

LITERATURE

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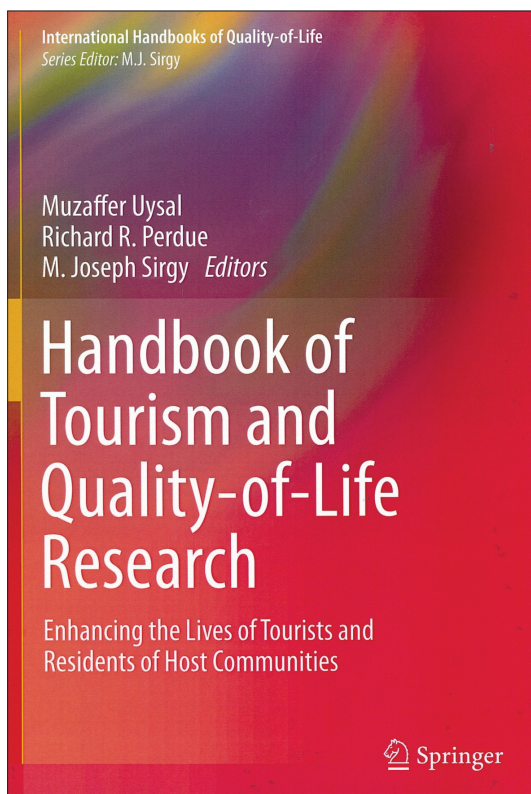
Uysal, M., Perdue, R. and Sirgy, M.J. eds.: Handbook of Tourism and Quality-of-Life Research. Enhancing the Lives of Tourists and Residents of Host Communities. Dordrecht, Springer, 2012, 702 p.

Over the last two decades, it has become obvious for both tourism researchers and practitioners that tourism may have a major impact on the quality of life (QOL) of all those involved: local communities, including those employed in tourism, are affected by the way tourism services and facilities are being developed in their destination, while tourists' perceived quality of life is influenced by their travel experiences. Although certain types of tourism products such as medical tourism, or emerging social phenomena such as residential tourism, have higher than average impact on travellers' QOL, the editors of the handbook clearly aimed to provide the widest possible overview of all kinds of implications travel and tourism on residents and tourists' quality of life. Although the topic has become relatively well-represented in tourism studies in many countries, the handbook is

the first international reference book in the field, bringing together much of the current research on the topic to help practitioners use well-being performance measures in their decision making processes and aid academic researchers further develop their future research programmes.

The handbook has two main goals: to provide a platform for scholars to explore the linkage between tourism activities and QOL of tourists, residents and workforce employed in the tourism industry, and to initiate new directions of research in this field. The 38-chapter volume is divided into three parts: a comprehensive discussion of the complex relationship of tourism and QOL is followed by papers relating to travellers/tourists, and studies relating to the residents of host communities. The multidisciplinary volume covers the complex relationship of economic, social, environmental, health and QOL aspects using a holistic approach.

The Foreword written by Jafar JAFARI is based on the theme "a nice place to live is a nice place to visit".



This is a notion that has been widely embraced by tourism researchers in Hungary as well, from the classic work of LENGYEL, M. 'A general theory of tourism' (1992) to the recent studies of MICHALKÓ, G. and RÁTZ, T. A destination that delivers poor quality of life to its residents cannot offer high quality tourism experience; in contrast, a satisfied community attracts visitors who will enjoy an experience provided by satisfied service personnel, leading to improved quality of life of all stakeholders. Consequently, a destination that focuses on the happiness of their residents has a better chance to increase the expenditure of tourists who are searching for high-quality experiences that can only be based on local, community-based hospitality.

Since it is not possible to discuss every chapter of the conceptually rich and well-structured volume within the framework of this review, the topics considered as the most relevant for a Hungarian scholarly audience are highlighted.

Chapter 2 by Philip R. PEARCE reviews various relationships that occur in different tourism contexts, and discusses the influences of these interactions on the experiences and the well-being of tourists. Both the relationships that tourists have in large groups and those taking place in small, specialist travel parties are considered, including travel relationships for backpackers, volunteers, the disabled, single travellers, female travellers and gay men. The QOL implications explored by the author include positive travel benefits such as improving skills and character strengths or building an emotional preparedness to be receptive to others.

Chapter 3 by Sebastian FILEP focuses on the linkages of tourism and positive psychology, a growing global research field of psychology, with relatively under-explored applications in tourism. The author highlights three linkages: positive psychology research on happiness and its use in measuring and conceptualising happy, satisfying tourist experiences; positive psychology character strengths and their potential to contribute to tourism education values; and positive psychology research on humour and its ability to promote productive working environments in tourism. Some key challenges for the future development of tourism and positive psychology research are also discussed, including the challenge to connect with health, i.e. to integrate physical health indicators and subjective benefits of tourism. The need to reach out and learn from other disciplines, to employ a wider range of research methods and to accept and embrace non-Western perspectives is also emphasised by the author.

Chapter 7 by Janne LIBURD, Pierre BENCKENDORFF and Jack CARLSEN analyzes the contribution that tourism development makes to QOL. In contrast to the more common community perception-based impact studies, the authors use an importance-performance analysis (IPA) to understand how economic, social, and environmental impacts of tourism are manifested and how tourism is contributing to QOL and overall life satisfaction. It is concluded that tourism has the potential to contribute to enhance QOL through economic benefits, but this can be at the expense of social equity, cultural identity, and environmental sustainability.

Chapter 12 by Daniel R. WILLIAMS and Norman McINTYRE is based on the theory that the twin processes of lifestyle mobilities and place affinities are inseparable and essential to the understanding of quality of life. In today's globalised world where many people are empowered to actively circulate among many places, the quality of life of various stakeholders is affected by tourists' and other lifestyle migrants' mobility and activities, creating conflicted and contested places. The authors raise a series of thought-provoking questions about the interactions among place, mobility and globalisation, their impact on the ways in which places are created and experienced through tourism, and the relationship of these processes to QOL issues.

Chapter 15 by László PUCZKÓ and Melanie SMITH examine the relationship between tourism and QOL from a demand perspective, based on the analysis of tourists' motivations for and perceptions of travel, and the role of travel in their lives. The authors raise various questions concerning the relationship between QOL and satisfaction, or the permanent or temporary nature of well-being or happiness related to travel. In addition, the chapter assesses the applicability of RAHMAN, T. *et al.*'s (2005) 'QOL domains model' to tourism, resulting in a more comprehensive conceptual framework of the tourism-QOL linkage.

Chapter 17 by Sara DOLNICAR, Katie LAZAREVSKI and Venkata YANAMANDRAM reviews the literature of travel motivation and quality of life with the aim to understand the extent to which vacations contribute to different travellers' QOL, taking into consideration the differences of people's travel motivations at various stages of their travel career or at different stages of their lives. Based on a thorough analysis of the available literature, the chapter proposes a conceptual framework that integrates the notions of QOL and travel motivations in a tourism context.

Chapter 24 by Gianna MOSCARDO is based on the 'full world' model of CONSTANZA, R. (2008) in which, in contrast with the classic economic approach, the QOL of individuals and the well-being of communities is dependent on benefits derived from different forms of capital, including, among others, social capital. The author analyses in detail how tourism can affect the social capital of the host population, and examines the ways how tourism development can be used to actively build social capital.

Chapter 25 by Muzaffer UYSAL, Eunju Woo and Manisha SINGAL reviews the connection between the tourism area life cycle (TALC) model and its impacts on the QOL of the host community. Tourist experiences take place in physical settings as a result of interaction between demand and supply factors which change over time, resulting in destinations going through cycles of development, influencing the nature of their attractiveness. Places as destinations experience different phases of evolution, and each cycle affect the QOL of stakeholders in the destination, in terms of both intangible and tangible benefits that are brought about by tourism activities.

In addition to presenting valuable theoretical concepts and empirical research findings, the authors of the handbook also formulate research questions in order to stimulate further studies in the field of QOL and tourism. Due to its comprehensive coverage, the volume may be recommended both for researchers representing tourism studies, social geography or social sciences in general, and for local and regional decision-makers searching for a deeper understanding of the potential impacts of tourism development on local communities' QOL.

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