

Towards an Integrated Relational-Evolutionary Perspective of Local Tourism Destinations as Complex Systems

Cinta Sanz Ibáñez & Salvador Anton Clavé
Department of Geography, Rovira i Virgili University

Content

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- Relational and evolutionary thinking as complementary paradigms

2 Precedents in Tourism Studies

- Which approaches have been proposed in previous research?

3 New paradigms in Economic Geography

- What can we learn from EG to go beyond the established approaches in TS?

4 New perspectives for Tourism Geography

- Towards a Relational-Evolutionary perspective of LTD as Complex Districts

5 Concluding remarks

Competing paradigms

(Sunley, 2008)



**Relational Economic
Geography**

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

or

and

**Evolutionary Economic
Geography**

(Boschma & Frenken, 2006, 2009;
Boschma & Martin, 2007, 2010)



Complementary and mutually formative paradigms

(Hassink & Klaerding, 2009)



Could these approaches be
applied in the case of
local tourism destinations?

Tri-polar Framework of cluster evolution

(Li & Bathelt, 2011; Li, Bathelt & Wang, 2012)

Tourism destinations

Organization

Relational approaches

Tourism Local System (TLS)

(Capone, 2004, 2006; Lazzeretti & Capone, 2006, 2008; Maulet, 2006)

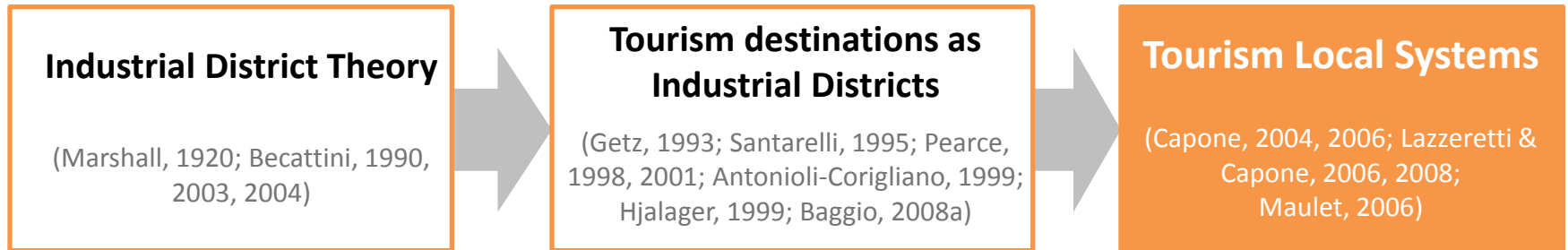
Evolution

Evolutionary approaches

Tourism Area Life Cycle (TALC)

(Butler, 1980, 2006a, 2006b, 2009, 2011; Hovinen, 1981; Haywood, 1986; Getz, 1992; Agarwal, 1994, 1997, 2002; Baum, 1998; Lagiewski, 2006)

Precedents in Tourism Studies: TLS approach



(Lazzeretti & Capone, 2006)



System of economic, noneconomic and institutional actors located in a given area that cooperate in order to enhance local resources through the commercialization of an integrated tourism product

(Capone, 2006)



(Maulet, 2006)



- Complex adaptive nature of tourism systems (Baggio, 2008b; Baggio & Sainaghi, 2011)
- Difficulties to operationalize the model
- Omission of basic qualitative aspects (Martinez et al., 2010)
- Lack of continuity in research

Precedents in Tourism Studies: TALC approach

Tourism destination development

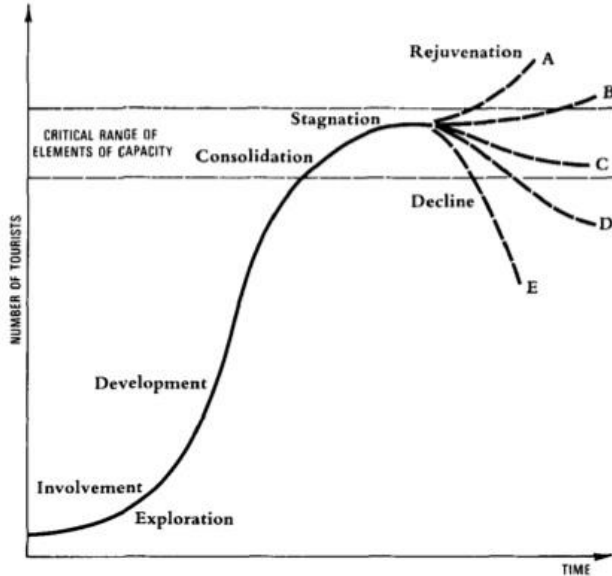
(Gilbert, 1939; Wolfe, 1964; Christaller, 1963; Plog, 1973; Miossec, 1977; Stansfield, 1978; Butler, 1980; Gormsen, 1981, 1997; Chadeaud, 1987; Smith, 1992; Equipe MIT, 2002)

Tourism Area Life Cycle

(Butler, 1980, 2006a, 2006b, 2009, 2011; Hovinen, 1981; Haywood, 1986; Getz, 1992; Agarwal, 1994, 1997, 2002; Baum, 1998; Lagiewski, 2006)

Product Life Cycle

(Dean, 1950, Cox, 1967; Dhalla & Yuspeh, 1976; Kotler, 1976; Baker, 1991; Klepper, 1996)



Butler (1980)



- Scale of analysis (Haywood, 1986)
- Lack of contextuality (Butler, 2004; Haywood, 2006)
- Lack of contingency (Choy, 1992, Agarwall, 1994; Bianchi, 1994)
- Role of human agency (Butler & Russell, 2010)
- Evolution of activity rather than evolution of destination

Places

Organization

Relational approaches

Relational Economic Geography (REG)

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

Evolution

Evolutionary approaches

Evolutionary Economic Geography (EEG)

(Boschma & Frenken, 2006, 2009;
Boschma & Martin, 2007, 2010)

Relational Economic Geography

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



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

(Bathelt & Glückler, 2011)

Human agency

Economic action is viewed as social practice

Contextuality

Action is embedded in specific contexts

Path dependency

Yesterday's economic decisions, actions and interactions enable and constrain the context of today's actions.

Contingency

Agents' strategies and actions may deviate from existing development paths

Evolutionary Economic Geography

(Boschma & Frenken, 2006, 2009;
Boschma & Martin, 2007, 2010)



“How the economic landscape is transformed from within over time”

(Boschma & Martin, 2010)

Path Dependence Theory

(Martin & Sunley, 2006; Martin, 2010)

Evolution is shaped by the past development paths but need not lead to or involve lock-in

Path creation

(Garud & Karnoe, 2001)

Path plasticity

(Storz, 2008; Strambach, 2010)

Complexity Theory

(Beinhocker, 2006; Martin & Sunley, 2010, 2011)

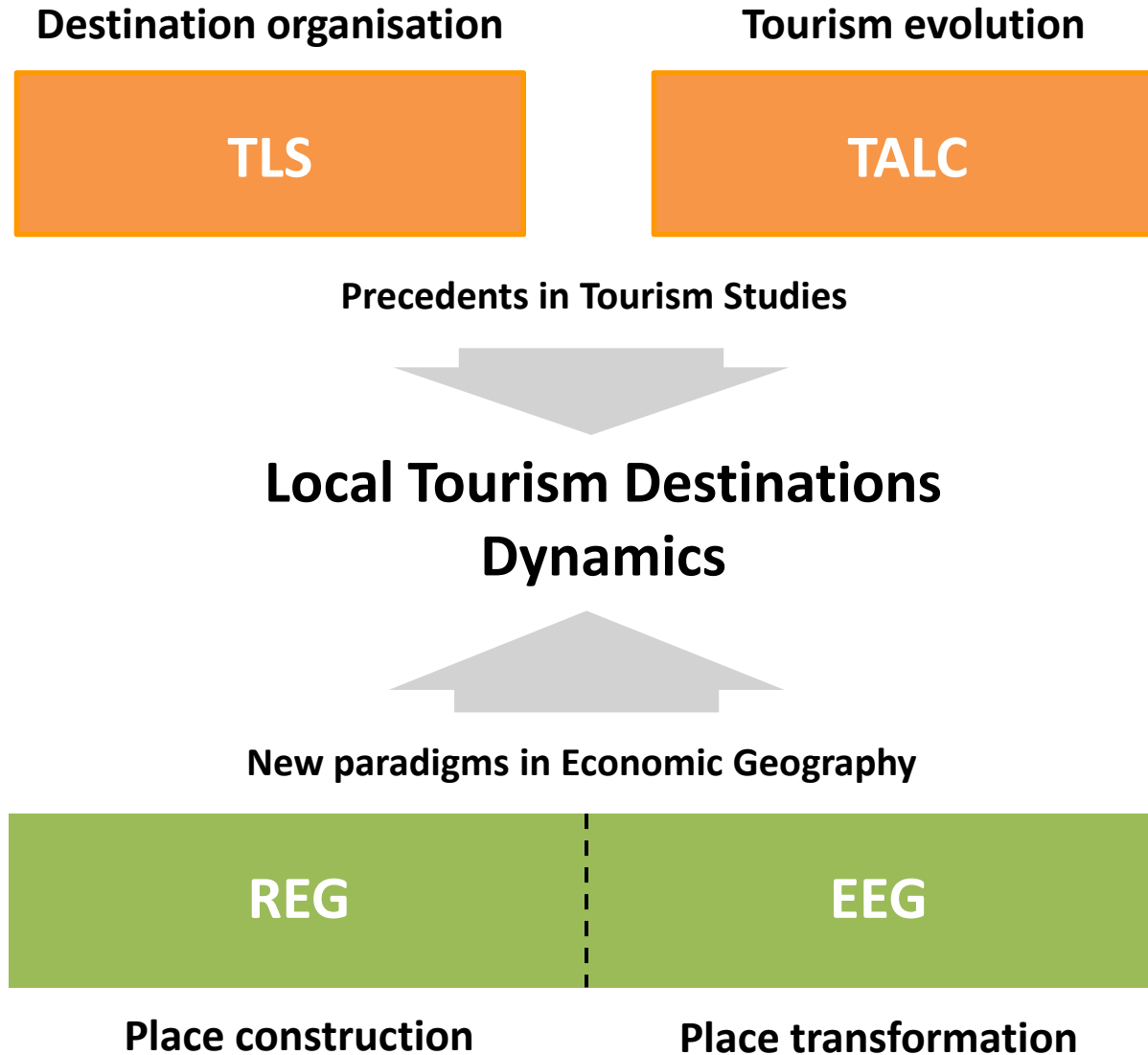
Evolution is characterized by emergence, self-organization, adaptive behaviour and non-linearity

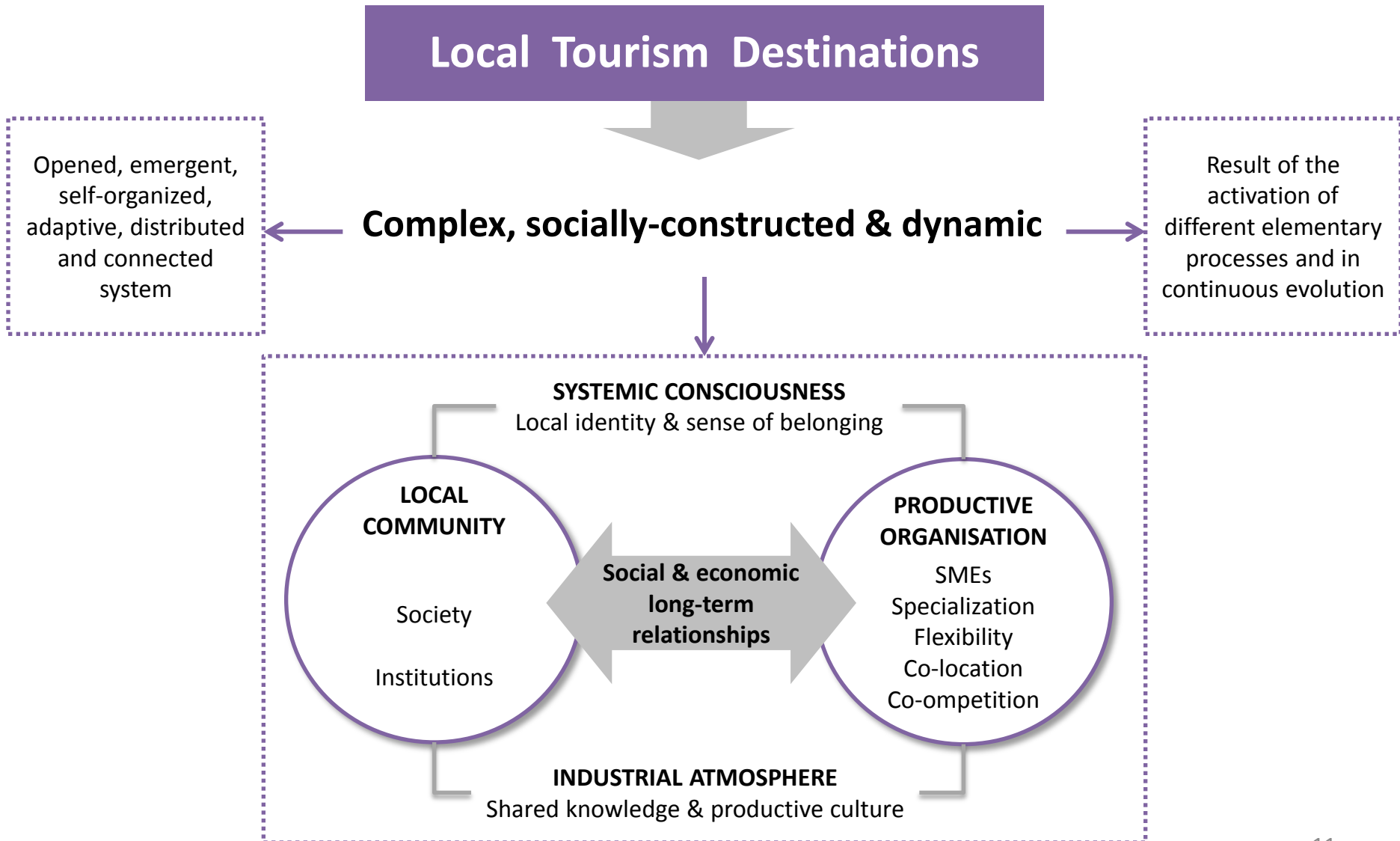
Generalized Darwinism

(Metcalfe & Foster, 2004; Witt, 2003; Essletzbichler & Rigby, 2007, 2010)

Evolution is shaped by competition between agents and rests on processes of variety, selection and continuity

New perspectives for Tourism Geography





Research linking TG & EEG



Path dependence

Bramwell & Cox (2009)
Ma & Hassink (2012)

Human agency

Gill & Williams (2011)

Path plasticity

Halkier & Therkelsen (2012)
Anton & Wilson (2012)

Path creation

Gill (2012)

Survival

Brouder & Eriksson (2013)

“**Path- and place-dependent** process

that is determined by the **action and interaction**

of destination **stakeholders**

and their ability to **adapt**

or creating **new development paths**

and **survive**

in an increasingly competitive **context**”

LTDD

main contribution



**Integrated
relational-evolutionary
perspective**

5 Concluding remarks

TLS & TALC

Separated perspective
Evolution of activity
Reductionist approach
Empirical research
Isolated tourism analysis



**REG
&
EEG**



LTDD

Integrated perspective
Dynamics of place
Complex approach
Theoretically based research
EG integrated study of tourist places

Proper translation
to tourism geography

Resolutive methods
to operationalize
models



Thanks for your attention!



cinta.sanzi@urv.cat

salvador.anton@urv.cat

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