2ⁿᵈ tourism and hospitality networking conference | RESNET'22

Jaime Serra

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2nd tourism and hospitality networking conference | RESNET'22

Jaime Serra

CIDEHUS, Interdisciplinary Centre for History, Culture and Societies, University of Évora, Évora, Portugal

The 2nd Tourism and Hospitality Networking Conference (RESNET) was held from 6 to 10 September, in Istanbul, Turkey, organized by Kadir Has University (Turkey), University of Algarve (Portugal), and University of Wisconsin–Stout (U.S.A). RESNET brings participants the opportunity to submit their research in two types of submissions: in one, authors were invited to submit a brief overview of their ideas, research questions, and methods, and the other format involved submitting an abstract for assessment (regular paper submissions). One of the most interesting points was the opportunity to engage with a multi-cultural group of researchers at different stages of their academic career, mostly graduates and early-career researchers, affiliated with over 40 different academic institutions and representing 13 countries. This exciting conference provided an experience to attend the presentations of many exciting papers and at the same time to have the opportunity to attend the insightful speeches from remarkable tourism scholars as keynote speakers, such as Jafar Jafari and Marina Novelli, and workshops led by Kazem Vafadari, Levent Altinay, Manuel José Damasio, Mostafa Rasolimanesh, Raymond Rastegar, and Siamak Seyfi.

Pursuing the first RESNET conference model, an innovation was introduced in this conference, consisting of a call for an idea development and competition sessions judged by Antonia Correia, Levent Altınay, Marina Novelli, and Metin Kozak. Along with this, the industry perspective was conducted in the programme alignment, in a panel contributed to by Cem Kınay and Akın Arıkan. After the pandemic constraints, RESNET provided a notable and innovative design, based on a process of networking, mentorship, collaboration, and publication stages. Authors were invited to submit their research according to two types of stream: Idea Development Network and Regular Papers, as above.

The first stream was based on the presentation of research ideas, with a brief overview of their project, questions, and methods. Three groups of themes were previously organized Digital and Virtual Experiences (Group 1); New Products, New Markets (Group 2); and Inclusive Practices (Group 3). Teams were formed according to the interests of participants, in order to guarantee complementary of the expertise of the team members. The teams developed their pitch with the mentorship of other scholars who supported and contributed to the proposal. After that, the last day gave the opportunity for all teams to present the abstracts to all conference participants.

A second stream of presentations was based on the submission of an abstract, in which authors were invited to present their papers in parallel sessions. Six groups of topics were suggested, namely, Tourism Policy and Planning (Group 1); Tourism Marketing and Destination (Group 2); Local Communities, Culture, and Heritage (Group 3); Destination Resilience and Sustainable Development (Group 4); Digital Transformation, Virtual Tourism, and Technology (Group 5); and Inclusive and Equitable Approaches in Tourism (Group 6). These streams also provided the organization of another innovative competition, named the "Future Research Competition", based on the presentation of future innovative research questions. For the first time, RESNET introduced

two parallel sessions with two official languages (English sessions and Farsi sessions). Both programmes involved a number of interesting presentations, presented by senior and junior researchers in the tourism field.

As stated above, there were two keynote speakers participating in the 3-day networking conference. The highlight of the first day was an interesting panel of applied workshops on qualitative research methods and grounded theory, presented by Raymond Rastegar and Siamak Seyfi; quantitative research methods, such as PLS-SEM presented by Mostafa Rasolimanesh and thematic workshops, one with title as "The age of imagination, what creativity does for researchers", presented by Manuel Damásio; and another titled as "Benefits of Doing International Collaborative Projects" presented by Levent Altınay.

The second day provided participants with the opportunity to see Jafar Jafari, from the University of Wisconsin–Stout (U.S.A), founding editor of *Annals of Tourism Research*, who provided a discussion on "Synergizing tourism theory and practice cooperation, collaboration, partnership" and emphasized the need to bridge theory with practice in tourism and hospitality-related research. The third day of RESNET gave the opportunity to attend the keynote speech by Marina Novelli, from the University of Brighton (UK), recently awarded a fellowship at the International Academy of the Study of Tourism (2022). She brought for discussion a topic about "Resilience in Tourism: New Trends, Old Tensions and the Quest for a Better Future", where the need was emphasized to reflect on the controversial impact of tourism behaviour, not only on environmental impacts but also on the idea of developing more sustainable tourism for resilient communities.

In the final plenary session, it was announced the outstanding award winners in three categories:

- *Outstanding Research Paper Award*: "Sentiment analysis in all-Inclusive hotels and resorts in Portugal" from Carimo Rassal, Luana Beckmann, Nuno António, Andreia Coelho, Rute Coelho, & Ana Palma, ISEC Lisboa, Portugal.
- *Outstanding Research Paper in Progress Award*: "Co-creating community landscapes: The storytelling murals" Figen Gürcoşkun & Kadriye Kubat, Muğla, Sítkí Koçman University, Turkey.
- *Outstanding Research Question Award*: "Behavioral insights in tourism policy" Maksim Godovykh, University of Central Florida, U.S.A, Özlem Pekşen Arı, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Turkey.

The social part of the conference was remarkable with a fantastic welcome cocktail for participants held at KHAS Rezan Has Museum, located at Kadir Has University building. On the second day, participants had the opportunity to visit a few interesting scenic neighbourhoods of Istanbul. Finally, an intercultural farewell dinner was organized, which provided an interesting cultural experience, namely, based on the Iranian culture, allowing all participants to get to know the qualities of its music and food better.

The excellent and productive networking research environment, linked with the cultural atmosphere of the beautiful Istanbul, provided an interesting framework to present and develop insightful and innovative research work. Finally, the next conference was announced for 2024 to be held in Portugal.

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