

2010 Conference 'Tourism and Seductions of Difference'
Lisbon, Portugal, 10-12 September, 2010

Call for Papers

Title of the panel

Seductions of history: visitors' motives and experiences into historical destinations

Short abstract

This panel addresses the contemporary seductions of history by discussing the discourses and practices associated with the tourist appeal of the past, and the experiences lived in destinations perceived as historical, such as historical and archaeological sites, museums, and lodgings located in historic buildings.

Long Abstract

As we know from literature and statistics, the past seduces an increasingly number of individuals. Historical and archaeological sites, museums, lodgings located in historic buildings, and all kinds of representations of history have become wildly popular tourist attractions around the world over the last decades. Some scholars' report that the appeal of history derives from nostalgia for alleged simpler times or from the search for one's roots (Lowenthal 1985; Samuel 1994). Cameron and Gatewood (1998) note that visitors to historic sites often seek a deeper and more meaningful connection with a place, the 'numen-seeking', in addition to gaining information during their visit. Urry (1999: 202), in turn, reports that these visitors are in search for pleasant and interesting things to gaze upon.

This panel aims to discuss the tourist motives to visit sites and places perceived as historical, and the correlative experiences, in a comprehensive way. Proposals should deal with the following questions: Who visits historical places and sites? Why? Do they seek a deeper and more meaningful connection with a place or simply a new destination to gaze upon? Do they have some historical knowledge about those sites? How do they experience and consume history in those destinations? Papers with ethnographic grounds are especially welcome, but inquiries into theory are also expected.

Main topics include visits to historic heritage sites and towns, archaeological sites, and museums of history; overnights in accommodations located in historic buildings, such as manor houses and country-house hotels; participation in historic re-enactments; and types of cultural or heritage tourists.

Application

Abstract submission deadline: 30 March, 2010

To apply for participation at the panel, please send an abstract (250 words) to Luís Silva (luis.silva98@gmail.com or luis.silva@fesh.unl.pt)

Fees: There is no enrollment fee; participants carry their own cost of travel and accommodation.

Note: The adopted work language will be English

Additional information about the conference

<http://sites.google.com/site/tourismcontactculture/project-definition>