



Special Session Proposal

On the dynamics and consequences of short-term rentals

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Abstract

Recently, concerns about overtourism have emerged as a critical challenge in urban environments, despite the multiple waves of tourism experienced by cities and territories. This phenomenon has been closely linked to the proliferation of short-term rental platforms. The short-term rental market has grown rapidly in recent years, mainly due to the expansion of hundreds of online platforms such as Airbnb, Booking, Expedia and TripAdvisor. This type of accommodation accounts for about a quarter of the total tourist accommodation in the EU and is expected to increase. While these rentals create benefits for hosts, tourists and many regions, some researchers argue that the lack of proper rules contributes to problems such as rising accommodation prices, displacement and disruption of permanent residents, overtourism and unfair competition. As the global tourism industry undergoes rapid transformations, understanding the dynamics, challenges, and innovations in short-term rental accommodations is, thus, crucial for shaping sustainable and resilient tourism practices.

This call for papers invites scholars, researchers and industry experts to explore and dissect the intricate relationship between short-term rentals and overtourism, delving into the 'how' and 'where' of this evolving dynamic. Some of the topics that could be explored are: the direct impact on the relocation of residents; the ways in which short-term rentals reshape the physical and cultural fabric of urban tourism destinations; the exploration of strategies for planning a future city that balances the needs of residents, businesses and tourists; Impact of technological advancements on the industry; regulatory challenges; Balancing community interests with the growth of short-term rentals. Effects of short-term rentals on local communities. Social and cultural implications of tourism-driven housing, Sustainable practices in short-term rental management; Promoting responsible tourism through short-term accommodations. Technological innovations in short-term rental platforms; Data analytics and smart solutions, Strategies for mitigating risks in short-term rental operations,...