.1
UK	86	14.7
Australia	74	12.6
New Zealand	42	7.2
Canada	32	5.5
China	28	4.8
Israel	24	4.1
South Korea	18	3.1
Spain	14	2.4
Sweden	11	1.9
Sum	453	77.2
Total	587	100.0

In total, however, authors from the first 15 volumes of *Tourism Geographies* can be traced to 41 different countries (Fig 1). Once again, Africa, the Arab world and South America essentially lack representation, while other countries like Japan and Russia are as yet only represented in small numbers. However, a regional and temporal approach reveals



**Figure 1:** *Tourism Geographies* authors' countries of origin, 1999-2013

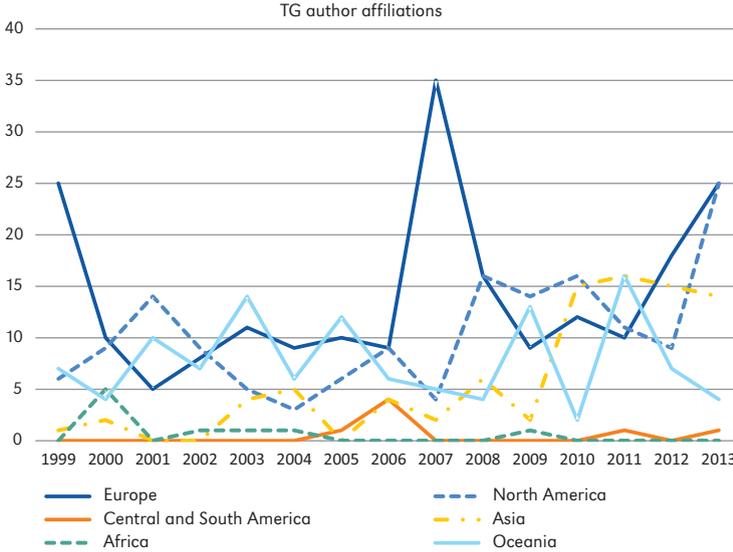


Figure 2: *Tourism Geographies* authors' regional origins, 1999-2013

that the Asian representation has increased dramatically since 2010 and has since been roughly on the same level as Europe, North America and Oceania (Fig. 2).

The database reveals that during the 15 years of *Tourism Geographies* it is not only the geographical origin of authors that has undergone a change. An even more dramatic change can be recorded regarding the institutional affiliations of the authors. While a majority of contributors in 1999 and 2000 were affiliated with geography departments, this share dropped to levels below 20 percent in 2009 and 2010, but has recovered somewhat since then (Fig. 3). Tourism geographical research published in the journal does not necessarily originate from tourism departments either. Instead, researchers working at various departments within the social sciences and the humanities are obviously contributing to tourism geographies. However, the database does not reveal whether all the authors are also geographers by training. The bio sketches available for each article do indicate, however, that a substantial number of them indeed are. In summary, it can be noted that 180 of 587 authors (31%) publishing

in *Tourism Geographies* during the research period were affiliated with geography departments. The corresponding figures for tourism departments and other department are 167 (28%) and 240 (41%), respectively.

Against this background, we can ask to what extent the greater geographical spread of tourism geographical publishing resulted in a move away from geography

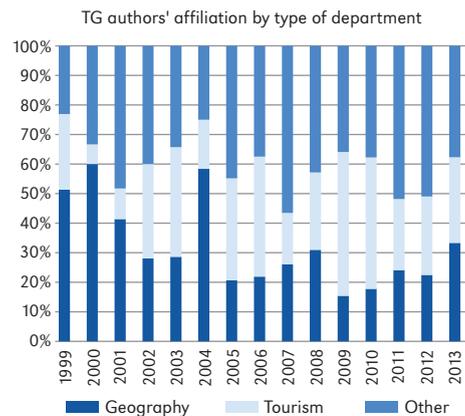


Figure 3: *Tourism Geographies* authors' affiliations by type of department, 1999-2013

**Table 3:** *Tourism Geographies* authors' affiliations by country of origin and type of department, 1999-2013

Country	Geography No.	Tourism No.	Other No.	Geography (%)	Tourism (%)	Other (%)
USA	42	41	41	34	33	33
UK	28	22	36	33	26	42
Australia	16	14	44	22	19	59
New Zealand	4	16	22	10	38	52
Canada	10	14	8	31	44	25
China	9	12	7	32	43	25
Israel	12	4	8	50	17	33
South Korea	1	16	1	6	89	6
Spain	6	0	8	43	0	57
Sweden	5	2	4	45	18	36

departments, too. However, this relationship cannot be clearly established. At any rate, it is obvious that greater Asian representation also means greater representation of non-geography departments (Tab. 3). Only six percent of the authors affiliated with Korean universities were working at geography departments. Even in New Zealand and Australia, the home of tourism geography is not within geography departments. Also in the case of authors from the dominating countries in terms of publishing, the US and the UK, only a third are affiliated with geography departments. Meanwhile, in the European non-English-speaking world, tourism geographies seem to still be more integrated into geography departments, though as noted earlier, even there a move into different departments is increasingly likely (Müller, 2010; Wilson & Clavé, 2013).

**Conclusion**

This review has shown that "tourism geographies are moving out" – their home is increasingly found outside geography departments. This is owing not only to a more global reach of tourism geographies, but also to change within the hegemonic countries in publishing

and defining tourism geographies. Except for emotional reasons, this is not always a problem for tourism geographers. As McKercher (2008) shows, the contribution of tourism geographers is appreciated within the tourism research community and, hence, moving out obviously solves the problem of being problematic and unwelcome in geography departments (Shaw 2010). Tourism organizations like ATLAS have already set up networks for tourism geographies, detached from organizational structures of global geographies; and at the same time tourism geographers, even those outside geography departments, continue using the platforms created by the International Geographical Union and national geographical societies.

The divorce of tourism and mainstream geographies is most likely not a problem for geographers at geography departments either. In the case that they actually become interested in the 'inessential' topic of tourism, they will most likely be able to find relevant sources and establish contacts with the former partners. Still, like in many divorces, there is a risk that someone is suffering. It might justifiably be feared that this will be the next generation; the departure of tourism geographies may become a problem for

students of geography. They are deprived of the opportunity to be taught about the role of tourism in globalization and regional development, despite the public interest in the field. Being a Swedish geographer, the situation reminds me of the divorce of physical and human geography in Sweden, practiced from the 1960s onward. It certainly deprived us human geographers of the opportunity to deal with global environmental change, since we were not taught the basics of physical geography.

Unfortunately, Ioannides's (2006) solution to the problem, i.e. publishing tourism geographies in mainstream geography journals, is no guarantee for success. Researchers are selective in what they read, and modern search engines like Google Scholar most often guarantee that journal content a researcher has not actively looked for remains unread. However, even the German suggestion of using the m word instead of the t word (Scherle & Hopfinger 2013) most likely does not appeal

to everyone, since most tourism geographers seem to be proud of what they are doing and well aware of why they are doing it.

Hence, in conclusion it seems most likely that geography is on its way to supporting the establishment of a new discipline, namely tourism, because of many geographers' reliance on layman understandings of a scientifically established and well-defined concept. The development of publishing patterns in the leading tourism geography journal clearly underlines this. This is not a problem for current researchers, but future generations may be less prepared to realize the complexities of an increasingly mobile and touristic world. In the long run, this also risks wiping out numerous tourism geographies sessions from the programs of many IGU events.

Editors' note:

Unless otherwise stated, the sources of tables and figures are the author(s), on the basis of their own research.

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