

Regional Science Dialogues for Peace
and Sustainable Development

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Special Session Proposal

Moving Toward Sustainability: Stakeholders Shaping Tourism Transport

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Abstract

Sustainable mobility for tourists presents unique challenges in both rural and urban destinations. In urban areas, tourists often share transportation services and infrastructure with residents, requiring coordination between different user groups to mitigate congestion and pollution while supporting advanced transport infrastructure development. Conversely, rural destinations often lack collective transportation options, and the presence of tourists can help reach critical demand levels that local populations alone cannot achieve.

Both scenarios call for effective coordination among various stakeholders, including tourism and transport companies and public institutions responsible for transport policies. However, tourists' short and temporary stays make it challenging for them to participate in long-term planning processes. While stakeholder involvement is pivotal in planning, regulating, and evaluating transportation systems, services, and infrastructure, tourism transport poses additional complexities, challenges, and opportunities. However, it is crucial to involve all the relevant stakeholders to promote an effective transition towards a low-carbon and sustainable transport future - a critical aspect of tourism development -

The diverse range of stakeholders in tourism, including their roles, responsibilities, attachments to places, and willingness to engage in research and planning, introduces new complexities but also offers innovative solutions in both urban and rural contexts. Therefore, we need novel methods, approaches, tools, and insights to understand the importance of stakeholder involvement, identify key actors, explore involvement strategies, and assess the impacts of transport on stakeholders.

In this special session, we invite papers that explore how transport and communication research can support stakeholders' roles in tourism transport planning. We welcome submissions on the following specific topics:

- Advancements in transport and communication research related to stakeholder involvement and citizen engagement.
- Decision support approaches based on stakeholder input.
- Quantitative and qualitative methods for assessing transport's impact on various stakeholder groups.
- Understanding the distinct roles and needs of residents and visitors in urban and rural tourism destinations.
- Synergies between residents and visitors for developing innovative and sustainable transport services and infrastructure.
- The coordinating role of Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) or other institutional arrangements in tourism transport and mobility.

In addition to these specific topics, we encourage submissions in the broader fields of leisure, recreation, tourism, transport, communications, and mobility.