

Presentation of the book “Geographies of Tourism. European Research Perspectives”

The 15th of May took place the presentation of the book *Geographies of Tourism. European Research Perspectives* (Bingley, UK: Emerald GPL, 2013, 260p.), edited by two members of the GRATET research group: Dr. Julie Wilson – *Professora Investigadora* at the Rovira i Virgili University and Senior Research Fellow at University of the West of England, Bristol – and Prof. Salvador Anton Clavé – Full Professor of Regional Geographical Analysis and Director of the Scientific and Technology Park for Tourism and Leisure. The event was hosted by the Catalan Society of Geography at the Institute of Catalan Studies (Barcelona) and chaired by the president of the organisation, Prof. Josep Oliveras Samitier. The responsible of presenting the book was Prof. Gemma Cànovas – Full Professor of Regional Geographical Analysis at the Autonomous University of Barcelona –, one of the most prominent researchers in tourism geography both in Catalonia and Spain. The event counted with the intervention of the two editors as well.

Prof. Gemma Cànovas highlighted the quality and relevance of the book in a time when there are few publications of this kind. According to Prof. Cànovas, this is a thorough work that presents a very clear snapshot of the level and dynamism of the scientific production within the field of tourism geography that is being conducted in the European context. Indeed, Cànovas described the work of Wilson and Anton Clavé as a reference both nationally and internationally because, on the one hand, it makes available to Catalan and Spanish researchers a valuable overview of how this field is being developed in neighbouring countries and, on the other, thanks to publication of the book in English, gives visibility to the European research traditions at a time when English (and Anglo-American traditions) predominates in the academy.



Research group on
territorial analysis
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(GRATET)



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The presenter emphasised the presence of renowned researchers among the authors of the chapters dedicated to review the research traditions, relevant topics, more cited publications and reviews, future challenges and specificities of several European countries/areas. This is the case, for instance, of Jarkko Saarinen (University of Oulu, Finland) for the Nordic countries; Rémi Knafou (University of Paris 1) for France; or Myriam Jansen-Verbeke (Catholic University of Leuven) for Belgium and Holland, among others. It must be noted that Michael Hall (University of Canterbury, New Zealand) also participated with a review of the current situation regarding the channels of distribution and the worldwide accessibility of research on tourism geography.

Dr. Julie Wilson, explained the origins of the publication – directly associated to an event organised by the GRATET in 2010 – and pointed out that the main motivation to undertake such a complex and genuine project – beyond the conventional review of relevant or emergent topics – was precisely to become a platform to disseminate the high quality research conducted by European scholars, which in turn, tends to be invisible within the international academic channels just for a simple language issue. In this vein, Prof. Salvador Anton, highlighted the inclusion of more than 650 references as one of the main strengths of the book in terms of its contribution to the diffusion of unexplored worlds of knowledge in tourism geographies’ research traditions that have been developed outside the English hegemony.

To conclude the event, Prof. Anton Clavé maintained that mainly two are the challenges of the tourism geography field in the near future: 1) strengthen its position as a research area in its own right, and 2) enhance the cross-fertilisation between different academic traditions. Therefore, on the one hand, researchers and journals from the Anglo-American context need a greater awareness and sensibility regarding the polyglot and diversity of approaches within the field. On the other hand, a greater effort by researchers from non-Anglo-American research traditions must be done to prepare high quality publications in English that would be able to connect with the present debates in the mainstream geography of tourism without neglecting the specificities of their countries.

For those reading Catalan, please see an extended version about the highlights of the event at <http://scg.iec.cat/Scg9/Scg92/S90891.htm>



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