



Reviews in tourism

Resident's attitudes towards the impacts of tourism[☆]



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ABSTRACT

This text makes a tour through the most important aspects of residents' attitudes towards the impact of tourism in relation to some of the most studied variables that attempt to explain the behaviour of residents. The heterogeneity of methodologies and different models or theories proposed to the present day have not produced results with universal validity or efficacy, so these studies could be directed to the analysis of other variables beyond the tourism sector and especially focusing on local studies. Tourist destinations are places conditioned by history, tourist developments and social and cultural aspects which make each tourist area identified by factors that shape the zone. This paper opens a discussion on the limitations of the methods and theories developed for the study of resident attitudes towards tourism. The creation of a new framework of study that overcomes the identified problems is advocated.

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Contents

1. Introduction	33
2. Residents' attitudes on economic impacts	34
3. Residents' attitudes towards the sociocultural impacts	35
4. Residents' attitudes towards the environmental impacts	35
5. Some variables studied in attitudes of residents	35
5.1. Sociodemographic variables	37
6. Methodology and theoretical models used in the attitudes of residents studies	38
7. Conclusions	38
References	39

1. Introduction

The term “impact of tourism” has been garnering great attention in the literature. It is for this reason that a number of studies in recent years have examined the attitude/perception of residents to these impacts. The main reason for this growing interest has been the

consideration that tourism development does not only bring positive effects but also has a potentially negative effect on a local level (Ko & Stewart, 2002; Lankford & Howard, 1994).

Residents' attitudes regarding the impacts of tourism have been a subject of research for more than 30 years. Jafari (1986), cited in Andereck and Vogt (2000), pointed out that research on tourism in the sixties focused on the positive aspects of the impacts of tourism, in the seventies on the negative aspects and in the eighties had a more balanced focus. However, it was in the seventies that residents began to receive more attention (Vargas, Plaza, & Porras, 2007) with the first studies focusing on residents' attitudes to “the impacts of tourism” (Andereck & Vogt, 2000).

Thereafter from the mid-seventies to the current day there has been a proliferation of empirical and theoretical research examining residents' attitudes (Sirakaya, Teye, & Sönmez, 2002), so much so, that to analyze all the studies in their entirety would be a difficult task if not impossible (Sharpley, 2014).

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These studies have spread to different destinations across various countries. However, a significant number of them have been made in the USA, that is to say, much of this research has been limited to case studies in the developed world and specifically in places where rural tourism or leisure areas is focused (Nunkoo & Gursoy, 2012). Likewise, a lack of attention to these studies in destinations such as the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, where tourism is the economic base of residents, has been observed (Pérez & Nadal, 2005; Sharpley, 2014) (Table 1).

Research on the impacts of tourism has reached a consensus on the following groups (Andereck, Valentine, Knopf, & Vogt, 2005; Díaz & Gutiérrez, 2010; Gursoy, Jurovski, & Uysal, 2002; Gursoy & Rutherford, 2004): economic, sociocultural and environmental. Most studies have identified these impacts in two possible aspects: positive and negative, i.e. residents observed that tourism contributes to both benefits and costs in their tourism zone.

Likewise, many of these studies have been based on the identification of variables that influence the attitude of residents towards tourism (Akis, Peristianis, & Warner, 1996; Bujosa & Rosselló, 2007) and, in the search for a theoretical basis, widespread attitudes of residents in different destinations. Although the primary intention of a significant amount of research is the search for models or theories that help to generalize the results, through this brief literature review, we note that the data obtained are contradictory and, therefore, are not applicable to all tourist destinations.

Table 1
Summary of studies related to destinations.
Source: elaborated by authors.

Study area	Researches
U.S.A.	Pearce (1980), Pizam and Pokela (1985), Perdue et al. (1987), Allen et al. (1988), Davis et al. (1988), Milman and Pizam (1988), Long et al. (1990), Perdue et al. (1990), Madrigal (1993), Johnson et al. (1994), Lankford (1994), Lankford and Howard (1994), McCool and Martin (1994), Lindberg and Johnson (1997), Smith and Krannich (1998), Andereck and Vogt (2000), Chen (2000), Yoon et al. (2001), Besculides et al. (2002), Gursoy et al. (2002), Gursoy and Rutherford (2004), Jurovski and Gursoy (2004), McGehee and Andereck (2004), Andereck et al. (2005), Young, Corsun, and Baloglu (2007), Wang and Pfister (2008), Andereck and Nyaupane (2011)
Alaska	Huh and Vogt (2008)
Hawaii Islands	Liu and Var (1986), Sheldon and Abenoja (2001)
Cyprus	Akis et al. (1996)
Crete	Andriotis and Vaughan (2003), Andriotis (2005)
Colombia	Belisle and Hoy (1980)
U.K.	Brougham and Butler (1981), Murphy (1981), Sheldon and Var (1984), Brunt and Courtney (1999), Snaith and Haley (1999), Haley et al. (2005)
Belize	Diedrich and García (2009)
Australia	Tomljenovic and Faulkner (2000), Weaver and Lawton (2001), Lawton (2005), Dyer et al. (2007), Gursoy, Chi, and Dyer (2009)
Greece	Haralambopoulos and Pizam (1996)
Puerto Rico	Hernández et al. (1996)
Fiji Islands	King et al. (1993)
Korea	Ko and Stewart (2002)
Turkey	Var et al. (1985), Korca (1996), Kuvan and Akan (2005)
Africa	Sirakaya et al. (2002), Teye et al. (2002), Lepp (2007)
New Zealand	Mason and Cheyne (2000), Williams and Lawson (2001)
Saint Lucia Island	Nicholas, Thapa, and Ko (2009)
Mauritius Island	Nunkoo and Gursoy (2012)
Canada	Ritchie (1988)
Mexico	Mendoza and Monterrubio (2012)
Cape Verde	Castillo, Osuna, and López (2012)
Spain	Aguiló et al. (2004), SOPDE (2004), Paniza (2005), Marrero (2006), Bujosa and Rosselló (2007), Rodríguez (2007), Oviedo et al. (2008), Royo and Ruiz (2009), Díaz and Gutiérrez (2010), Gutiérrez (2010), Huete (2010), Vargas, Plaza, and Porras (2009), Vargas et al. (2011)

2. Residents' attitudes on economic impacts

Generally, the economic dimension is the main cause of positive attitudes from the residents. However, they also have the ability to differentiate the positive and negative aspects of tourism within their community and thus assess according to the context in which the industry develops.

One of the aspects most valued by residents of this impact is the generation of employment opportunities (Aguiló, Barros, García, & Rosselló, 2004; Andereck & Nyaupane, 2011; Andereck et al., 2005; Andriotis & Vaughan, 2003; Belisle & Hoy, 1980; Besculides, Lee, & McCormick, 2002; Brunt & Courtney, 1999; Bujosa & Rosselló, 2007; Chen, 2000; Diedrich & García, 2009; Dyer, Gursoy, Sharma, & Carter, 2007; Gursoy et al., 2002; Haralambopoulos & Pizam, 1996; Horn & Simmons, 2002; King, Pizam, & Milman, 1993; Korca, 1996; Lankford, 1994; Lindberg & Johnson, 1997; Liu, Sheldon, & Var, 1987; Liu & Var, 1986; Mason & Cheyne, 2000; McGehee & Andereck, 2004; Milman & Pizam, 1988; Ritchie, 1988; Saveriades, 2000; Sheldon & Var, 1984; Var, Kendall, & Tarakcioglu, 1985; Yoon, Gursoy, & Chen, 2001), suggesting that tourism is an important source of income for residents (Andereck & Nyaupane, 2011; Brunt & Courtney, 1999; Bujosa & Rosselló, 2007; Haralambopoulos & Pizam, 1996; King et al., 1993; Korca, 1996; Liu & Var, 1986; Milman & Pizam, 1988; Saveriades, 2000).

Residents also benefit from tourism to the extent that it produces greater opportunities to negotiate (Aguiló et al., 2004; Akis et al., 1996; Bujosa & Rosselló, 2007; Chen, 2000; Dyer et al., 2007; Lindberg & Johnson, 1997; Liu & Var, 1986; Liu et al., 1987; Var et al., 1985; Yoon et al., 2001) and, in this way, to create the local business environment.

Residents also note that tourism leads to a set of improvements in community infrastructure and public facilities (Andereck & Vogt, 2000; Andereck et al., 2005; Belisle & Hoy, 1980; Korca, 1996; Mason & Cheyne, 2000; Saveriades, 2000; Sheldon & Var, 1984; Yoon et al., 2001) that contributes to the improvement of living standards (Andereck & Nyaupane, 2011; Haralambopoulos & Pizam, 1996; King et al., 1993; Korca, 1996; Liu & Var, 1986; Milman & Pizam, 1988; Saveriades, 2000).

In contrast, the aspect of tourism least valued by residents is its seasonality (Bujosa & Rosselló, 2007). On the one hand, tourism creates employment opportunities but, on the other, forces residents to deal with an intra-annual irregularity as to the needs of labour. The trade-off is clear: if there is no activity, no compensation, so the tourism workers should find another activity or be unemployed during the months of downtime (Cerezo & Lara de Vicente, 2005).

Residents are aware that tourism increases the cost of living (Bujosa & Rosselló, 2007; Liu & Var, 1986; McGehee & Andereck, 2004; Saveriades, 2000) raising the price of goods and services (Aguiló et al., 2004; Haralambopoulos & Pizam, 1996; Johnson, Snepenger, & Akis, 1994; Korca, 1996); in general, living standards go up, as does inflation (Akis et al., 1996) and, therefore, also property value and housing prices go up (Aguiló et al., 2004; Korca, 1996; Madrigal, 1993; Perdue, Long, & Allen, 1990; Var et al., 1985), including land value (Aguiló et al., 2004; Korca, 1996; Saveriades, 2000), resulting in the inability of much of the local population to buy their first home (Antón & González, 2008).

The overall assessment of this impact is generally positive, because residents recognize that the tourist industry enriches the fabric of the community (Andereck et al., 2005). Various studies reveal that economic benefits are the most highly valued and sought after by the local population (Akis et al., 1996; Liu et al., 1987; Ritchie, 1988).

Generally, economic benefits are an important influence on residents' attitudes towards tourism (Haralambopoulos & Pizam, 1996; King et al., 1993; Lindberg & Johnson, 1997) due to the fact that according to many residents tourism improves, benefits or increases the local economy (Gursoy et al., 2002; Perdue et al., 1990). For this reason, almost all the studies that examined the relation between the benefits of economic gain and attitudes towards tourism reported a positive

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