

NETWORKS, MARKETS & PEOPLE - NMP2024

THEMATIC SESSIONS - TS

TS-42

MOVING LANDSCAPES: SYNERGIES BETWEEN NATURE, SPORTS, AND TOURISM

Keywords: Landscape; Sport; Tourism; Local Development.

The landscape, defined as the “empirical manifestation of territoriality” (Turco, 2002, p. 39), plays a dual role: on one hand, it is the tool that allows us to investigate the complexity of relationships and interactions between natural and human elements in a specific geographical context; on the other hand, it serves as a means to educate in establishing a harmonious relationship both with others and elsewhere. Often intertwined with the identity of a community, it exerts a significant influence on the perception of the geographical surroundings by both its inhabitants and visitors. The loss of significant elements of the landscape can lead to a decrease in the sense of belonging and the consequent disappearance of cultural and identity references. Therefore, human actions, carried out in the continuous interaction between humans and the environment, should aim at building a full awareness of the value of the landscape as a common Heritage and recognizing the possible consequences associated with its potential loss for the entire community. Since, among the multiple human actions, those related to spatial organization for tourism increasingly influence the configuration of the landscape, it is undoubtedly central to deepen the reflection on landscapes that become a medium for experience and interaction between resident communities and temporary visitors.

The session aims to highlight the connections between various types of landscapes and innovative approaches that contribute to the understanding and promotion of a positive synergy between landscape, tourism, and sports in order to stimulate debate on how places, landscapes, and communities where tourism (particularly sports tourism) develops can be preserved and enhanced. The session will therefore welcome submissions referring to, but not limited to, the following: original contributions that include empirical research, case studies, theoretical proposals aimed at presenting experiences of best practices focusing on the value of the landscape in the context of territorial planning applied to sports and tourism.

CHAIRS

Carmen Bizzarri - European University of Rome, Italy.

Carmen Bizzarri is currently RTDA researcher at the European University of Rome in economic geography and former coordinator of the Master's program in Management of Tourist Organizations. She is a member of the management committee in the research center “Generative Welfare, Sustainability, and Rights” at the European University of Rome, as well as a member of the scientific committee of the International Forum of Gran Sasso, BTO, and ITEG (enogastronomic tourism). She serves as the treasurer of Sistor and is the national vice president of Confassociazioni Tourism, with a focus on sustainable tourism.

Simone Bozzato - University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy.

Simone Bozzato is an associate professor of geography at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. He currently serves as the coordinator of the professionalizing degree program TUREG (enogastronomic tourism) and the curriculum “Landscape and Territory” of the Ph.D. program in Cultural Heritage, Training, and Territory. Additionally, he is the director of the series “Tourism and Territories of Hospitality” at Armando Editore and is involved in the editorial board of the scientific journal Documenti Geografici and President of the Centre of Excellence of the Lazio Cultural Heritage and Activities Technological District.

Maria Grazia Cinti - University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy.

Maria Grazia Cinti is Ph.D. student researcher in the “Cultural Heritage, Training, and Territory” Ph.D. program at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. Her research interests include cultural tourism, sustainable tourism, participatory local development, and themes related to sports and mega-events. She has over twenty years of professional experience as a technical director, business development manager and marketing manager in various Italian and foreign tour operators.

Anna Maria Pioletti - University of Valle d'Aosta, Italy.

Anna Maria Pioletti is an associate professor of Economic and Political Geography at the University of Valle d'Aosta, Université de la Vallée d'Aoste, where she teaches Sociocultural Geography and is the orientation advisor for Primary Education Sciences. She serves as the president of the Valdostan section of the Italian Association of Geography Teachers and is the national coordinator of the research group “Geography and Sport” within the Italian Association of Geographers (A.Ge.I.).