Towards an integrated Evolutionary and Relational Economic Geography approach for analysing the evolution of destinations

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Content

1 Background
   • Evolutionary and relational thinking in Tourism Geography

2 Emergent paradigms in Economic Geography
   • Drawing inspiration on Economic Geography mainstream thinking

3 Towards a new approach of LTD evolution
   • Increasing the understanding of destinations long-term dynamics

4 Concluding remarks
1 Evolutionary and relational thinking in TG

Tourism creates socially-constructed productive spaces which evolve over time
(Saarinen, 2004)

Evolutionary models

(Gilbert, 1939; Christaller, 1964; Plog, 1973; Miossec, 1977; Stansfield, 1978; Butler, 1980; Chadeaud, 1987; Smith, 1992; Gormsen, 1997; Prideaux, 2004)

Clusters & Tourism Local Systems

(Porter, 1990, 1998; Michael, 2007; Jackson, 2006; Jackson & Murphy, 2006)

(Hjalager, 1999; Capone, 2006; Lazzeretti & Capone, 2006; Maulet, 2006)

There is a need to look for integrated perspectives that could bring new insights to understand the complex mechanisms underpinning destinations’ dynamics

(Agarwal, 1994; Equipe MIT, 2002; Baggio, 2008; Baggio & Sainaghi, 2011)
2 Emergent paradigms in EG (I)

Need to renew and consolidate the epistemological and methodological foundations of EG

(Benner et al., 2011)

Evolutionary Economic Geography (EEG)

(Boschma & Frenken, 2006; Boschma & Martin, 2007, 2010)

Relational Economic Geography (REG)

(Bathelt & Glückler, 2003, 2011; Boggs & Rantisi, 2003; Yeung, 2005; Jones, 2013)
2 Emergent paradigms in EG (II)

Evolutionary Economic Geography
How the economic landscape is transformed over time?

Generalised Darwinism
(Essletzbichler & Rigby, 2010; Hodgson, 2009)
Evolution is shaped by competition between agents and rests on processes of variety, selection and continuity

Complexity theory
(Beinhocker, 2006; Martin & Sunley, 2010, 2011)
Evolution is characterized by emergence, self-organization, adaptive behaviour and non-linearity

Path Dependence theory
(Martin & Sunley, 2006; Martin, 2010)
P. creation (Garud & Karnoe, 2001)
P. plasticity (Strambach, 2010)
Evolution is shaped by past development paths but not necessarily lead to or involve lock-in

Receiving increasingly attention by tourism geographers (Brouder, 2013)
2 Emergent paradigms in EG (III)

Spatial structures and regional environments are constructed by economic actors.

Action and interaction are embedded in specific contexts so they cannot be explained by universal laws.

Relational Economic Geography

How economic action and interaction take place in different locations and between agents in different places?

Historical structures, processes and events enable and constrain today’s and future intentions.

Economic decisions are neither predetermined nor predictable.

Tourism geographers have not directed attention explicitly (Debbage & Ioannides, 2011)
2 Emergent paradigms in EG (IV)

**EEG**
Processes of change
drivers of evolution

**REG**
Actors’ practices as drivers of
distinctive evolutionary paths

(Hassink & Klaerding, 2009)

Influence of path (and place) dependence in shaping long-term dynamics
Knowledge as a source of competitive advantage
Space as socially-constructed

There is room for a fruitful exchange between these two approaches
(Li & Bathelt, 2011)
Towards a new approach of LTD evolution

Tourism evolution

Evolutionary models

Destination organisation

Cluster (CL) & Tourism Local System (TLS)

Precedents in Tourism Geography

Local Tourism Destinations' Evolution

Emergent paradigms in Economic Geography

Evolutionary Economic Geography (EEG)  Relational Economic Geography (REG)

Place transformation  Place construction
3 Towards a new approach of LTD evolution

“LTD evolution as a complex, path- and place-dependent process that is determined by the action and interaction of stakeholders and their ability to adapt or create new paths, and, thus, to survive in response to local and global changes.”

(Sanz-Ibáñez & Anton-Clavé, 2013)

Triggers of LTD evolution from an integrated EEG-REG approach
3 Towards a new approach of LTD evolution

LTD are socially-constructed systems
(Lazzeretti & Capone, 2006)

Agency can deliberately and mindfully shift away evolutionary paths from their inertia
(Jones & Murphy, 2011)

Interaction
- Formal and informal networks (Scott, Cooper & Baggio, 2008)
- Dynamics of cooperation/competition (Jackson & Murphy, 2006)

Action
- Public policies (Anton-Clavé, 2012)
- Private practices/initiatives

Knowledge
- Public and private organisations (Halkier et al., 2012)
- Local forms of production and expertise (Novelli, Schmitz & Spencer, 2006)
3 Towards a new approach of LTD evolution

Context creates or constrains -not determine- opportunities for economic action and interaction
(Li & Bathelt, 2011)

Institutions could be shaped by the adoption of novelties in stakeholders’ practices
(Boschma & Martin, 2009)

Local level
- Systemic consciousness and sense of belonging (Anton-Clavé & Wilson, 2013)
- Local productive culture (Brouder & Eriksson, 2013)
- Variety of resources (Ma, 2013)
- Political regulations (Halkier, 2013)

Global level
- External environment (Ma & Hassink, 2013)
- Markets
  - Consumers & co-producers (Debbage & Ioannides, 2011)
  - Demand-driven survival strategies
3 Towards a new approach of LTD evolution

Past events and decisions - even the most random and unintended - can have long-term consequences (Martin & Sunley, 2006)

“History” can have both positive and negative effects (Martin, 2010; Garud & Karnoe, 2001; Strambach & Halkier, 2013)

Enabling factors
- Pre-existing conditions (Ma & Hassink, 2013)
- Entrepreneurship (Broder & Eriksson, 2013b)
- Strategies of local governments (Gill & Williams, 2011; Halkier & Therkelsen, 2012)

Constraining factors
- Stakeholders and institutional rigidity (Halkier, 2013)
4 Concluding remarks

**Precedents in TG**
- Separated perspective
- Evolution of activity
- Reductionist approaches
- Empirical research
- Isolated tourism analysis

**EEG-REG approach**
- Integrated perspective
- Dynamics of place
- Complex approach
- Theoretically based research
- EG integrated study of tourist places

**Proper translation** of EEG & REG notions

**Resolutive methods** to empirical analysis
Thanks for your attention!

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