

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

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International workshop: "Evolution and transformation in tourism destinations: Revitalisation through innovation?"

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Research group on
territorial analysis
and tourism studies
(GRATET)



Department of Geography



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Content

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- 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)

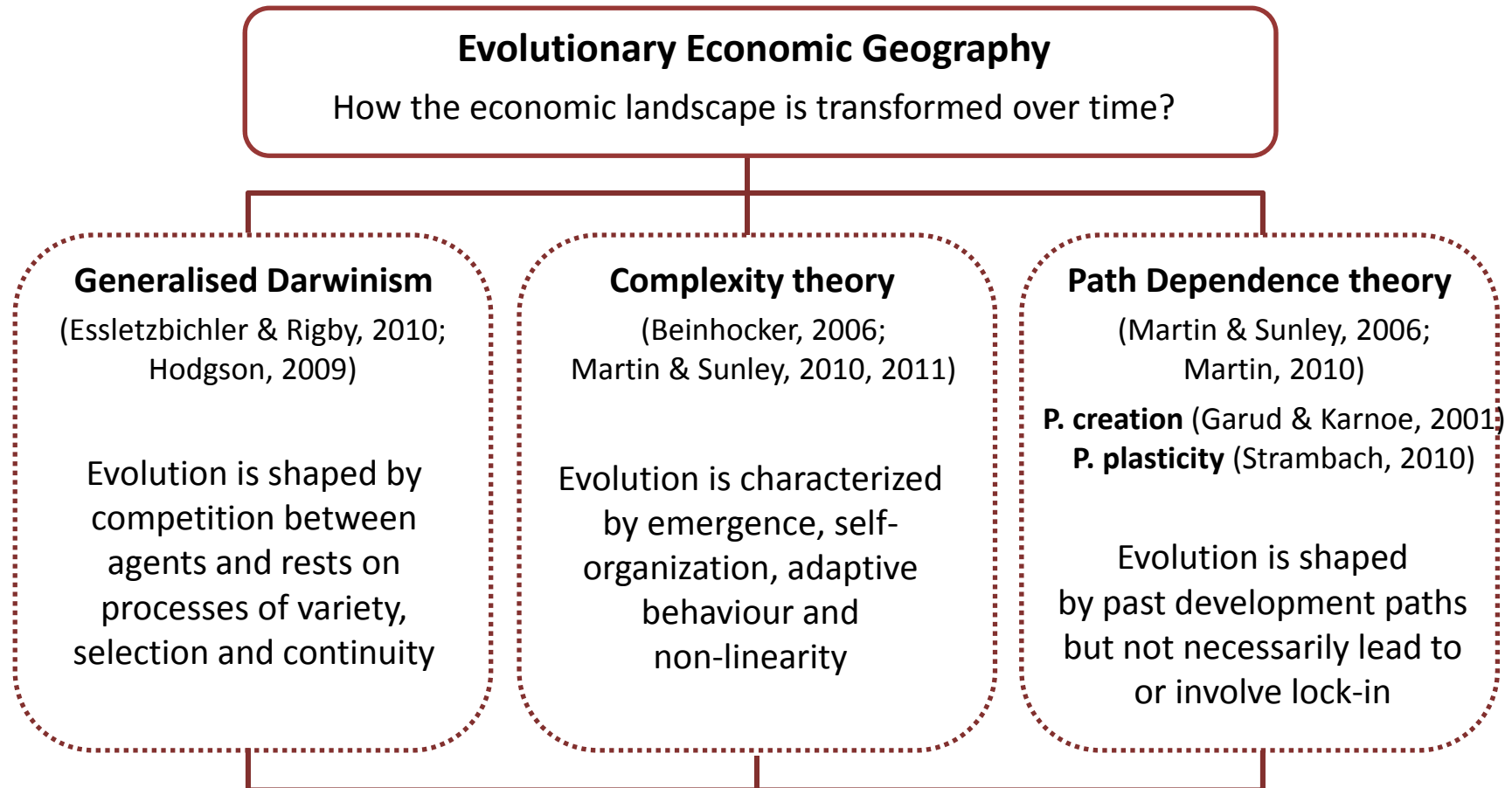
**Evolutionary Economic Geography
(EEG)**

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

**Relational Economic Geography
(REG)**

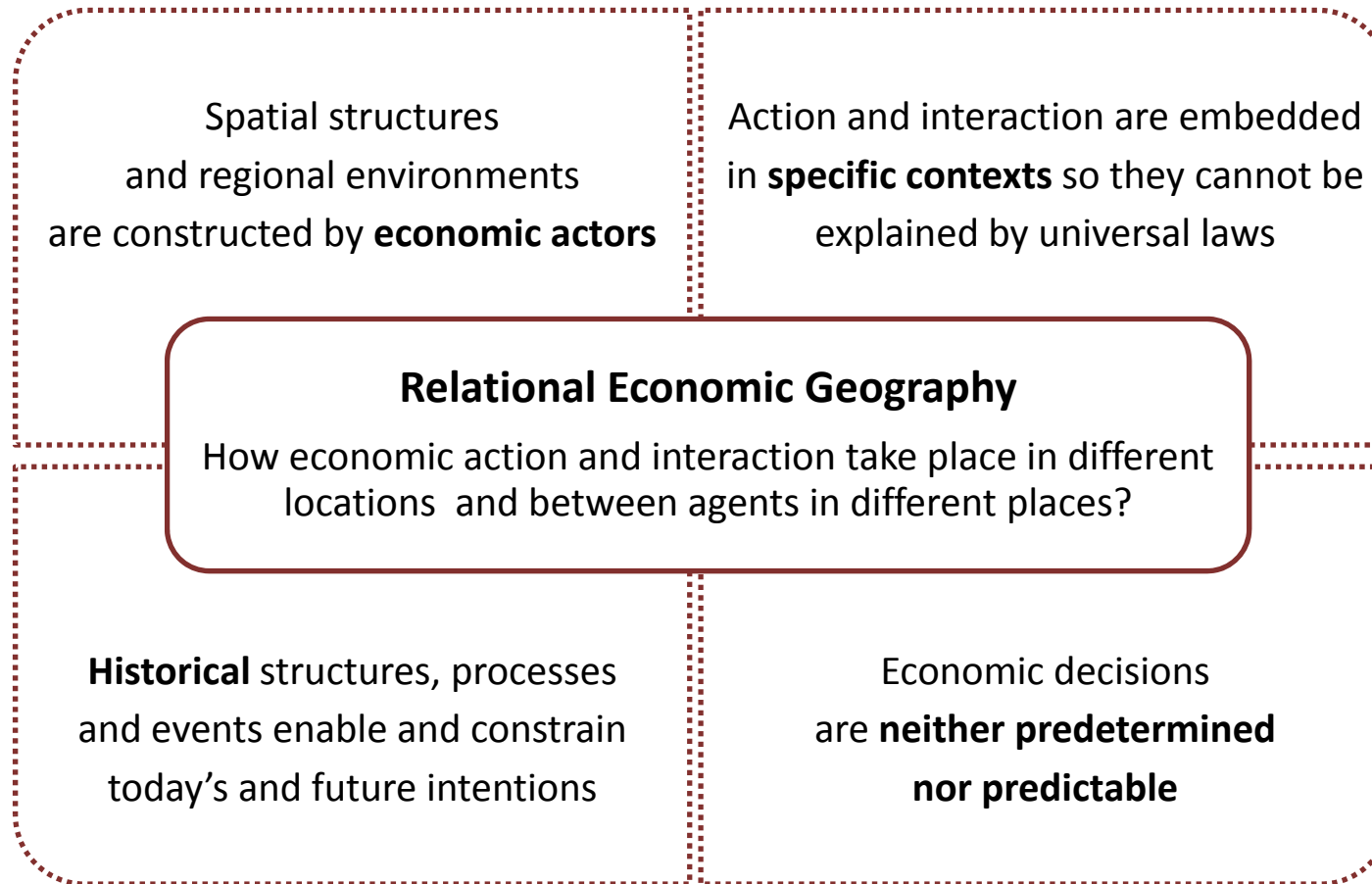
(Bathelt & Glückler, 2003, 2011;
Boggs & Rantisi, 2003; Yeung, 2005;
Jones, 2013)

2 Emergent paradigms in EG (II)



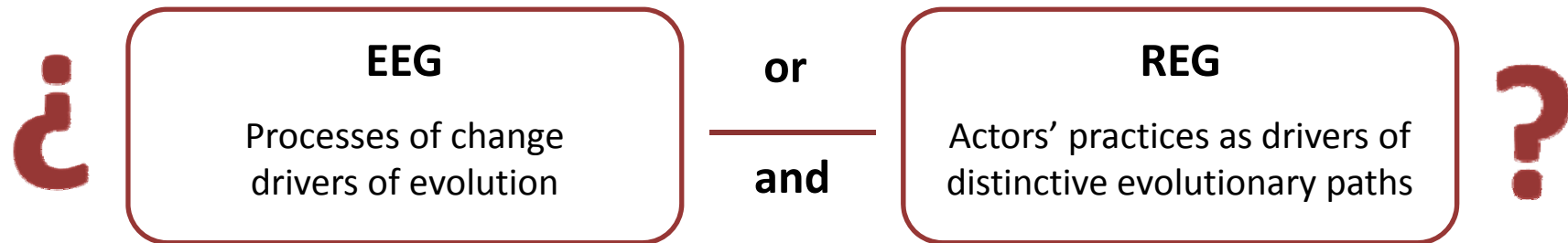
Receiving increasingly attention by tourism geographers (Brouder, 2013)

2 Emergent paradigms in EG (III)



Tourism geographers have not directed attention explicitly (Debbage & Ioannides, 2011)

2 Emergent paradigms in EG (IV)



(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)

3 Towards a new approach of LTD evolution

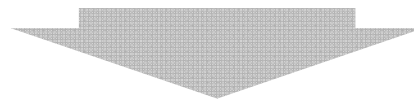
Tourism evolution

Destination organisation

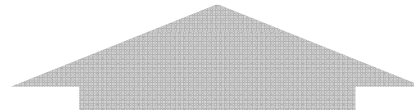
Evolutionary models

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)

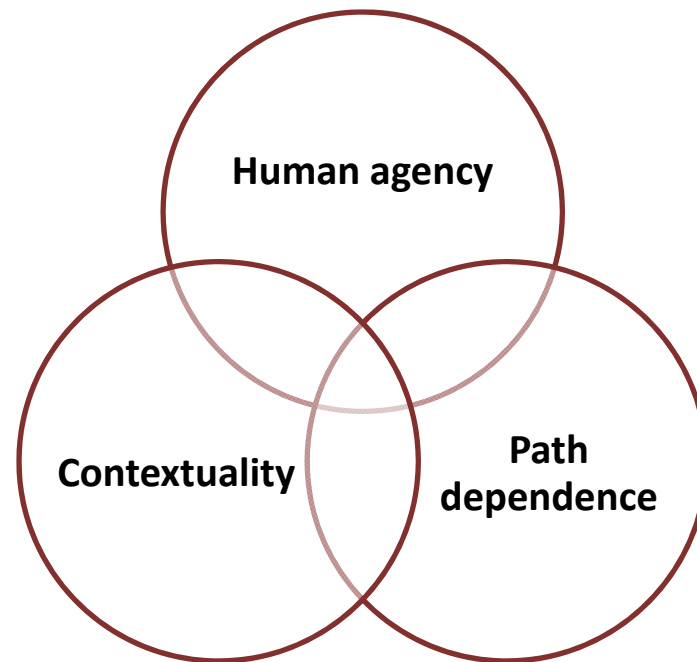
Place transformation

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)

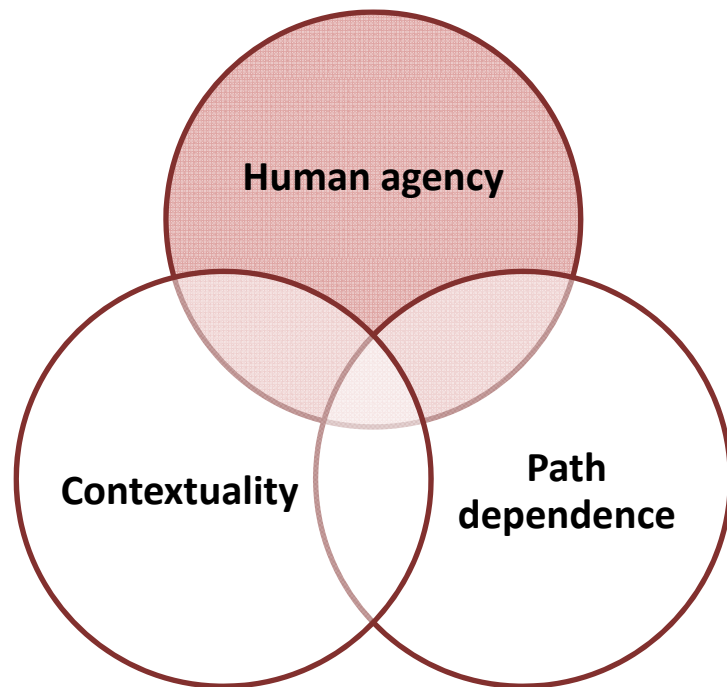


Triggers of LTD evolution from an integrated EEG-REG approach

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

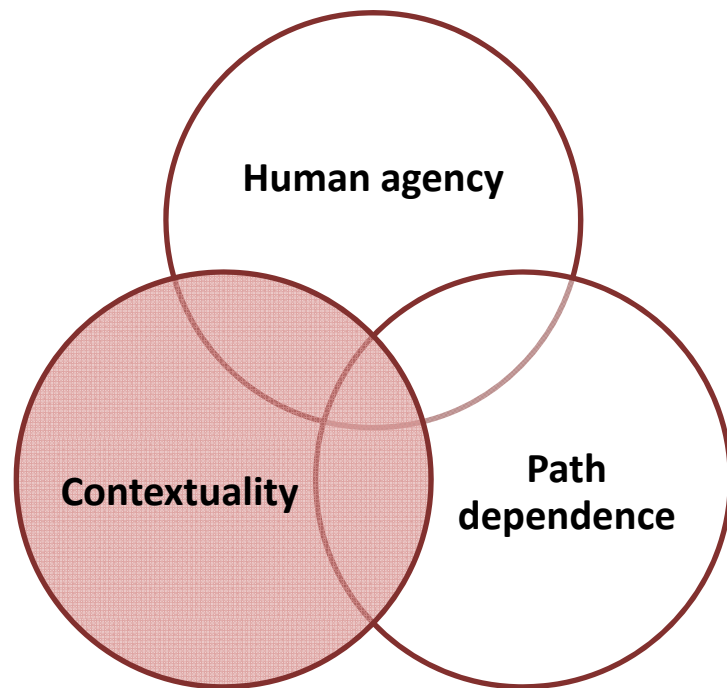
Knowledge

- 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)

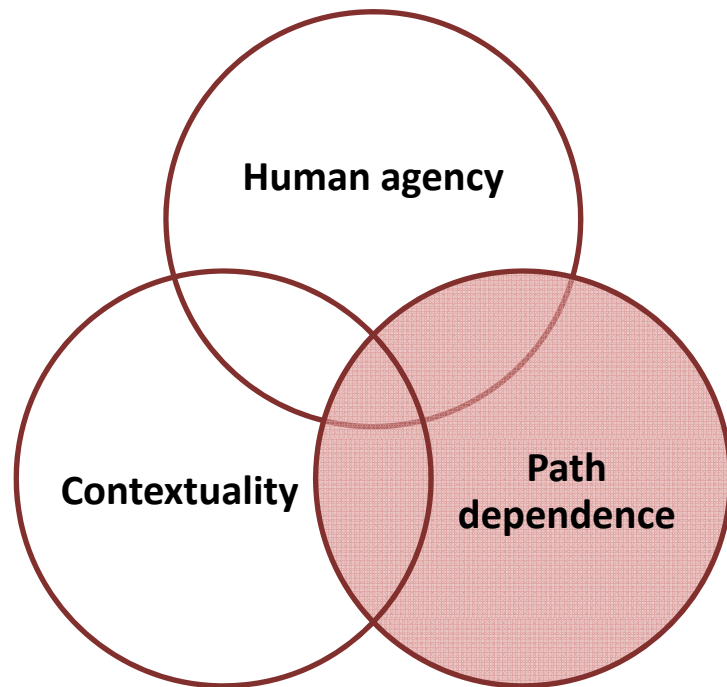
Global level

- 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

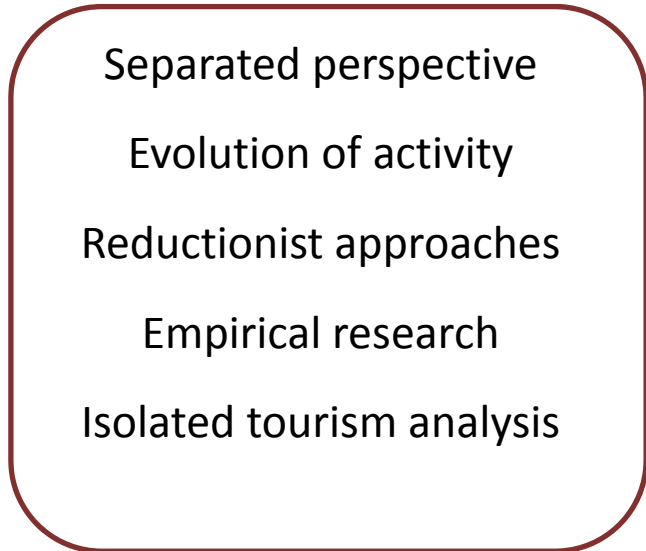
- Pre-existing conditions (Ma & Hassink, 2013)
- Entrepreneurship (Brouder & Eriksson, 2013b)
- Strategies of local governments (Gill & Williams, 2011; Halkier & Therkelsen, 2012)

Constraining factors

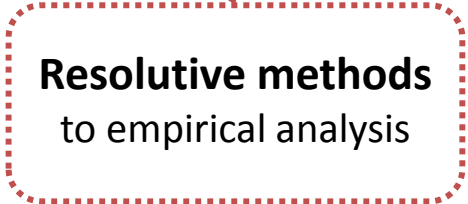
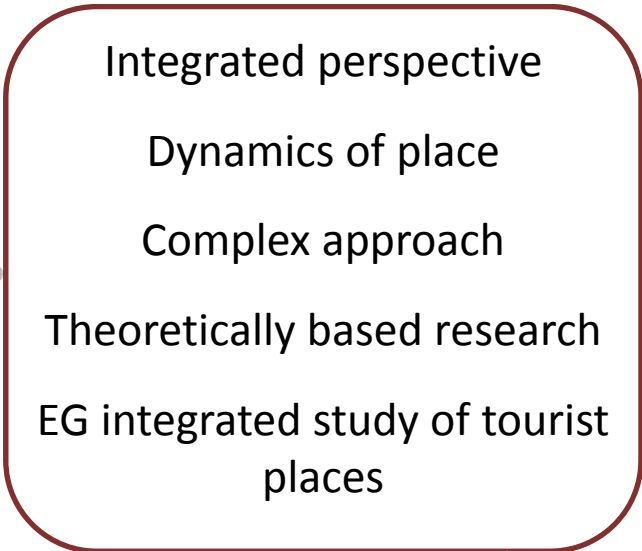
- Stakeholders and institutional rigidity (Halkier, 2013)

4 Concluding remarks

Precedents in TG



EEG-REG approach





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Thanks for your attention!

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