

CONTEMPORARY GEOGRAPHIES
OF LEISURE, TOURISM AND MOBILITY

RICHARD SHARPLEY THE
STUDY OF TOURISM PAST TRENDS AND FUTURE

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The Study of Tourism

Over the last two decades, tourism has become firmly established as a recognized field of study and the focus of extensive academic research. There has been continual expansion in the provision of taught programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level, dramatic developments in the tourism literature and a growing community of tourism academics. Despite this explosion in the study of tourism, however, it is still struggling to achieve wider academic legitimacy, it remains to some extent divorced from the industry upon which it is focused and, even within its academic ranks, there remains uncertainty over its role and future direction.

This volume aims to explore this paradoxical situation critically and to consider the future direction of the study of tourism. It charts the development of tourism as an area of study, analysing approaches taken from an international context; it critiques contemporary epistemologies of tourism framed around the social science versus management dichotomy and offers alternative approaches to the study of tourism. In doing so, it engages directly with a range of important academic debates – what tourism ‘is’ in an academic context, the purpose of studying tourism and how it should be studied in the future.

This important and stimulating volume will have global appeal to higher-level students, academics and researchers within tourism and related disciplines.

Richard Sharpley is Professor of Tourism and Development at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK.

Contemporary Geographies of Leisure, Tourism and Mobility

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University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, New Zealand*

The aim of this series is to explore and communicate the intersections and relationships between leisure, tourism and human mobility within the social sciences.

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Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	ix
Introduction	1
1 So why study tourism?	7
2 The study of tourism: where we are now	30
3 The contemporary study of tourism: approaches and critiques	57
4 The study of tourism: future directions	81
<i>References</i>	98
<i>Index</i>	104

Illustrations

Figure

3.1 The philosophic practitioner framework	68
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Tables

1.1 Tourism journals' star rating (ABS)	16
2.1 Selected UK tourism courses, 2010	37
2.2 Tourism programme content at selected UK universities, 2010–2011	44
2.3 Tourism Management, Victoria University	47
2.4 Module/course titles in Indonesian tourism programmes	48
2.5 BSc Tourism & Hospitality Management, UTM	49
2.6 Tourism journals (selected list)	51
2.7 Thematic categorization of articles published in four tourism journals, 2005–2010	54
3.1 Technical definitions of a tourist	59
3.2 Very important elements of a tourism management curriculum	67

