

Preface

As a global industry, and throughout time, most tourism occurs in physical environments that got shaped and re-shaped by the dynamic and forces that respond to such an industry across the globe. Hotels, resorts, cities, and larger destinations are would never look the way they are if tourism wasn't part of their economy. This book project was conceived in 2016 in one of the Berkeley's Tourism Studies Working Group (TSWG), in University of California at Berkeley, California. I have been observing both tourists and tourism critics occupied with the final tourism product or tourism development while paying very little attention to the energies, forces, and dynamics that contribute to shaping this tourism development that they have been dissatisfied with. While this ambitious project started in Berkeley, it continued to expand and evolve to include a variety of countries with very different tourism governance profile.

Today's tourism is viewed, studied, and researched under a wide range of disciplines such as social sciences, hospitality, business, anthropology, marketing, parks, geography, and environment. Because of its interdisciplinary nature, it involves thinking across boundaries (local, regional, and international). The diversity of backgrounds of the contributors is a testimony that this book engages with such interdisciplinarity and diversity of regions. The book compares and contrasts the governance system in Colombia, Egypt, Finland, France, India, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, and United States. It provides systematic critical comparisons between different governance bodies and stakeholders across these nation-states where each country is a stand-alone chapter. In addition, there are two extra chapters that covers non-Governmental tourism, such as AirB&B, and international governance, such as the role of UNWTO, UNESCO, AgaKhan Foundation and other international players, that either shape the decision about tourism destinations or influence the strategies of central governments.

The book explores the relationship between governance systems and the physical forms of the built landscape and tourism infrastructure. Of the total 20 chapters, 16 chapters focus on individual countries, each describing the country's tourism policies and the resulting tourism infrastructure. This represents the first time such a systematic perspective on governance and tourism has been undertaken, and it revealed some surprising patterns. In countries where tourism authorities are represented in the central/federal government such as Turkey, France, and Spain, tourism development has an embodied conflict with other authorities such as environment, antiquities, fishery, among others. This has led to more hotels and resorts that created significant ecological and cultural impacts. On the other hand, tourism is shaped by antagonism when there are no tourism authorities in central or federal government such as the case of the United States where most tourism development (hotels, resorts, leisure facilities, etc . . .) are private-sector led.

While the book started with a list of countries that is not identical to the one it ended with, there were substantial contributions in the TSWG seminars from those

who departed the project at earlier for other reasons. The research journey from all contributors have benefited from the engagement of intellects from TSWG. The authors vary in their academic level, angle in which they look at tourism, and their scholarly backgrounds. This book project was not going to see the light without the collective effort by all contributors in addition to the TSWG intellectual community and the assistance of Josie Miller, a dedicated graduate researcher at Berkeley and Reem El Desouky, a highly motivated graduate researcher in Cairo, Egypt.