Acknowledgements

Writing a book on the relationships between earthquakes and tourism after having experienced their impacts directly – in the cases of the Christchurch earthquake sequence and the Kaikoura earthquakes – is a strange experience. On the one hand there is an attempt to retain a sense of distance and detachment which is integral to much academic writing and research. Indeed, having that personal perspective arguably makes one's understanding of the relationships between earthquakes and their effects on destinations and the wider tourism system all the stronger. On the other, it is extremely personal, arousing both memories of the effects of the earthquake events but also one's direct feelings concerning recovery and rebuild, the actions of government and political and economic interests and the way in which lives and places have been interrupted and set on new trajectories, not all of which are for the better. As we have recognised elsewhere, these are feelings that arguably only researchers who have been through such events understand. Nevertheless, they provide an important reality for conducting research on disasters and tourism, and earthquakes in particular.

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