Tourism geography: A new synthesis (2nd edition)
by Stephen Williams

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Introduction to environmental impact assessment (2nd ed.)


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This slim volume (which is only slightly less slim than the first edition) aims to provide an introductory text on environmental impact assessment (EIA), for students in both academic and professional positions. The intent of the book is to focus on the process of EIA rather than the details of regulatory systems, the intricacies of performing an assessment, or on presenting innumerable case studies of the application of EIA. Noble has succeeded admirably in achieving this, and he provides both a balanced and up-to-date perspective on the EIA process and how it is evolving.

The layout of the book is rational and methodical, basically following the various stages of the EIA process, a sequence one is likely to use to teach the subject. Of particular significance in keeping the book current are the two chapters that introduce the important developments of strategic environmental assessment and cumulative effects assessment. New to this second edition are an appealing cover, chapters on public participation in EIA, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of EIA. Of particular use for teaching EIA are an explanatory glossary of terms at the end of the book, and the study questions and exercises at the end of each chapter. The text is enlivened by examples and case studies drawn from the Canadian experience with EIA, but could be more approachable with some use of colour and figures to replace tables in places. For example, the process of EIA is set out as a table, but it would be much more easily and effectively conveyed in a flow or systems diagram.

The main drawback of this book is that it is dry and dull. While it is everything it purports to be, I think that few would be inspired about the topic of EIA after reading this book. The practice of EIA is absorbing and can be exciting because the process represents a clash of interests, while it provides a means for their airing and for arriving at a compromise between them. EIA is also fascinating in that the technical challenges of actually determining impacts in certain fields require many insights from environmental science. My preference, therefore, in teaching EIA, is the approach of Larry Canter (1996), whose excellent book provides an exhaustive array of insights into, and tools for meeting, the challenges of actually making assessments of effects. Learning how to assess the effects of development on all the elements of environmental quality, from air to noise and socio-economic issues, requires that you actually must learn something of these various technical topics. This makes Canter’s book much more detailed and interesting (and, it must be said, very long). Despite its age it remains the best resource of its kind that I am aware of. That said, though, the book by Noble is everything that it claims to be, is short, to-the-point, and affordable, and I shall probably use it again as a companion text for teaching EIA to Canadian students.

Reference


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The new economy of the inner city: Restructuring, regeneration, and dislocation in the twenty-first-century metropolis


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In The new economy of the inner city, Thomas Hutton engages the changing economic and social dynamics of the contemporary central city, presenting an incipient theoretical intervention based on a program of field research since 1993. Following Allen Scott, Hutton restates the centrality of industrial production within
metropolitan urbanization, to stress both the need for theoretical engagement with the dynamic nature of industrial enterprise in the metropolitan core, and the “persistent saliency” of the inner city “as a critical terrain of metropolitan transformation” (p. 4). In doing so, he contends that the “reassertion of production” in the inner city—centred on the cultural and knowledge production of the New Economy—challenges post-industrial theory with “sufficient evidence of novelty” to suggest we may be entering a new stage of after-postindustrial urbanism (p. 2).

Hutton contextualizes his central thesis first through a synthetic review of the diverse factors influencing the formation of new inner city industrial sites; questioning accounts of the postindustrial centre city’s essentially monocultural downtown office economy and marginalized fringe. The sweeping discussion incorporates property markets and reconstructed production landscapes; human, social, and cultural capital; the metropolitan context; and exogenous factors of globalization, industrial restructuring, and competition, into a schematic model of the production economy of the inner city (p. 36). Second, drawing from secondary cases, Hutton constructs a dynamic understanding of inner city industrial sites as “zones of experimentation, creativity, and innovation,” shaped within the contingencies of place and pre-existing “old” economic regimes (p. 65).

The majority of the book details adaptive New Economy reindustrialization through case studies of select inner city spaces in four global cities (London, Singapore, San Francisco, and Vancouver). Over five chapters, Hutton draws from impressive empirical data—including interviews, media and policy analysis, and varied illustrations (although many of the photographs are superfluous)—to illustrate the diverse, often precarious, paths of inner city reindustrialization. However, his tendency to present descriptive vignettes leaves the task of extrapolating the cases studies’ conceptual significance to a concluding “essay in theoretical synthesis.” Here, Hutton sketches out the components of a recombinant economy, engaging the complex manner in which industrial regimes (pre-Fordist, Fordist, post-Fordist) coexist, collaborate, and compete. The concept of “recombination” usefully illuminates the “complex synergies, synthesizes, and interdependencies” shaping contemporary urban economies (p. 279) and provides a cautionary counter-narrative to “creative” urban boosterism by highlighting the limited regenerative capacity of the New Economy.

In asking the book’s central question, “In what ways does new industry formation, together with related social dynamics, contribute to the respatialization of the inner city and the reconstruction of the postindustrial landscape?” (p. 11), Hutton ambitiously attempts to synthesize economic geographic research on reindustrialization and the region with literature addressing interactions between processes of industrial change, space, and place in the city (pp. 11–12). His project, though, is only partially successful. When focusing on the dynamics of industry formation, the analysis is assured and insightful, but when Hutton looks to connect with wider issues in urban scholarship, socio-cultural and political dynamics are often problematically unelaborated or under-theorized. A more comprehensive examination of “dislocation,” incorporating issues of displacement and social polarization, would be welcome, as would a systematic comparative analysis across the study sites, particularly regarding: (1) the globalizing-universalizing elements of the recombinant economy within broader contours of economic restructuring; and (2) the (neglected) role of multi-scalar state and regulatory regimes.

The “reassertion of production” poses provocative questions for contemporary urban scholarship and, as a prolegomenon to future research, Hutton concludes: “we are perhaps approaching a vantage point upon which a more robust retheorization process which takes in the restructuring episodes of the last two decades might be feasible” (p. 293). The formative conceptualization of the after-postindustrial city presented in The new economy of the inner city includes many constructive avenues for such a project; however, it inevitably succumbs to the limitations of a “one-sided love for the historical city” which uncritically reproduces the primacy of the urban core and represses “the challenge presented by unloved suburbia” (Sieverts 2003, p. 17). If the inner city and its space-economy are no longer what they used to be—as Hutton argues—can we assume the same of the suburbs? The selective
Reindustrialization of the inner city does internalize wider processes of industrial and urban change, but Hutton does not adequately address the metropolitan frame of inquiry or the symbiotic processes co-constituting city-regional space. In this regard, it is worth considering what possibilities can be gleaned by de-centring the privileged position of the inner city as a critical site of metropolitan transformation for both urban and industrial geographic theory, and the twenty-first-century metropolis.

Reference

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Hong Kong movers and stayers: Narratives of family migration
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Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, immigration from Hong Kong left substantial legacies in Canada’s largest cities, particularly Vancouver where the wealthiest members of the diaspora settled—though settlement had an unstable meaning for such a highly transnational population. For a decade, Hong Kong was the leading source of immigrants to Canada, with immigrant landing cards for some 380,000 filed between 1980 and 2001, which was a substantial share of Hong Kong’s total population of 5 million in 1980 and 6.7 million in 2001.

A significant literature has examined this mobile population in Canada and other Pacific Rim destinations including the United States and Australia, and a few authors have followed migrants back to Hong Kong. The Hong Kong side of the trans-Pacific space of flows during this period has been largely unexamined, including the experiences of those who did not move. Migration was highly stratified, with wealthy business households and skilled workers having the broadest overseas opportunities, while options were limited for other Hong Kongers.

Survey research in Hong Kong in the early 1990s, leading to two books edited by Ronald Skeldon, contacted a large sample of residents of various classes, asking them about their views of 1997 and their migration intentions.

Janet Salaff and Siu-lun Wong were members of this 1991 project. Contact with respondents in a related panel study of 30 families led to ongoing interaction with nine of the panel families, who were re-interviewed in depth several times between 1992 and 2005. Hong Kong movers and stayers presents the testimonies of members of these nine families. The main contributions of the book are, first, its emphasis on the stratified nature of migration, so its small sample includes those who emigrated, those who emigrated and returned, those who were accepted as immigrants but chose to remain in Hong Kong, and those who never applied to leave. Second, the longitudinal study is invaluable, recounting the unfolding of life histories from the 1980s, or earlier, up to 2005. The dynamic and often unpredictable nature of life transitions—the birth of a handicapped child, unexpected family strife, the unanticipated de-industrialisation of Hong Kong throughout the 1990s—emerge strikingly and fully validate the book’s methodology. Intervening, though unequally, into each of these family biographies is the potential presence of emigration and its consequences.

The rich data emerging from individual family stories offer not only strength but also a potential weakness to this model of research, as the old dualism of particularity and generalisation reappears. An institutional approach provides the chief heuristic for drawing back from the uniqueness of family narrative, although the term is applied loosely and the title of institution seems to be extended to almost any broader structure or context behind group decision-making (pp. 6–8). A more immediate set of influences on action comes from the “social field,” a network of family, friends, and professional contacts. Among these, the abiding configuration of norms and actions may be traced to family roles, notably the mutual expectations of parent and child that transcend the boundaries of class and status. The family is an economic unit, and the desire
to enhance social and economic status can easily lead to a strategy of dispersal, with migration a mechanism to enhance overall family performance by drawing upon resources and opportunities derived from several geographical settings. Many of the interviewed families are relative newcomers without deep roots in Hong Kong; onward migration continues an already established family trajectory.

The three middle-class families who immigrated to Canada experienced the typical outcomes of so many of their peers: for all, “reality seemed much worse than anticipated” (p. 91). Failed or poorly performing economic ventures in Canada led to astronaut status as the family head returned to the more promising economic environment of Hong Kong. Less familiar are the accounts of the other families who were either rejected as candidates for migration or never applied. Their lesser economic status, limited overseas connections, and strong local networks shaped a destiny for them within Hong Kong. They faced their own challenges as the old manufacturing sector relocated to the Mainland, and the prolonged recession after 1997 limited economic opportunities. Against these backdrops and insulated from the “emigration fever,” they struggled to sustain family well-being.

This well-written book by a knowledgeable team of Hong Kong specialists provides an illuminating portrait of the lives of ordinary residents under changing conditions on each side of 1997. Emigration provided ambiguous benefits, for economic prospects overseas were largely illusory. So, many returned to join those who had never left, to participate in the ongoing experiment of sustaining their families within one country and two systems.

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Millionaire migrants: Trans-Pacific life lines


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This book is primarily a study of wealthy migrants who left East Asia (particularly Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Korea) and relocated in Canada, especially Vancouver, British Columbia. Based on extensive interviews, historical and statistical analysis, and fieldwork in such places as Vancouver, Toronto, and Hong Kong, Ley engages in scholarship on transnational migration, Canadian Studies, and neoliberalism. Regarding transnationalism and migration, Ley’s study of wealthy migrants from East Asia in Canada demonstrates three major points: (1) the transnational social field stretching from East Asia to Canada is not a uniform surface of sameness but acutely differentiated; (2) time–space compression has not exhausted the role of distance, even for millionaire migrants; and (3) place matters, as these migrants embody the cultural traits of their regions of origin in moving across the social field.

The book offers important insights into neoliberalism’s transnational geography. As shown by Ley’s examination of the Canadian case, the Canadian government’s immigration laws and policies have been changed significantly since the 1960s. The economic category (entrepreneurs, self-employed, and investors), compared with the falling percentages of the family and the refugee categories, has been increasing significantly: from 39 percent of all immigrants admitted in the 1980s, to 49 percent in the 1990s, and to 58 percent in 2000–2006 (p. 8). An understanding of this shift raises questions about changing state categories of governing populations as a whole. Does this shift suggest that the Canadian government now prioritizes class rather than race, ethnicity, and country of origin in counting the Canadian state as a coherent entity? Also raised is the relationship between neoliberalism and transnational migration. It is clear that the Canadian government’s immigration policies take a neoliberal turn by treating the business immigrant as an ideal future citizen. “Not merely self-supporting,” as Ley puts it, “the business immigrant has both the skill and the wealth to add value, to create jobs for others, and provide tax revenues for the state” (p. 9). In practice, as the book goes on to show, the situation is more complicated. The business immigrant as a type of homo economicus has flaws and behaves more or less in irrational ways.

With respect to those from Hong Kong, a major focus of this book, I would like to raise
questions about neoliberalism connected both to Hong Kong and Canada. Hong Kong is often recognized as one of the world’s freest economies. So, why did business people there emigrate to a place such as Canada, where they might have to deal with significant economic and social “costs” such as higher taxes, language barriers, narrowed social networks, and higher labour costs? According to Ley, a significant number of them returned to Hong Kong after fulfilling their immigration requirements and realizing the difficulties of making money (chapter 5), but some also returned back to Canada. A common pattern looks like this: mothers, children, and retirees stay in Vancouver while working men and young adults pursue economic opportunities in East Asia. It appears to reverse the common pattern of Chinese immigration to North America in the 19th century. This new trend seemed to confirm the idea of Hong Kong as a neoliberal economy, perhaps more so than Canada. It also suggests that Hong Kong’s neoliberal economy is not local or one dimensional, but global and multidimensional. With the cooperation of Canada’s neoliberal immigration policies, Hong Kong immigrants have affected Canada’s real estate sector, for example, as seen in the steady increase of property prices in cities such as Vancouver. Together with other books about neoliberal processes in East Asia (mainland China, Hong Kong, and Korea), Ley’s findings from Canada contribute to the scholarly understanding of neoliberalism’s transnational scale, intensity, and orientation. The book’s examination of the lives of what the author calls “millionaire migrants” contributes to international migration scholarship, a field that tends to focus on poor and low-skilled people. Indeed, Ley’s discussion of Chinese immigration is insightful regarding the changing meaning of the figure of the Chinese immigrant in Canada, from being an unwelcomed threatening racial other, to a model minority, and now a *homo economicus* in the neoliberal era. Any scholar who is interested in Asia in the global context will welcome and appreciate this study.

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**Cuban landscapes: Heritage, memory, and place**


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**Cuban landscapes** is an important book and makes a contribution to the understanding of the island state from a geographical perspective. The geographical perspective is at once both comprehensive and critical bridging theory and fact to produce a narrative of Cuba that is best understood with reference to its compelling historical, cultural, and natural landscapes. It is these landscapes, as Scarpaci and Portela observe, that encapsulate the insular nature of Cuban politics, history, and environment, while positioning the island within the broader world, beginning with early European encounters, to that of the contemporary US political embargo.

The authors examine Cuban landscapes from the perspective of five major influences: landscapes, sugar, heritage, tourism, and information. The concept of landscape, however, which is the topic of the first chapter, is also the overarching frame of analysis. Borrowing from theories of cultural geography, as well as from that of architecture, art, and literature, the authors define the Cuban landscape as embedded within, infused by, and constitutive of heritage, place, and memory. The text that follows is an exploration of these landscapes with the goal of understanding the relationship between landscape and insularity.

Scarpaci and Portela suggest that the contemporary landscapes of Cuba are a composite, and the “cultural geographic analysis lends itself nicely to the study of Cuba because of the island’s striking historical periods that spawned distinctive political economies” (p. 14). In this sense, the study goes beyond a descriptive account of life and history on the island, to understand the deeper processes of industrialization, colonialism, imperialism, and development. It is this deeper analysis that infuses the text and provides its framework. The analysis of landscape undertaken by the authors is broadly defined. It incorporates European discovery and
the writings of early explorers such as Baron von Humboldt; the historical accounts of Cuba by outsiders; European and American landscape painters; popular music and motion pictures that represent Cuba to the outside world; as well as the political iconography and symbolic landscapes of state. It also includes the impress of Spanish colonialism, American “republicanism” (p. 17), and postcolonial representations of the island, well into the post-Soviet era.

In discussing Cuban landscapes, the authors are thus concerned with the way in which insular representations have been incorporated within the symbolic landscape, while representing multiple manifestations of power, place, meaning, and heritage. There is no uncontested or singular representation of Cuba, not even the tropical landscapes that charm the millions of tourists who have flocked to the country’s resorts in the 20th century. The authors are not concerned with finding the “real” Cuban landscape, but rather in examining the multiple ways in which the island’s unique cultural, political, economic, and environmental history has been incorporated into a contemporary series of landscapes. Special treatment is given to the role of sugar production as an agent of landscape change, which they argue has modified the Cuban landscape more than any other single human–environmental interaction. The role of tourism is also singled out, as contemporary Cuba has been inundated with tourists around the world, in search of the idealized Cuban landscape and culture found in visual and musical, literary, and historical representations.

This book is refreshing because it is not consumed with explaining, assessing, and judging the political regime on the island. Moreover, there is little of the evaluation of Cuban landscapes strictly from the perspective of American interests—although the book is not entirely devoid of this bias. The chapter that discusses Cuban tourism is striking in its lack of attention to Canadian tourism in Cuba, or the geographical dimensions of that tourism. Nonetheless, there are valuable insights into contemporary Cuban tourism and the relationship between this emerging industry and sociopolitical and economic developments on the island.

Does the book succeed in convincing us that Cuban landscapes are indeed an outcome of the insular history of the island as it accommodates, adapts to, and even rejects or repels the encroaching world? The short answer is yes. This is a worthwhile read, not only because of its wealth of information and insights, as it attempts to understand the Cuban landscape using the theoretical tools of mainstream cultural geography, but because it is one of the first books to examine the historical and contemporary cultural landscape of the island. It is definitely worth the time and effort for those who are interested in the history, landscape, politics, economics, and culture of the island.

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Tourism in the USA: A spatial and social synthesis


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This book was written to offer a single text covering the core curriculum of a course on travel and tourism within the entire United States. The authors note that, although written from a geographical and social sciences perspective, the text should appeal to a broader audience. The primary market is for courses offered in American colleges and universities, but the text is anticipated also to have value to students outside of the United States.

Organized into ten chapters, the book introduces tourism and travel as a field of study; offers a historical perspective on American travel; gives an insight into the institutional setting; addresses demand for tourism; discusses the different types of tourism attractions, including tourism types and tourism infrastructure; focuses an entire chapter on the transportation system; introduces the economic significance of tourism; dedicates an entire chapter to urban tourism; another one to rubber tire tourism; and concludes with a discussion of what the future might bring. Each chapter includes insets offering closer looks at case studies and concludes.
with questions students should consider, and suggested readings. The back of the book also contains a list of references as well as an index.

I found the book informative, factual, well written, and to the point. It contains relevant and useful information that any student interested in travel and tourism in the United States ought to know. But I was left to conclude that it fell short on encouraging the reader to engage in any opportunity for critical thinking and debate. Reading this text reminded me of American media coverage. The text has a strong inward-looking and domestic tourism focus with the bigger picture and a global perspective given short shrift. The book, for example, does not position or discuss American travel and tourism relative to its international competitors, nor does it address how global events, exchange rate fluctuations, and aggressive marketing by other countries impact American appetite for travel abroad, as well as international visits to the United States. The book also is surprisingly quiet on the social dimensions of travel and tourism. It does not, for example, actively encourage critical examination of host–guest interactions, nor any of the other topics that make up a rich literature on the social and anthropogenic aspects of travel. This comes as a surprise given that the text claims to be written from a social sciences and geographical perspective, and given the substantial contributions made by these disciplines in the social sciences, including human geography, to these aspects of travel and tourism. The book also does not engage in any depth in the debate about the environmental dimensions underlying tourism. It does not challenge the students, for example, to engage in a debate about tourism as an agent of conservation and preservation, and tourism as an agent of environmental degradation and destruction.

Having focused at some length on what content may be missing from the book that would make it the ideal text, let me be quick to reiterate that the book is filled with facts and concepts all students studying travel and tourism in the United States should learn. The book uses quite a small text font and the pages are densely covered with material. Despite the case study inset boxes and the questions and suggested readings at the end of each chapter, the book has a very traditional feel to it, in part because of the black and white photographs and overall layout. This does not take away, however, from the fact that Drs. Ioannides and Timothy have produced an excellent contribution to the tourism literature. Their book should be given very serious consideration by all college and university instructors when deciding on a core text for classes focusing on an introduction to the travel and tourism industry in the United States.

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Tourism geography: A new synthesis (2nd ed.)


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There are many indicators of a vibrant field of study. Stephen Williams’ revised and improved text, Tourism geography: A new synthesis, is a mark of the evolution and vitality of geography’s contributions to understanding and explaining the phenomenon of tourism. The book knits together the diversity of tourism geography into three operative parts and 11 engaging chapters. Particularly relevant among the many layers woven into the text are two broad and interrelated objectives.

First, Williams advocates that basic descriptions of tourism’s spatial patterns result in limited understanding. Instead, more complex and “interesting territory that relates to the explanation of those patterns and the meanings and values that might be embedded within them” (p. 22) can inspire analytical advancements in touristic knowledge. This analytical and explanatory approach is adopted in each chapter and rooted in multi-disciplinary perspectives recognizable to human geographers. It enables Williams to integrate a range of theoretical tools: recurrent ones such as Butler’s life-cycle, Urry’s tourist gaze, sustainable development, and globalization; and emerging ones concerning mobility, identity, power relations, and embodiment, many of which are based on developments in cultural
geography and, what Williams identifies as, post-modern critical positions. 

This latter collection of perspectives informs the substance of Part II and underpins the new material developed for this second edition and presented in Part III. Here—and this is the second central objective I observed—Williams introduces relational, as opposed to binary, readings of tourism. Avoided are simple, dichotomous, or cause-effect categorizations that are transferable from place to place. Williams favours instead more reflective ways of thinking that emphasize the contingency of local contexts and how tourism relates to the making of places, the shaping of space, and the changing relations between production, consumption, and identity. This orientation helps reframe familiar tourism topics, such as host-guest interactions and tourism impacts, and enables analytical insight into, for example, the temporal layers at play in heritage tourism, the embodied spaces of consumption and meaning associated with adventure and wine tourism, and the function of tourism in re-inventing cities as post-industrial places. The spaces and places of tourism, argues Williams, are thus becoming more diverse, numerous, and harder to differentiate from other everyday spaces.

Although Williams’ aggregation deserves substantial applause, it is not exhaustive. Noticeably absent are imperative works by Doreen Massey (1992, 2005) on place and space, and Nigel Thrift (1999, 2008) on non-representational descriptive geographies. Readers will be introduced to leading theorists championed by human geographers—Lefebvre, Butler, Bauman, Giddens, Bourdieu—but much of this material is discussed superficially. Fleeting attention to Michel Foucault provides a case in point, and is such that the erroneous spelling of “Foucauld” (p. 140) appears not simply as an innocent typo. Connections are not made among emerging literatures on geographies of care and responsibility, responsible tourism, polar tourism, or aboriginal tourism. Post-colonial geographies are surprisingly excluded.

The book is conceptually sound; however, the relational perspective does not extend to an examination of nonhuman agency in tourism place making (see, e.g., Cloke and Perkins 2005; Figueroa and Waitt 2008). The human-centrism of tourism is left unquestioned, an inconsistency in Williams’ relational presentation because the fundamental human/nature binary remains intact. What is more, Williams’ relational orientation does not reflexively situate the theory–practice nexus. For instance, left unanswered is the extent to which the “newer forms of tourism” (p. 269) are constituted by researchers’ “turns” towards different analytical orientations. Thus, while Williams’ analytical review is exceptional and demonstrates the potential that human geography offers tourism research, the text remains safely confined to many disciplinary norms.

Stylistically, the clearly written text is complemented with effective in-text tables, figures, plates, and boxed-case studies that are appropriately labelled and relevant. The included glossary appears to be weak, though a helpful Internet search guide is proffered as an appendix. Attempts to include a range of international case studies do not hide the author’s partiality for UK/Eurocentric content.

All in all, Tourism geography will be an important core text for senior undergraduate students familiar with key concepts and frameworks used in human geography. Tourism and leisure graduate students seeking to flesh out their studies with geographic perspectives will also benefit from this book, particularly because of its impressive bibliography, the recommendations for advanced reading that follow each chapter, and the critical engagement with diverse theoretical and multi-disciplinary perspectives. With this text, Williams illustrates the centrality and magnitude of geographic inquiry into tourism, and presents to students and researchers many paths for further critical exploration.

References
Sustainable tourism futures: Perspectives on systems, restructuring and innovations


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This book was published as part of the Routledge Advances in Tourism series. It originated in a meeting on sustainable tourism, which took place in Helsingborg, Sweden, in September 2007 with “the goal of summarising the state-of-the-art in sustainable tourism development, to present new research results, and to discuss avenues to establish sustainable tourism on a broader basis” (p. xvii). As such, the work draws heavily upon the presentations made at the three-day workshop. The editors suggest that there is little evidence that the tourism production-consumption system is moving towards greater stability and, for example, if the sector’s contribution to the generation of greenhouse gases is taken as an indicator, then tourism needs to be seen as one of the world’s least sustainable economic sectors. This is a far cry from the perspective of many advocates in the second half of the last century who claimed that tourism is a smokeless industry.

Following a brief introductory statement by the editors, the book is divided into three parts: Theoretical foundations; Re-thinking the tourism system; Restructuring the tourism system: Practical examples; and Innovation: Sustainable tourism futures. These sections are of very unequal length, the first consists of two chapters (16 pp.), the second of seven chapters (156 pp.), and the third contains six chapters (105 pp.), including a brief synthesis and conclusions. I think that the context is well articulated in the first section and in the first chapter of the second section, where the concept of sustainable development and the difficulty of implementing it are well described. The case studies are competent but, with too few exceptions, mostly address climate change, carbon emissions, and carbon reduction. The third section, too, places great emphasis on carbon, with chapters on carbon labelling and low-carbon tourism. Two points are made repeatedly by many authors: tourism in its current forms may be unsustainable because of the energy used and the carbon released in the transportation phase, and data are insufficient to address the issues in the detail and at the scales desired.

On reading the book, one can easily get the impression that climate change, and tourism’s contribution to it, is the problem, and that sustainable development is the hoped-for solution—albeit in an unspecified revised form leavened with innovation, especially at the level of the firm but probably at other levels as well. Without wishing to minimize the importance of climate change and its implications for many other environmental issues, most of these issues (species diversity and migration, habitat change, competition for water, disappearing wetlands, forest destruction, coral bleaching, and so on) receive scant attention, even though most of them have implications for tourism. Furthermore, the so-called “triple bottom line” (people, planet, profit) is not even given attention in this work. The book is heavily focused on carbon-accounting with occasional links to sustainable economies, but with little mention of sustainable cultures. Indeed, the different situations of the so-called developed and developing worlds, as creators of environmental problems, as tourist origins and destinations, and as causes and recipients of sustainability problems, are given short shrift. Similarly, critiques of sustainable development as a western paradigm, and related derivatives such as sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor tourism, are scarcely mentioned.

In summary, this is an extremely useful text for those interested in transportation, and carbon production and reduction as they pertain to tourism. However, those looking for a broader perspective on sustainable development, as might be expected from the title, will likely be disappointed. The first authors in the book rightly draw attention to the gap between sustainability as a concept and its limited practical application and implementation, and the book should be seen as an attempt to give reasons for
this and to find the means to reconcile the two. However, I suspect many of the contributors to this book have enormous carbon footprints and, indeed, I read the text on flights across the Pacific Ocean. Thus, there is an enormous gap between rhetoric and reality. The editors and their co-authors deserve credit for taking an initial step at addressing one of the major problems facing tourism, with far-reaching implications for both consumers and suppliers at all scales, but it is only a small step on what promises to be a long and turbulent journey.

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**Technonatures: Environments, technologies, spaces, and places in the twenty-first century**


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In 1984, Neil Smith signalled an important moment in critical scholarship by claiming that “nature is nothing if not social” (Smith 1984, p. 30). Since then, human geography and cognate fields have produced an outpouring of research on the social construction—both material and discursive—of nature and of the apparently natural. As Noel Castree and Bruce Braun pointed out in 2001, the denaturalization of nature has “allowed geographers to move away from asking worthy, if limited, questions about what society ‘does’ to nature (and vice versa), towards more fundamental questions such as ‘who constructs what kinds of nature(s) to what ends and with what social and ecological effects?’” (Castree and Braun 2001, p. xi). Now, 25 years after Smith’s provocative claim, the publication of *Technonatures* may be taken as a reflection of how scholarship has moved beyond the critique of nature to embrace a more positive sense of the possibilities of social nature.

The term “technonatures” is deployed in this volume as “an organizing myth and metaphor for thinking about the politics of nature in contemporary times” (p. 6). A thoroughly indeterminate concept, “technonatures” denotes a suite of newly emerging political and cultural sensibilities and subjectivities arising from an awareness “that knowledges of our worlds are…ever more technologically mediated, produced, enacted, and contested, and furthermore, that diverse peoples…perceive themselves as ever more entangled with things—that is, with technological…cultural, urban, and ecological networks and diverse hybrid materialities and non-human agencies” (p. 6). *Technonatures*—both the sensibility and the book—thus moves well beyond an environmental politics founded on nature–culture dualism. Following on developments in environmental justice and political ecology, it suggests a new wave of revisionism in environmental studies.

Such an indeterminate “organizing myth and metaphor” as “technonatures” offers a means of assembling an extraordinarily wide range of disciplinary and theoretical approaches between the covers of a single book. This collection includes contributions from American studies, anthropology, architecture, business-and-the-environment political science, and sociology, as well as from critical human and environmental geography. A partial list of theoretical orientations reflected in the various contributions includes the sociology of networks and flows, ecological modernization theory, historical materialism, science studies, relational–associational ontologies (e.g., actor-network theory, hybridity), the sociology of everyday life, critical political ecology, and social ecology. Bringing such a broad range of perspectives between the covers of a single book produces, as the editors admit, “many points of tension” (p. 20) among the various contributions. For example, differences regarding the specificity of hybridity, the question of who has agency in worlds of heterogeneous associations, and the incompatibilities that arise out of different scales of analysis enliven the technonatural conversation.

Perhaps the strongest identifiable theme in this emerging conversation is the need and the potential for developing a progressive politics of the post-natural. Certainly, an understanding of nature as ever more technologically mediated demands a positive alternative to the declensionist discourse and constraining politics of environmental degradation, which necessarily...
flow from the dichotomized vision of nature-society, organic-synthetic, human-animal. Technonatural sensibilities give rise to the view, as White and Wilbert suggest, that “politics might be thought...with a buoyant sense of possibility, a delight in intellectual speculation about openings” (p. 24). One of the “openings” identified in this collection includes the radical democratic politics of technonatural change advocated by Erik Swyngedouw in a chapter that presents urbanization as “a process that fuses the social and the natural together to produce a distinct ‘hybrid’ or ‘cyborg’” (p. 76). Similarly, in a chapter that addresses the production of noxious material environments, Timothy Luke calls for “a truly public ecology with new organizations, institutions, and ideas [suitable to] the hybridized technonature of twenty-first-century life” (p. 198).

Other contributions move from these rather more human-centred political solutions to the more cosmopolitical imaginings inspired by ontologies of heterogeneous associations. Steve Hinchliffe and Sarah Whatmore, for example, advance an urban “politics of conviviality” that is “enacted by beings-in-relation that may be better thought of as becomings that enfold human and non-human mappings” (p. 110). A chapter by Fletcher Lindner draws on ethnographic research on bodybuilding in southern California to suggest how the cyborgian built-body provides opportunities “to productively engage with the cyborg in the hope of forging viable environmental futures in technonatural times” (p. 160). And through a case study examining the development and application of the artificial estrogen diethylstilbestrol (DES) in human and animal bodies, Julie Sze shows how embracing the cyborg and the hybrid as “emblematic cultural figures” can be consistent with “a politics and ethics” that militates against “technologically polluted bodies” (p. 142).

Yet another realm of political “openings” presented in this volume is suggested by embracing post-industrial and post-scarcity futures in a manner similar to Murray Bookchin’s earlier social-ecological visions (e.g., Bookchin 1980). In this vein, a particularly encouraging chapter by Brian Milani addresses the possibilities of exploiting the more-than-material productive forces unleashed in the post-industrial green economy. Milani’s concluding chapter perhaps best represents the sense of opportunity and hope in the face of the crisis that is presented by the twenty-first-century environmental problematique that all the contributors to this volume seek to identify in one way or another.

References


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**Parks and protected areas in Canada: Planning and management (3rd ed.)**


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Edited by Philip Dearden and Rick Rollins, *Parks and protected areas in Canada* is a comprehensive textbook on the planning and management of Canadian protected areas. While previous editions of this text (Dearden and Rollins 1993; Dearden and Rollins 2002) emphasized Canadian national parks, the third edition has broadened its scope significantly to include more types of protected areas in their nationwide context.

The book begins with an overview of national parks and protected areas with contributions from Dearden, Rick Rollins, and Kevin McNamee. A new chapter about provincial parks by Chris Malcolm discusses the varying levels of protection by province. With contributions from Jeannette Theberge and John Theberge, the book unfolds into a discussion about the various ideas and theories that are useful in protecting park landscapes. Stephen Woodley’s chapter on ecological integrity and active management is followed by an account of social science in national parks by Mark Needham and Rollins.
A detailed look into visitor satisfaction and its relation to visitor management and interpretation is especially timely as Parks Canada is starting to shift its focus to improving visitor experience. Contributions for these chapters come from Needham and Rollins; Wolfgang Haider, and Robert Payne; Glen Hvenegaard, John Shultis, and James Butler. Pamela Wright and Rollins skilfully link the preceding material in a holistic chapter on managing national parks. This is followed by a case study of Banff and Bow Valley provided by Joe Pavelka to illustrate the delicate balance between ecological integrity and visitor experience.

A new chapter, Northern Parks and Protected Areas, by Harvey Lemelin and Margaret Johnston brings additional focus to the issues and challenges experienced in the establishment and development of protected areas across the north. Rollins, Paul Eagles, and Dearden shed light onto the issues associated with tourism and ecotourism of protected areas in a new, timely chapter. Scott Slocombe and Dearden’s contribution reminds the reader that “no park is an island” and challenges the reader to consider the importance of regional stakeholders in ecosystem-based management.

The book continues with a brief account of the role of Aboriginal people in national parks, contributed by Dearden and Steve Langdon. Changing gears, the book provides a detailed discussion of marine protected areas in Canada by Dearden and Rosaline Canessa. Jessica Dempsey and Dearden describe different aspects of stewardship and its emerging new role in protected areas. A brief chapter examining the issues of protected areas in developing countries was contributed by Dearden. The book concludes with a look at future challenges of parks and protected areas in Canada contributed by Rollins and Dearden.

With the development of new national parks, marine conservation areas, and a new round of structural reorganization, Parks Canada has seen many changes since the second edition of Parks and protected areas in Canada was printed in 2002. However, these changes are not fully reflected in the third edition. The increase of national parks from 39 to 42 and the increasingly complex details of this ongoing establishment process were not discussed. The book states that there are not any established National Marine Conservation Areas, yet Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area was established in 2007. In addition, the Parks Canada Agency has changed the traditional park warden role, and that specific job title is now limited to a smaller selection of employees who exclusively carry out law enforcement duties. This organizational shift has considerable implications for the Agency and its operations that are not yet fully understood. Chapter authors acknowledge that this change occurred, however, they still refer to “wardens” throughout the book in the traditional context. The development of an External Relations branch in 2005 and the re-organization of the External Relations and Visitor Experience Directorate in 2008 are recognized, but the significant shift of Parks Canada to focus on visitor experience is not discussed. Linking the new direction of Parks Canada as described in The national performance and evaluation framework for engaging Canadians (Parks Canada 2005) to the new chapter about ecotourism would have been worthwhile.

In summary, the third edition of Parks and protected areas in Canada is a useful and substantive update of this textbook. As Parks Canada is shifting its focus to engaging Canadians, this book addresses many timely issues such as ecotourism and sustainability, and the effectiveness of interpretation. With a broader scope than previous editions, Dearden and Rollins maintain the depth and detail that makes this book a “must read” for park managers, protected area professionals, and scholars in tourism and recreation or natural resource management.

References


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UNIT - I : Environmental Impact Assessment
Introduction to EIA, Definition of Environmental Impact Assessment, Basic Concepts for Assessing Environmental Impacts, Types of impacts & their attributes. Original Title. UNIT - I : Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment. Copyright. © Attribution Non-Commercial (BY-NC). Description: UNIT - I : Environmental Impact Assessment. Introduction to EIA, Definition of Environmental Impact Assessment, Basic Concepts for Assessing Environmental Impacts, Types of impacts & their attributes. Copyright: Attribution Non-Commercial (BY-NC). "Probably the highest endorsement I can give this book is that I have used the first edition in my teaching of environmental impact assessment (EIA) for a number of years now and have subsequently changed over to this new (third) version. It presents an excellent introduction to the theory and practice of EIA. Overall this is an informative book and probably the best introductory text on EIA available; it is well worth purchasing a copy" - Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal. "This book gives the student a good introduction to the history and evolution of environmental impact assessment. It covers the existing legislation well and provides interesting case studies and examples along the way to keep the reader interested . . . EIA environmental impact assessment process final environmental impact assessment methods Environmental Impact Assessment (Natural and Built Environment Series). 577 Pages 2009 2.54 MB 297 Downloads New! and professionals seeking to update their skills. Methods of Environmental Impact Assessment (N ... Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Durgapur Captive Introduction. 3.6.1 Det The Basics of Finance: An Introduction to Financial Markets, Business Finance, and Portfolio Management (Frank J. Fabozzi Series). 665 Pages 2010 5.75 MB 71,228 Downloads New! : An Introduction to Financial Markets, Business Finance, and Portfolio Management (Frank J. Fabozzi Series)