

2024 - 2025

MSc Thesis Topics



Cultural Geography (GEO)

Wageningen University & Research





Writing your MSc thesis with GEO

Many people view writing a MSc thesis as the pinnacle of higher academic education. And indeed, the importance of the thesis work is also reflected by the prominent role it takes within the whole MSc program. After completing compulsory and optional courses in the educational program, the MSc thesis challenges students to set up and carry out a scientific research project in an almost fully self-responsible manner.

The overall goal of the thesis is to further develop research, analytical and presentation skills. The thesis is the culmination of the MSc study program in which the student will have to show that they are able to design and conduct social science research in an academic context and are able to theoretically reflect on a particular field of research relevant to their MSc program.

This brochure presents a list of MSc thesis projects for students who wish to pursue their thesis at the Cultural Geography Group (GEO). GEO motivates students to align their MSc thesis with one of the thesis projects outlined in the brochure. The topics in this brochure appear in random order and are linked to one, or more, of our four core research themes: *landscapes*, *tourism*, *nature*, *health & care*. Some of them remain wide open for your own input in terms of context/country/approach etc., while others are more clearly defined. Alternatively, there is the possibility for students to do something different and to develop their own idea for the thesis in the broad field of cultural geography. In that case the student is strongly encouraged to come up with a one-page proposal to the thesis coordinators.

Are you interested in writing your MSc thesis with GEO, or do you have any questions? Feel free to contact our thesis coordinators! For an overview of the thesis process, you can also have a look in our [course guide](#).

Several topics in this brochure can be adapted to fit a MSc Research Practice. If this is something that interests you, please contact the corresponding supervisor and/or the thesis coordinator.

MSc Thesis Coordination & Chair



Chih-Chen Trista Lin
Thesis Coordinator MTO
[E-mail](#)



Martijn Duineveld
Thesis Coordinator MLP
[E-mail](#)

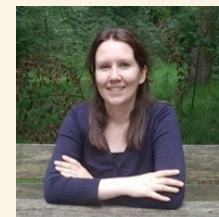


Edward H. Huijbens
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Proposal presentations,
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People of GEO

When writing your thesis with GEO, you will be supervised by one of the GEO staff members as listed on the People of GEO pages, ideally linked to your and their interest. You are more than welcome to pick a topic from this brochure and work indepently. However, if you pick a topic proposed by a PhD Candidate or Postdoc, be aware that there often is less freedom to decide the direction of your thesis as these topics align to their on-going research. You can also recognise these topics by the '(PhD Candidate or Postdoc)' indicator behind the supervisors' name. Ultimately all thesis produced with supervision from the GEO group will be examined by the chair of the group, prof. dr. E.H Huijbens, [see here](#).



Ana Aceska

Areas of expertise: Governance, heritage, place-making

Interested to learn more about: Antropology of policy and governance

Cheryl van Adrichem

Areas of expertise: Climate change mitigation, tourism transportation, sustainability transitions

Interested to learn more about: Climate risk (perceptions) within tourism

Emmanuel Akwasi Adu-Ampong

Areas of expertise: Slavery and colonial heritage (tourism), tourism policy, planning and development, qualitative research methodologies

Interested to learn more about: Big data analysis in tourism research, tour guides and tour guiding, emotional labour of tour guides/ tour guiding

Roy van Beek

Areas of expertise: Landscape archaeology, interdisciplinary research, human-landscape interaction

Interested to learn more about: Human landscape perception, place meanings, connections past and present landscape geography

Karolina Doughty

Areas of expertise: Wellbeing, soundscapes, sensory experiences

Interested to learn more about: Urban wellbeing, transformative tourism, sonic tourism

Clemens Driessen

Martijn Duineveld

Areas of expertise: Climate obstruction, greenwashing, power

Interested to learn more about: Climate obstruction within tourism and planning- and landscape architecture

Eva Erdmenger

Areas of expertise: Destination governance, urban tourism, community resilience

Interested to learn more about: LGBTQ+ tourism, inclusive tourism

Edward H. Huijbens

Areas of expertise: Spatial theory, anthropocene, landscapes

Interested to learn more about: Marxist theories of production and surplus value, terroir, futuring

Maarten Jacobs

Areas of expertise: Emotion, wildlife, landscape

Interested to learn more about: Polarisation, human emotions towards wildlife

Chih-Chen Trista Lin

Areas of expertise: Labor (and tourism), affect and emotion, gender and feminist theories

Interested to learn more about: Labor geography

People of GEO

When writing your thesis with GEO, you will be supervised by one of the GEO staff members as listed on the People of GEO pages, ideally linked to your and their interest. You are more than welcome to pick a topic from this brochure and work independently. However, if you pick a topic proposed by a PhD Candidate or Postdoc, be aware that there often is less freedom to decide the direction of your thesis as these topics align to their on-going research. You can also recognise these topics by the '(PhD Candidate or Postdoc)' indicator behind the supervisors' name. Ultimately all theses produced with supervision from the GEO group will be examined by the chair of the group, prof. dr. E.H. Huijbens, [see here](#).



José Meijer

Meghann Ormond

Arjaan Pellis

Areas of expertise: Tourism, conservation and development

Karin Peters

Areas of expertise: Public spaces, inclusivity, just cities

Interested to learn more about: Urban conviviality, visualisation

Alexandra Rijke

Areas of expertise: Destination governance, urban tourism, community resilience

Interested to learn more about: In/exclusion in urban design

Maartje Roelofsen

Areas of expertise: Digital technologies, hospitality work, tourism

Interested to learn more about: Climate change, housing, mobility studies

Tom Rowe

Chizu Sato

Areas of expertise: Feminist political ecology, community economies, transnational feminism

Interested to learn more about: Commoning, socio-ecological well-being, rural revitalisation

Dienke Stomph

Areas of expertise: Soil, plantationocene, performance

Interested to learn more about: Epistemic justice, counter-mapping

Maria de Wit

Areas of expertise: Emotion, heritage, place meaning

Interested to learn more about: Different heritage contexts

Place-making

This topic opens various possibilities to study the collaborative efforts (by institutions, planners, designers, tourism stakeholders, governments) that aim to craft the characteristics of a place in order to give it a new use, function, norms or meanings. These efforts – which are often highly political – may be top-down or bottom-up, formal or informal. For example, think about the city branding of Wageningen and the ways in which it became a “city of life sciences”!

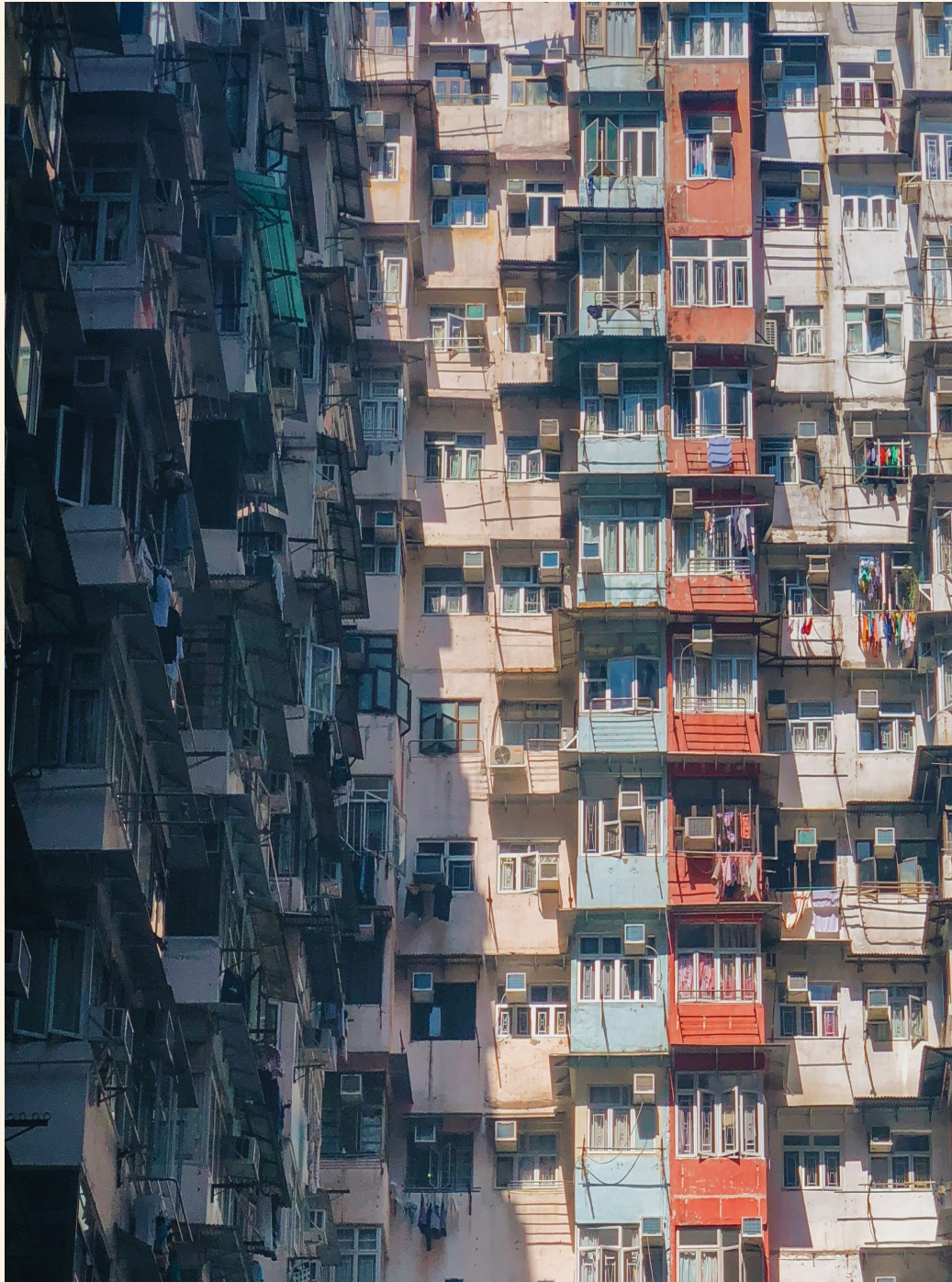
Potential supervisor: Ana Aceska, Karolina Doughty, Meghann Ormond, Karin Peters or Alexandra Rijke

Identity, diversity, and senses of belonging

These topics refer to the intense diversification of the population not only in terms of social, economic or ethnic belonging, but more in terms of values, lifestyles and practices. For example, a thesis on these topics may refer to the construction of any form of sense of togetherness, like Dutch, European, youth, migrant, and the processes of marginalization and exclusion.

Potential supervisor: Ana Aceska, Karolina Doughty, Meghann Ormond, Karin Peters or Alexandra Rijke





Planning and design for urban interspecies play

Urban environments have long been designed and planned as a human habitat, targeted to meet their needs and demands. With a growing attention to urban biodiversity, ecologists, architects and planners have also started to take into account the interests of urban wildlife, which resulted in adapting cities to non-human residents by means of green walls and roofs, animal passages etc. (see Vollaard's 'Making Urban Nature' 2017 for more examples). However, in many cases, planning and design for humans is performed separately from planning and design for animals, and the interactions that result might be uncontrollable or unpleasant. Drawing inspiration from the theory on ludic city by Quentin Stevens, which puts forward play as an important aspect of urban experience, this thesis project aims to explore possibilities for design of playful interactions between human and non-human city residents. The prospective student will investigate the existing ways in which humans and wildlife might be engaging in playful interactions by considering the following questions: is the play mutual and/or beneficial for both sides? which material/cultural/political conditions make the play possible? In the end, the student will propose ways/design solutions to encourage mutually beneficial play between different species in the urban environment.

Potential supervisor: Clemens Driessen

Urban design and in/exclusion

Thesis projects under this theme will focus on diverse ways in which urban design and/or planning can work towards inclusion and/or exclusion. Students are stimulated to look critically at urban architecture and planning and assess who is being designed for and who is not. More specifically, theses may focus on topics such as hostile architecture, gentrification, and purification in a Dutch or international context.

Potential supervisor: Karin Peters or Alexandra Rijke

Citizens' role in urban tourism planning

Even though the idea of citizen participation in tourism planning is anything but new its implementation is still rare. However, with the growing tourism intensity in various popular European urban destinations, such as Venice, Amsterdam and Barcelona, citizens more frequently and loudly complained about the economy-focused local tourism planning which disregards their quality of life. Emerging anti-tourism sentiments made apparent that host communities' perceptions of tourism must be considered for a (socially) sustainable tourism development. The popular urban tourism destination Berlin (Germany) was, pre-pandemic, also confronted with resident protests against the increasing negative impacts of tourism, such as living space misuse, rising costs for living, and tourists' misbehaviour. Nonetheless, the Berlin 'Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises' and the local destination management organization 'Visit Berlin' acted upon those experiences and decided to give local citizens a say in tourism planning – the 'Citizens' Advisory Council' on Berlin-Tourism (Bürger:innenbeirat Berlin-Tourismus) was born in November 2022. In collaboration and consultation with [Visit Berlin](#), various research questions related to citizens' role in and perspective on urban tourism planning as well as residents' tourism acceptance can be explored.

Potential supervisor: Eva Erdmenger

Digital technologies, urban environments and tourism

Digital technologies have a significant impact on how people understand, experience, access, and navigate spaces and places. Urban environments and tourist destinations are now increasingly mediated through location-aware smartphones and countless apps that provide new information, facilitate work and payment, connect people who are there and even suggest alternative routes. Many of these digital media have a specific spatial orientation, allowing for geographic information content forms to be produced by its users. Yet how spaces and places are sensed and made accessible through digital technologies is also political and contested. Places that are made visible through digital technologies and related algorithms are often already entrenched with certain advantages, reinstating mobility and consumption patterns. In other instances, digital technologies and apps may come to have unintended effects on local communities that are far away from where these technologies were originally designed. Think about accommodation platform Airbnb's impact on residential housing in many cities, or, how e-waste is disposed off, stripped into components and recycled under specific and often dangerous conditions, in places far away from where those technologies have been used. Students who undertake a thesis on the "digital turn" in geography and tourism, may wish to examine the role of the digital in terms of equity and the production socio-spatial (in)equalities. How does the uneven socio-spatial spread, uptake, and impacts of digital technologies manifest across cities, countries and within societies?

Potential supervisor: Maartje Roelofsen (Postdoc)



Emotions towards landscape heritage

Emotions are a fundamental and inseparable component of our cognition, underpinning our thoughts, perceptions, beliefs, and actions and giving insight into how people make sense of their environments. Thesis projects under this theme could focus on the diverse ways emotional experiences affect and are affected by landscape heritage. Looking into the emotional experiences of landscape heritage is a promising avenue to further understand emotions' significance, relevance, and practical implications and to further understand the meaning and implications of landscape heritage itself. Within this framework, students are encouraged to explore a diverse range of topics related to human emotions and heritage and have the freedom to choose subjects or heritage sites that align with their interests. Some thesis topics could include:

- Variability of emotional experiences and their impact on the perception of landscape heritage
- Integration of emotions in landscape heritage policymaking
- Influence of narratives on the emotional experience of landscape heritage

Potential supervisor: Maria de Wit (PhD Candidate)



Heritage

Heritage – a thesis on this topic may focus on the ways in which heritage can be constructed and invented, and in the same time contested and challenged by others. A thesis can refer to tangible and intangible heritage and it may focus on the various heritage labels such as UNESCO, European Heritage Label or others and their role in the construction of global and local heritage.

Potential supervisor: Ana Aceska, Meghann Ormond, Alexandra Rijke, Maartje Roelofsen or Maria de Wit (PhD Candidate)

Landscape history and heritage

Landscapes change continuously and over varying temporal and spatial scales. Unraveling the processes and controls behind these changes is essential in order to understand the structure and history of the present-day landscape. This is especially important because strong links exist between landscape character, heritage, and feelings of local and regional identity – which in turn are vital in future landscape development, tourism, and planning. Within the Cultural Geography Group we work on landscape history and heritage from various interrelated angles and disciplines (e.g. landscape archaeology, historical geography, cultural geography), as well as on a wide variety of topics. Thesis topics can be developed based on the specific interests and personal learning goals of the student. We especially welcome topics relating to (1) past and present human-landscape interactions, (2) human perception of cultural landscapes and heritage sites and, (3) the implementation of scientific data in future landscape management.

Suggested literature:

Paulissen, M., van Beek, R., de Wit, M., Jacobs, M., Huisman, F. (2022). Place meanings of Dutch raised bog landscapes: an interdisciplinary long-term perspective (5000 BCE-present), *Landscape Research*. [Link](#)

Van Lanen, R.J., van Beek, R., Kosian, M. (2022). A different view on (world) heritage. The need for multi-perspective data analyses in historical landscape studies: The example of Schokland (NL), *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, 53, 190-205. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Roy van Beek



Green cities and nature-based solutions for health

This thesis topic deals with the role of heritage nature and culture in the growing, and rapidly developing, modern cities. The city of the future is one that is to be green, diverse, circular, and climate resilient. This topic emphasizes that cities also have a history that needs to be negotiated through when implementing these future visions. Thereby a thesis in this topic will research people's perception and understandings of history and cultural heritage in the city and bring those findings to bear on public policy and planning allowing for the co-creation of the future green city with its inhabitants for their wellbeing, quality of life, and happiness.

Suggested literature:

Horolets, A., Stodolska, M. & Peters, K. (2018) Natural Environments and Leisure among Rural-to-Urban Immigrants: An Application of Bourdieu's Concepts of Habitus, Social and Cultural Capital, and Field. *Leisure Sciences*. 41 (4), 313-329. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Karin Peters



The power of visions and imagined futures in spatial planning and design

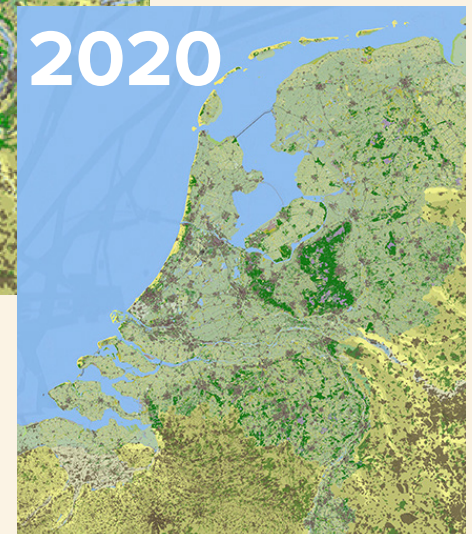
A few years ago, landscape architects from Wageningen University published a vision for the Netherlands in 2120. It received national and international attention and sparked debates about how to live more sustainably and including nature. In this thesis project you study the roles long-term visions, like these, play and could play in society. You will study how collective visions, visualisations, and expectations for the long-term function as productive fictions: although they can never predict the future, they can sort all kinds of reality effects on the present. They can co-shape a desirable, undesirable, utopian or dystopian future, they can be used to persuade certain groups to think differently or help to implement or legitimise certain policies. Also, they can depoliticise governance, help us to rethink taken for granted problems or to include, exclude communities and so on. To get a better understanding in how visions and imagined futures can be useful and effective in spatial planning and landscape architecture you will study the roles of visions and visualisations of the future in shaping the present. Case studies in can be chosen on the local, regional, national or global scale.

Suggested literature:

van de Mosselaer, F., & Duineveld, M. (2021). Strategic openings: On the productivity of blended long-term perspectives in spatial strategy. A Dutch case study. *Futures*, 130, 102752. [Link](#)

Anderson, B. (2010). Preemption, precaution, preparedness: Anticipatory action and future geographies. *Progress in Human Geography*, 34(6), 777-798. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Martijn Duineveld





Degrowth and art

Degrowth brings together many social movements in the global North. These diverse movements agree on the harms done by excess production and consumption. Art plays a big role across these movements. In this thesis project, students will investigate the role of art in mobilization toward equitable degrowth. Students will examine the role of art in, for example, disrupting the growth fantasy, decolonizing Eurocentric epistemologies, or enabling ethical subjectivities that recognize interdependencies between human and nonhuman others. Students will pay critical attention to intersecting differences that constitute a radical transformation induced by art.

Potential supervisor: Chizu Sato

Mobility, bordering, & ordering/othering

In a time of large refugee streams, a rise in popularity of border walls, travel bans and continuous ordering/othering practices within societies, there is an urgent need for critical perspectives that consider how people are forging alternative ways in which to respond to fortified borders and oppositions created between 'us' and 'them'. Thesis projects under this theme address the different levels of freedom of movement as experienced in urban contexts and peripheries by people on the move and expressed in architecture, bordering practices and othering. Examples of topics are:

- Border walls and border crossings
- Refugee mobilities
- Refugee experiences within host societies/asylum centres
- Ordering/Othering
- Mobility regimes expressed in architecture in urban contexts or border areas.

Potential supervisor: Karin Peters or Alexandra Rijke





Gender and diversity issues in caring tourism

The tourism industry historically has perpetuated social inequality and harmed the environment. From ecotourism to sex tourism to medical tourism, there are forms of tourism that claim to provide care for tourists/travellers and/or objects in destination. In addition to benefits, some of the harms found in mainstream forms of tourism can also be found in caring tourism. In this thesis project, students will critically examine gender and intersecting issues, such as colonial histories, race, sexuality and social class, within caring tourisms to understand better, and hopefully help eliminate, contradictions found within them.

Potential supervisor: Chizu Sato

Moral emotions, national apologies and the slavery past

Are you interested in research on relationships between slavery past and race bias in contemporary society, thus making a contribution toward inclusive societies? And are you interested in applying an experimental and quantitative research strategy to a sensitive topic, and doing research in the context of an ongoing collaborative research program? The topic of the past and its ongoing impact is of increasing contemporary significance. Apologies for the Netherlands' role in slavery has been offered by the Mayor of Amsterdam Femke Halsema (1 July 2022), Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte (19 December 2022) and the Dutch King Willem Alexander (1 July 2023). In addition a number of municipalities have also offered apologies as have international (banking) institutions that profited from the slave trade. What are the moral emotions associated with these apologies and are these moral emotions shared across the general populace? Specifically, as topic you can examine whether different stories on the slavery past have different effects on moral emotions (i.e. emotions related to questions of what is good or bad) and attitudes toward interventions related to the slavery past (e.g. national apology, reparations, and national commemoration). If you feel happy about working within a broad theoretical framework, want to make a contribution to an important societal debate and combining a critical social science perspective with experimental methodologies, please contact us.

Suggested literature:

Adu-Ampong, E. A. (2023). The embodied absence of the past: Slavery heritage and the transformative memory work of tourism. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 101. [Link](#)

Lopez, C., & Márquez, M. G. (2021) Proud but ashamed: narratives and moral emotions about the troubled national past in Spain. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 27(2), 200-215.

Craemer, T. (2009). Psychological 'self-other overlap' and support for slavery reparations. *Social Science Research*, 38(3), 668-680.

Nawijn, J., & Biran, A. (2019). Negative emotions in tourism: A meaningful analysis. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 22(19), 2386-2398.

Potential supervisors: Emmanuel Adu-Ampong, Maarten Jacobs & Jeroen Nawijn (Breda University of Applied Sciences)

Heritage, diaspora and roots tourism: geographies of heritage, identity and transnational citizenship in Ghana

Since independence in 1957, Ghana has consistently touted itself as the homeland for the African diaspora. This transnational identity is built on the tangible – slave castles, forts and lodges – as well as the intangible heritage – oral history, transnational knowledge and memory – left behind from the period of the slave trade. Ultimately, Ghana's main goal in linking the heritage of slavery to national and transnational African identity is to ensure that Africans in the Diaspora return 'home' either as temporal but regular visitors – tourists – or as permanent settlers in order to contribute to the economic development of the country. It is however unclear how this process of diaspora return unfold and the challenges involved in resettlements. With over 500 years of history, the various castles in Ghana evoke differing emotions, meanings and interpretation for different categories of people. A MSc thesis project could focus on:

- the kind of discourses and interpretations of slavery heritage provided through roots tourism.
- ethics, authenticity, commemoration and commodification of culture and slavery heritage.
- diasporan return and resettlement, in particular the social meanings of transatlantic Black identities and 'homecoming'.

Suggested literature:

Adu-Ampong, E. A., & Dillette, A. (2023). Commemoration and commodification: slavery heritage, Black travel and the #YearofReturn2019 in Ghana. *Tourism Geographies*, 1-20. [Link](#)

Yankholmes, A., & Timothy, D. J. (2017). Social distance between local residents and African-American expatriates in the context of Ghana's slavery-based heritage tourism. *International Journal of Tourism Research*, 19(5), 486-495. [Link](#)

Dillette, A. (2021). Roots tourism: A second wave of double consciousness for African Americans. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 29(2-3), 412-427. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Emmanuel Adu-Ampong

Migration, tourism and the politics of cultural heritage

Throughout much of the world, migrants have been sorely misrepresented, under-represented or entirely overlooked in dominant, authorised historical and heritage discourse at both local and national levels. Thesis projects related to this theme examine how tourism, another form of cross-border mobility significant to all the places and peoples it touches, has long been instrumental in this repression but also how it can be used to bring about change. What are the differences between history and heritage, and how have traditionally marginalised peoples struggled for their memories, spaces and experiences to be included in official historical narratives and heritage practices? How has tourism specifically been used to support and reify dominant historical narratives and heritage practices, overshadowing a plurality of co-existing yet less visible ones? What's the role of the conventional travel guidebook in essentialising and fixing people and cultures in time and space to facilitate tourist consumption and political objectives? How has tourism contributed both to migrants' exoticisation and to the de-territorialisation and commoditisation of migrant political and cultural heritage? Finally, with a more hopeful take on tourism's productive potential, how can its embodied, experiential and place-based nature be harnessed to facilitate contact with and openness to difference/ the Other, multi-perspectivity and transformative learning?

Potential supervisor: Meghann Ormond

(Im)mobilising the masses: the shaping of multi-level mobility regimes

This thesis project studies the relation between tourism and the ways the mobility of tourists and other actors (tourists, migrants, expands) is enabled and limited and how this produces new forms of social in- and exclusion. By doing so this project aims to offer novel insights into the challenges to conviviality – living together – in an increasingly mobile world. More specifically, this project focuses on the complex interplay of governance strategies and material and embodied practices, to critically examine the ways in which political, social and material conditions co-ordinate, facilitate and limit the movements of tourists and other groups. It will study the attempts of governments (on different scales), private parties and residents to limit and enable the movement of some over others and they ways the mobilities of tourists are actually shaped by these attempts.

Potential supervisor: Meghann Ormond



Crossing borders: the emotional geographies of labor at the intersection of migration and tourism

In 2019, approximately 3.5% of the world's population crossed borders as international migrants (McAuliffe and Triandafyllidou 2021). In the same year, 1.5 billion people, thus almost 20% of the global population, also travelled across borders but as international tourists (UNWTO 2024). Migration and tourism intersect in multiple ways at many tourism destinations, to the extent that Salazar's (2020, p. 141) questioned: 'What would tourism be without migration?' and 'What would migration be without tourism?'. While both border-crossing groups aspire to enrich their lives, they are often labelled differently, with sometimes opposing attributes. The intersection of migration and tourism thus continues to inspire discussions over privilege, belonging, in/exclusion in tourism studies and beyond (see e.g., Bloch and Adams 2022; Duncan et al 2016; Marcher et al. 2020; Salazar 2020). For this thesis project we encourage students to explore the implications for social inclusion and belonging, local livelihoods and collective/community flourishing when migrants become part of tourism's workforce and (new) local residents. To explore this nexus of migration and tourism, we especially encourage research that uses emotional geographies to analyze where, why, and with what emotional lexicon and affective intensity people draw the line between border-crossers and perform practices (in)hospitality.

Potential supervisors: Eva Erdmenger & Chih-Chen Trista Lin

Representation, inclusion, and knowledge production in the Dutch tourism academy

This thesis project aims to get a better understanding of the diversity and in/exclusion of knowledge, paradigms and epistemologies that may have shaped the Dutch tourism academy over the last two decades. To achieve this, the project firstly aims at exploring the themes, topics and methodologies that have prevailed in tourism higher education and research, and, secondly, those who constitute the tourism academy in terms of personal, physical and social characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, race, age, sexuality, ability, age, religious background, and role/rank in the respective organization. Further, the project also explores any underlying power relations, imbalances, hierarchies, cross-cultural issues and barriers that lead to challenges in terms of knowledge production and academic growth. The project will be concerned with tourism research and education within the Dutch applied sciences and university context. Methodologies may involve desk-research, surveys, in-depth interviews, as well as other methods. Since we value the background and diversity that students can bring to the project, we particularly encourage those who belong to underrepresented groups in tourism higher education to apply. These include people identifying as LGBTQIA+, women, ethno-racial minorities, people of all ages, people with disabilities and culturally and linguistically diverse people.

Suggested literature:

Chambers, D., & Buzinde, C. (2015). Tourism and decolonisation: Locating research and self. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 51, 1-16. [Link](#)

Figuerola-Domecq, C., Pritchard, A., Segovia-Pérez, M., Morgan, N., & Villacé-Molinero, T. (2015). Tourism gender research: A critical accounting, *Annals of Tourism Research*, 52, 87-103. [Link](#)

Potential supervisors: Chih-Chen Trista Lin, Maartje Roelofsen (Postdoc) in collaboration with Dr. Nitasha Sharma (University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA)





Tourism and sustainable development: re-exploring 50 years of experience

For over 50 years, the sustainable development of tourism has been subject to engaged academic and sector attention. In the Netherlands, a small network of committed frontrunners has actively engaged on this theme in numerous conferences, written reports/publications and sector practices ever since, of which an overview can be found [here](#). Many of these frontrunners are about to - or have recently – retire(d). With the disappearance of these frontrunners, we risk losing valuable expertise. As such there is a need to map lessons learned that may inform current thinking and practices related to tourism and sustainable development.

In this thesis project, one or more students can map out lessons learned over the past 50 years, earmark critical moments on a timeline, and engage with frontrunners through interviews. Students are free to select a theme of interest related to the sustainable development of tourism over time. Themes may include – for instance – CO2 reductions, aviation, development aid, nature conservation, sexual abuse or animal care. Another dimension to consider refers to international events that may have influenced Dutch thinking and practices in the past 50 years, or the (development of) the new [ANVR sustainability vision](#).

Suggested literature:

van der Duim, R., & Keller, E. (2021). Gaan we (nog steeds) te ver? *Vrijetijdstudies*, 39(3), 11-15. [Link](#)

Potential supervisors: Arjaan Pellis & Cheryl van Adrichem (PhD Candidate)

Tourism's role in regional development in the periphery

What are the challenges tourism faces when it is to be developed in peripheral communities? How are these challenges addressed and dealt with so tourism develops for the benefit of the communities involved and the setting in which it is to take place? Tourism is very often presented as the fail-safe way to diversify and develop an economy, as it is seemingly simple to implement with low or non-existent entry barriers for actors. Thesis projects under this topic will explore how tourism appears in policy and governance action for regions suffering decline through dynamics of peripherality.

Potential supervisor: Chih-Chen Trista Lin

What travel narratives in the 21st century tell us

Over the past 4000 years travelers left us a wide array of their experiences, fascinations and judgements laid down in notes, reports, books, poems, literature, pictures and paintings. All these written and drawn accounts tell us how the collective image of the world came about and how travelers formed their personal relation to the outer world over the ages. Travel implies a distance to the everyday life, habits and environment. Distance implies crossing borders in many respects: geographical (landscape, nature, climate), cultural (language, dress, built environment), physical (life safety, bodily experience, sexuality), time (sense of time, leisure, the past); but also, a consciousness of the incomprehensible greatness of the world and the infinity of the universe, the finiteness of one's own life, too complex to worry about within the daily routines and chores, (see Lengkeek 2022). Travel narratives of the past cover all these issues. Travelers brought their stories about elsewhere and the unknown. Today, the role of narratives seems to be in reverse, the tourism industry employs readymade narratives and images to attract tourists to destinations.

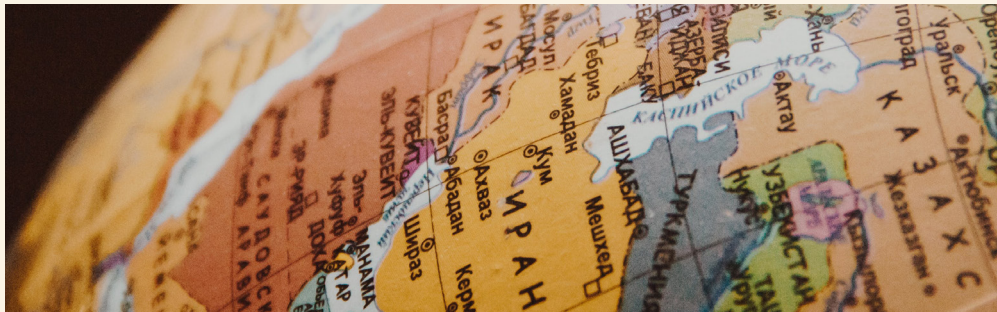
To what extent influence or even define these marketing narratives the personal experiences and reports of tourists?

The project aims to find relevant websites or other sources on social media, where tourists describe their travels. Furthermore, the distinction of relevant categories on the web of travelers (nationality, age, company, ways of travel, special interest tourism etc.). And most important: an analysis of a representative selection of travel narratives according to the issues mentioned above. Finally, comparison of the main issues from the traveler's narratives with marketing stories and images, if possible related to the destinations where the described trips took place.

Suggested literature:

Lengkeek, J. (2022). Het eeuwige leven van reisverhalen. Walburg Pers. (to be translated partially). [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Edward H. Huijbens, in collaboration with Jaap Lengkeek



Local government capacity in tourism development policy and planning

The tourism sector is a highly fragmented one with a variety of policy actors playing different roles across varying governing levels. Local tiers of government are increasingly seen as key players in the governance and development of tourism. They are seen as capable of fostering community participation in the decision-making processes of tourism development and also ensure that local people secure positive benefits from the tourism sector.

In many developing countries where tourism is expanding, local governments already struggle to effectively manage local economic development processes. Nonetheless, these local governments are also being called upon to provide governing oversight for tourism development. How are local governments dealing with the new responsibility in coordinating tourism development processes?

A MSc thesis project could focus on:

- An examination of the role of local government in tourism development.
- The use of tourism as a strategy in local economic development planning
- An assessment of institutional capacity of local governments in tourism development and planning

This can be based on review of extensive published literature (on a selected destination) and/or fieldwork in Ghana, Thailand or other destinations.

Suggested literature:

Adu-Ampong, E. A. (2021). Images, instruments and the governance capacity of local governments in tourism development planning. Evidence from Ghana. In Saarinen, J. and Rogerson, J. M. (eds.) *Tourism, Change and the Global South*, Abingdon: Routledge. [Link](#)

Ruhanen, L. (2013). Local government: Facilitator or inhibitor of sustainable tourism development? *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* 2(1), 80-98. [Link](#)

Churugsa, W., McIntosh, A. J., & Simmons, D. (2007). Sustainable tourism planning and development: Understanding the capacity of local government. *Leisure/Loisir*, 31(2), 453-473. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Emmanuel Adu-Ampong



No Fly Zone: A ‘radical’ agenda for tourism

“Aviation is a big polluter” (Kallbekken & Victor, 2022, p. 673). So, if we want to reach the global goals of stabilising climate change, various socio-economic practices, aviation included, will have to be decarbonised. As such, there is a need to map, understand, and (radically) undo the obstacles for transformative change towards fossil free (alternatives) for aviation. This challenges the technofix and behaviour change discourses that dominate the sustainability agenda within aviation, and it proposes alternatives for long and short distance travels in and beyond tourism. MSc theses could for example focus on the dependency of tourism on aviation, the growth discourse and the degrowth counter discourse, the effects of climate activist campaigns, such as ‘[subvertising](#)’ on tourism and aviation, and much more.

Suggested literature:

Gössling, S., Balas, M., Mayer, M., & Sun, Y.-Y. (2023). A review of tourism and climate change mitigation: The scales, scopes, stakeholders and strategies of carbon management. *Tourism Management*, 95, 104681. [Link](#)

Kallbekken, S., & Victor, D. G. (2022). A cleaner future for flight - aviation needs a radical redesign. *Nature*, 609(7928), 673-675. [Link](#)

Potential supervisors: Cheryl van Adrichem (PhD Candidate), Bas Amelung (ESA) & Martijn Duineveld, in collaboration with the [Centre for Sustainability, Tourism and Transport](#).



Tourism, cultural memories and the interpretation of slavery and colonial heritage in European cities

In our increasing multicultural societies, the stories we tell of the past can bring us together or pull us further apart. What now counts as heritage is not given but actively produced from the stories from the past that are open to interpretation, misunderstanding and contestations. In a number of major European cities such as Amsterdam, Utrecht, Berlin, Lisbon, Madrid, Barcelona, there are ongoing public debates on how to remember the heritage associated with colonialism and slavery. Increasingly, new forms of tourism practices and performances such as walking tours, public art performances and museum exhibitions are emerging to tell the stories of slavery and colonial heritage in these cities. But how does tourism transform and narrate the past to provide representations that disrupt the cultural memories of slavery and colonial heritage? Which stories are (de)emphasised at such sites and what do visitors think of the stories told? A MSc thesis project could focus on:

- the colonial and slavery era stories that are (re)interpreted and presented on 'free' vs. 'ticketed' guided tours
- the affective responses of tourists to the stories told of colonial and slavery heritage in during tours
- the role of tour guides in generating affective responses of tourists
- the emotional labour of tour guides in (re)interpreting and telling colonial and slavery heritage stories
- the representations of colonial and slavery heritage in national museums such as the Rijksmuseum, the Amsterdam Museum and the Tropenmuseum

This can be based on review of published literature, TripAdvisor Review comments and/or primary fieldwork in any of the major European cities

Suggested literature:

Adu-Ampong, E. A. (2023). The embodied absence of the past: Slavery heritage and the transformative memory work of tourism. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 101. [Link](#)

Boukhris, L. (2017). The Black Paris project: the production and reception of a counter-hegemonic tourism narrative in postcolonial Paris. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 25(5), 684-702. [Link](#)

Cain, A. (2015). Slavery and Memory in the Netherlands: Who Needs Commemoration?. *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*, 4(3), 227-242. [Link](#)

Adu-Ampong, E. A., Gootjes, E., Maat, H., & Wijnen, J. (2022). Waarom een confrontatie met ons koloniaal erfgoed onvermijdelijk is. *Oud Wageningen*, 47(2), 22-25. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Emmanuel Adu-Ampong

Prefiguration in the contemporary Western climate movement

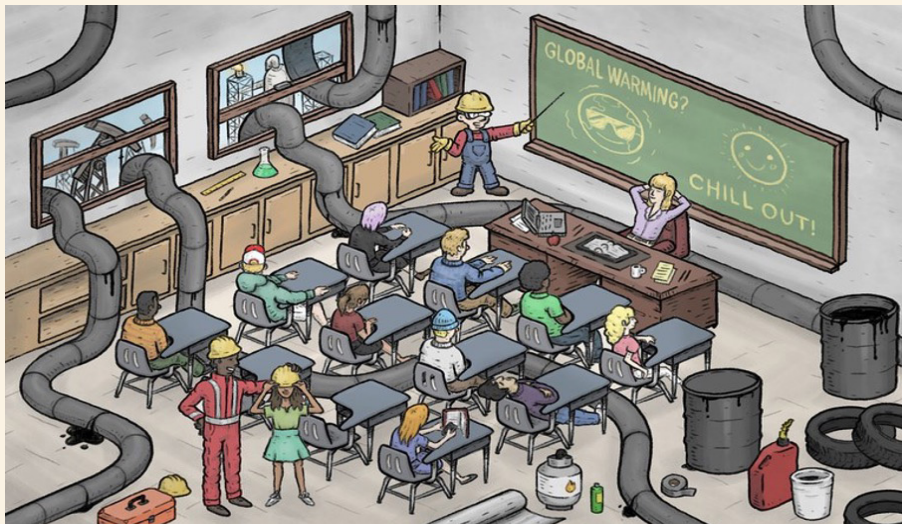
The Western climate movement has been resurgent over the past few years in response to continued inaction from both state and international bodies in the face of continually worsening scientific projections. While many climate activist groups seek to put pressure on institutions to enact changes through acts of public civil disobedience, prefiguration constitutes an equally vital strategy for realising political change. Activists prefigure more desirable futures by performing daily life differently in the material constraints of the present, insisting that change is too important to be left to formal institutions, or deferred into the future. Through prefiguration, activists resist a passive hope that things will somehow get better by actively working to bring change into being, reinventing normative concepts and practices in the process. This thesis project invites students to explore how concepts and practices, particularly those connected to notions of space, care, justice, and the more-than-human, are realised in alternative ways in different forms of the climate movement. This project acknowledges that the contemporary climate movement is incredibly diverse, and welcomes investigation into myriad political projects which might be framed as 'climate activism'.

Suggested literature:

Pottinger, L. (2017). Planting the seeds of a quiet activism. *Area*, 49(2), 215–222. [Link](#)

Swain, D. (2019). Not Not but Not yet: Present and Future in Prefigurative Politics. *Political Studies*, 67(1), 47–62. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Tom Rowe (PhD Candidate)



Greenwashing, et cetera.: how the (fossil-, tourism-, agro-) industry delays effective climate mitigation

Martijn Duineveld's favorite thesis topics all revolve around the question of climate obstruction. 'Climate obstruction serves as an umbrella term for various obstacles which stand in the path of effective climate mitigation. These range from literal denial of anthropogenic climate change to the opposition, delay or dismissal of effective climate policies, at corporate, governmental, societal and individual levels, for various economic, political and psychological reasons.' (Ekberg, et al., 2022) The project aims to map and analyse the dependencies between politics, fossil companies, civil society, science, education and the arts. In addition, we ask ourselves how do these dependencies materialise, e.g., in design, plans, institutions, pipelines, factories and in aviation related infrastructures? The theoretical focus of your thesis can be Evolutionary Governance Theory (EGT), using the nested theories and concepts like power, conflict, strategy, path-, inter- and goal dependencies, politics, resistance, ideology, discourse theory and related concepts and theories. By rendering visible the increasingly more complex and covert attempts to solidify and naturalize fossil path dependencies we hope to expose and undo fossil dependencies through scientific research, mass media and activism (yes writing a thesis can be an act of activism). This project is specifically relevant for students of landscape architecture, spatial planning, tourism studies, climate studies and development studies.

Suggested literature:

Kohl, U., & Andersen, J. (2022). Copenhagen's struggle to become the world's first carbon neutral capital: How corporatist power beats sustainability. *Urban Planning*, 7(3), 230-241. [Link](#)

Ekberg, K., Forchtner, B., Hultman, M., & Jylhä, K. (2023). Climate obstruction: how denial, delay and inaction are heating the planet. Routledge. [Link](#)

Plets, G., & Kuijt, M. (2022). Gas, Oil and Heritage Well-oiled Histories and Corporate Sponsorship in Dutch Museums (1990-2021). *BMGN - the Low Countries Historical Review*, 137(1), 50-77. [Link](#)

Brulle, R. J. (2020). *Denialism: organized opposition to climate change action in the United States*. In Handbook of US environmental policy (pp. 328-341). Edward Elgar Publishing. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Martijn Duineveld




Human emotions towards wildlife

For various reasons, wildlife raises continuous concerns in society. Many people are interested in wildlife. This interest triggers various types of tourist behaviours, such as safari tourism and whale watching tourism. Wildlife watching is also the most important motive amongst Western people to visit a national park. Wildlife also presents economic concerns such as agricultural damage or revenues from wildlife based tourist industry. Wildlife is relevant to human health and safety, for instance through attacks or zoonotic diseases. And wildlife is important to those who appraise ecosystem integrity.

Emotion is a root cause of human-wildlife relationships. Positive emotions such as joy are crucial for the attraction wildlife presents to humans. And negative emotions such as fear drive many worries and human-wildlife conflicts. Understanding human emotions towards wildlife, then, is a promising avenue to understand the myriad of human-wildlife relationships. This type of knowledge is needed in for instance conservation policy and management or tourism development.

Surprisingly little is known about human emotions towards wildlife. Which emotions do which people feel towards which animals? This broad question allows for a variety of research designs, qualitative and quantitative, as well as contexts, segments of people, and species of wildlife. Similarly, the question how we can explain human emotions towards wildlife (e.g. what mechanisms play a role) merits attention. In addition, the questions what these emotions do, think of explaining conservation support or tourism behaviour, merits attention.

Potential supervisor: Maarten Jacobs



Preferences of nature-based recreation from a social practice perspective

Nature organisations and policy makers aim to offer high quality nature experiences to the public, in order to contribute to the well-being of both people and nature. To do so, knowledge on the factors of nature areas that nurture these experiences is needed. Existing approaches have thus far not explained environmental preferences accurately and in a way that it can inform design. This project therefore presents an innovative approach to study nature-based recreation activities as social practices, addressing social and cultural influences on preferences for landscape characteristics. Qualitative ethnographic methods, including interviews and participant observations, will help to understand the multi-faceted context of these practices.

Potential supervisors: Maarten Jacobs & José Meijer (PhD Candidate)

Towards sustainable tourism near protected parks

How can national parks and protected areas be governed to achieve their roles and how are these roles defined and what ambitions underpin the establishment of such areas? How can tourism contribute to these and what are the possible points of contention? Worldwide areas that are perceived as natural or valuable from some perspective are being protected to an ever greater extent. The efforts of protection impact livelihoods of people living there in both positive and negative ways. Unravelling the complex interlinkages and dynamics that make for a national park and/or protected area is important in order to provide guidelines as to how best to succeed in their establishment. We recommend students to make use of various best practices previously identified across Europe to further explore any of these in a personalised project.

Suggested literature:

Smith-Barneveld, C., Pellis, A., During, R., & Lamers, M. (2021). *Towards sustainable tourism practices in National Parks: Exploring lessons learned from diverse European approaches*. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Arjaan Pellis

Who is on Gaia's payroll? Tourism revenue sharing and conservation in national parks

Natural protected areas are at the core of biodiversity conservation. The success of biodiversity conservation largely depends on the understanding and cooperation of local communities living around protected areas. To offset some of the cost of conservation, tourism and other recreational activities have been introduced and encouraged. Tourism revenue sharing (TRS) in national parks, reserves and conservation areas is considered as an important mechanism through which conservation goals can be achieved. The premise is that TRS mechanisms can contribute to livelihood improvement and the provision of other tangible benefits to stakeholder groups – especially communities residing along the boundaries of national parks. But do these arrangements work in practice?

A MSc thesis project could focus on:

- the attitude of adjacent communities towards national parks, reserves and conservation areas
- the perceived concerns and benefits of living near national parks, reserves and conservation areas
- the TRS arrangements in different national parks, reserves and conservation areas
- stakeholder collaboration and governance arrangements in managing national parks, reserves and conservation areas

This can be based on review of extensive published literature (on a selected destination) and/or fieldwork in Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda or other places.

Suggested literature:

Ahebwa, W. M., van der Duim, R., & Sandbrook, C. (2012). Tourism revenue sharing policy at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda: a policy arrangements approach. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 20(3), 377-394. [Link](#)

Munanura, I. E., Backman, K. F., Hallo, J. C., & Powell, R. B. (2016). Perceptions of tourism revenue sharing impacts on Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda: A Sustainable Livelihoods framework. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 24(12), 1709-1726. [Link](#)

Spenceley, A., Snyman, S., & Rylance, A. (2019). Revenue sharing from tourism in terrestrial African protected areas. *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*, 27(6), 720-734. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Emmanuel Adu-Ampong

The productive role of power and conflicts in urban governance and tourism

This thesis project raises questions of the role of power and conflicts in urban governance and tourism. Power and conflicts are seen as both productive and destructive forces that constitute the possibilities, and limit of urban governance and tourism, and its nested attempt to steer and control (e.g. by means of planning and design). The role conflicts play can be understood by taking into account the history of their emergence, (their path dependencies) and relations to organisations, actors and institutions (interdependence). To study these dependencies in more detail you will focus on mechanisms and technologies that shape and maintain conflicts.

Suggested literature:

Pellis, A. (2019). Reality effects of conflict avoidance in rewilding and ecotourism practices – the case of Western Iberia. *Journal of Ecotourism*, 18(4), 316-331. [Link](#)

Pellis, A., Pas, A., & Duineveld, M. (2018). The persistence of tightly coupled conflicts. The case of Loisaba, Kenya. *Conservation and Society*, 16(4), 387-396. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Arjaan Pellis



Ageing, disability and mobility

People with disabilities make up 15% of the world's population. The European Union alone counts more than 80 million inhabitants living with a registered disability today. However, with a rapidly ageing population and more people living longer than ever before, the prevalence of chronic illness and disabilities limiting mobility, perception and cognition will grow evermore significant. While a growing number of countries around the world are adopting legislation to protect the rights and interests of people with disabilities, the impacts of these significant demographic, health and legal trends on the tourism and travel industry and the ways in which the industry is (not) responding have yet to be examined in many parts of the world, including the Netherlands. Thesis projects related to this theme will explore how diverse kinds of travel, tourism and recreational sites and services are (not) being shaped by these major trends around the world.

Potential supervisor: Meghann Ormond

International medical travel

It's called 'medical tourism' by some and 'medical exile' by others, depending on the political orientation, location and financial stakes of who's talking... Whatever we choose to call it, however, what we do know is this: more people than ever before are crossing international borders in pursuit of high-quality, affordable medical care and long-term care that they (believe that they) are not able to access in their usual countries of residence. While we are beginning to learn more about the nature of these health-focused cross-border flows (e.g. most international medical travel occurs between neighbouring countries in the Global South and, though the media suggests otherwise, not by Global Northerners seeking 'First World care at Third World prices'), we still know very little about the impacts of international medical travel on medical travellers' source and destination countries, cities and communities. Thesis projects related to this theme will explore the relationship between how people address their individual health needs and wants, transformations in social and healthcare systems in source and destination countries, and the blurry spectrum between tourism and migration.

Potential supervisor: Meghann Ormond



Urban (sensory) geographies of wellbeing

A thesis on this topic would explore the intricate connections between urban environments and individual wellbeing. Drawing inspiration from the therapeutic landscape approach in health geography, the student could delve into the ways in which urban spaces contribute to or hinder the wellbeing of their inhabitants, through a focus on daily experiences and practices. Use of particular spaces in the city (such as green areas), or sensory experiences (such as soundscapes) could serve as possible focal points to examine interactions between the urban environment and different dimensions of wellbeing. Qualitative methods will serve as the cornerstone of this inquiry, emphasizing in-depth interviews, participant observations, and immersive experiences to capture nuanced and embodied dimensions of individuals' relationships with their urban surroundings. There is potential to explore innovative and creative methodologies, such as sensory ethnography and audio-visual techniques. By adopting a qualitative lens, students have the opportunity to uncover the rich narratives and complexities that define urban geographies of wellbeing.

Suggested literature:

Doughty, K. (2023). Therapeutic landscapes of stillness: creating affective sanctuary through practices of cocooning and immersing. *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*. [Link](#)

Radicchi, A. et al. (2021). Sound and the healthy city. *Cities & Health* 5(1-2), 1-13. [Link](#)

Potential supervisor: Karolina Doughty

Sound and wellbeing

This topic examines sonic practices for wellbeing, such as the use of recorded sound for relaxation, sleep, or to manage anxiety or enhance focus (e.g. binaural beats and ASMR). Or how people with sound sensitivities try to control their sonic environments to limit the impact of unwanted sound, for example with the help of technologies like headphones or earbuds, or by listening to their own music. This topic could also include a focus on (the creation of) particular sonic environments that are associated with wellbeing. One example would be places that offer an experience of silence, this could certainly be explored in the context of tourism, where silence has emerged as a 'luxury good' and marketable landscape value. Another example could be the use of sound/music to create atmospheres associated with wellbeing, for example in wellness spaces. The approach would be qualitative and focused primarily on practices and experiences, most likely combining conventional interview methods with sonic methods, such as audio diaries, or the analysis of online audio material.

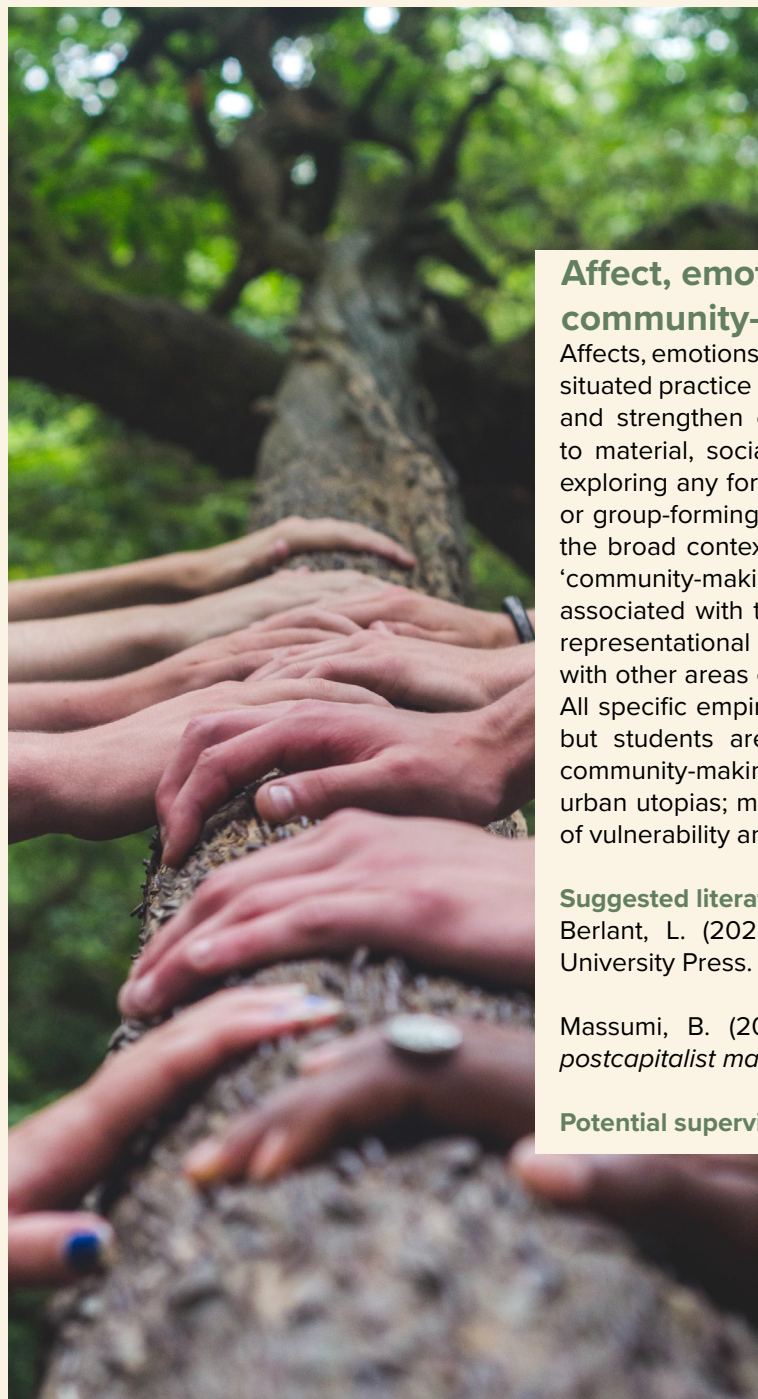
Potential supervisor: Karolina Doughty



More-than-human commoning and the meaning of good life

In many countries rural populations have been rapidly decreasing and ageing. It is not clear what will happen to the environments created by interaction of these rural human populations with their environment and other species who live with them. Tourism has been identified, and used, as one strategy to strengthen the relationships of mutual care that constitute socially, spiritually and ecologically sustainable rural areas. In this thesis project, students will examine relationships between urban tourists and/or the tourist industry and the embodied meaning of good life that emerge from forms of tourism designed to strengthen caring relationships in rural areas. Suggested theories (but not limited to these) are community economies, feminist political ecology, and more-than-human commoning. Students are strongly encouraged to find a case study speaks well to them on their own.

Potential supervisor: Chizu Sato



Affect, emotion, and the geographies of community-making

Affects, emotions, and feelings are important for community-making as a situated practice or process. Theories of affect and emotions can renew and strengthen our understanding of community-making in relation to material, social and discursive conditions. This is an invitation to exploring any form or mode of community-making/building, collective- or group-forming, 'being-in-common', gathering or coming together in the broad context of travel and tourism. You are invited to approach 'community-making' with insights derived from bodies of literature associated with the so-called 'affective turn', such as affect and non-representational theories and emotional geographies, in combination with other areas of literature that suit the specific subject of the thesis. All specific empirical cases within the contexts outlined are welcome, but students are especially encouraged to explore the theme of community-making in connection with these following options: activism; urban utopias; mobilities and displacement; children and youth; forms of vulnerability and/or healing.

Suggested literature:

Berlant, L. (2022.) *On the inconvenience of other people*. Duke University Press.

Massumi, B. (2018). *99 Theses on the revaluation of value. A postcapitalist manifesto*. University of Minnesota Press.

Potential supervisor: Chih-Chen Trista Lin



Tourism and the wellbeing/wellness

Wellness tourism may be considered one of the most ancient forms of tourism, if one thinks back to the importance of health and wellbeing in the leisure activities of the ancient Romans and Greeks; the quests for spiritual enlightenment by Medieval pilgrims; and more recently the medical seaside and spa tourism of the 19th and early 20th century European elite. Although the pursuit of physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing has long had a place in tourism, it may be argued that there has been an intensification in the pursuit of wellness in the history of tourism in recent years.

A thesis project on this topic could investigate a broad range of issues, for example:

- The creation of wellness-themed touristic spaces
- 'Therapeutic landscapes' in tourism, e.g. natural or historic sites associated with wellbeing
- The cultivation of specific curative or restorative practices
- How particular sensory experiences or atmospheres contribute to the production of wellbeing
- Performances and experiences of wellness/wellbeing amongst tourists
- Wellbeing and quality of life amongst tourism workers or the receiving community
- The diversity of experiences, capacities, positionalities, and power relations of different bodies (e.g. gendered, racialized, fat) within touristic spaces of wellness.

Potential supervisor: Karolina Doughty



Music and sound in tourism environments

Music, and non-musical sound, is an emerging area of research focus for tourism studies. The ubiquitous presence of music across the spaces and situations of tourism (as well as everyday life) makes it a fruitful terrain for exploring the constitution, maintenance, and regulation of the nature of a range of social situations in tourism. If we tune our analytical attention into the aural background of tourism spaces, what might this bring to our understanding of the multi-sensory nature of the tourist experience? Or what role does sound and/or music play in processes of (touristic) place-making? For instance, in terms of destination development, place branding, or as part of an emerging focus on the senses in the staging of tourism spaces. A thesis on this topic could explore for instance; sound installation art, public forms of music-making such as busking, community music projects, or encounters with music (in everyday public spaces, or in specific venues or contexts). A thesis could also focus on sounds beyond what we call music, asking how non-musical sounds impact on meanings and uses of space, or how different people negotiate different types of sonic environments. The possibilities are wide-ranging for exploring this emerging and exciting topic in more depth.

Potential supervisor: Karolina Doughty

Opportunities in Nepal (internship/thesis)

For more information, please contact [John Hummel](#).

Assessing transformations in the landscape - developing co-creative research approaches for regenerative hospitality in conscious destinations

In this thesis study/internship the focus will be on the approaches to study regenerative hospitality in its surroundings, the destination, but also about the main elements to focus on in the destination. In this research I would like to take the work of Kate Raworth's 'Doughnut Economics - Seven ways to think like a 21st-century economist' (2017), and explore how downscaling of doughnut economics could work in conscious destinations in Nepal and how we could research that co-creatively with stakeholders in these destinations, well.

Developing a Conscious Destination approach in the Nine Lakes of Pokhara area further

In this internship/thesis research the student will further build on the development of the co-creative transformation approach, based on the earlier research/learning of the students of NHL Stenden and GATE. After an exploratory research (on slow tourism and its elements for Begnas Tal/Rupa Tal (Tal = lake), towards the east of Pokhara) of NHL Stenden students, six students of NHL Stenden and six students of GATE studied the initial development of community-based tourism/homestays and the link between fisheries and hospitality in the Begnas/Rupa Tal area and soft trekking in the Ghorepani/Poon hill area of the Annapurna Conservation Area. The methodology the students used was the APPA methodology (developed by The Mountain Institute [TMI] and used by SNV Netherlands Development Organisation) used in tourism development in several countries in South (Nepal, Bhutan, India) and South-East Asia (Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam). This methodology was introduced by TMI and SNV as a development tool, but is - slightly adapted - a very useful way to study co-creative learning in conscious destination transformation processes. The homestay study explored the possibilities of more nature-inclusive agriculture and convivial conservation, especially in relation to the agriculture fields and forests between the lakes of Begnas and Rupa. Developing a collaborative research and transformation trajectory with the homestays, hotels and farmer groups in that area could be a very good case-study to show the possibilities of regenerative tourism development.

Greening of the GATE campus in Kathmandu and/or the GATE Vocational campus in Pokhara

This internship/thesis study is focused on greening the campuses of GATE in Kathmandu and Pokhara to show possibilities to green the hospitality industry in Nepal and provide hospitality enterprises with direct examples. The internship provides opportunities to the campuses, as well. The student could explore the usefulness of the Bhutan Green Hotel Standard and Bhutan Green Hotel guidelines and the Travelife Stay manual, as starting points, but could also gather examples of good practice at hotels and restaurants from around the world, and explore how useful these will be in the reality of Nepal.

Opportunities in Nepal (internship/thesis)

For more information, please contact [John Hummel](#).

Regenerative leisure/tourism in the southern Kathmandu/Panauti area, supporting the conservation of the remaining wetlands and forests in the area, and transformation of the agriculture system

This internship is with Wetlands for Nepal (WfN). WfN wants to conserve wetlands in Nepal. For a student challenge they developed nature-based solutions for the small Nagdaha wetland in the south of the Kathmandu valley. This wetland has strong connections to local mythology and religion. Historically, cultural beliefs helped protect these important ecosystems but the connections have sometimes been forgotten. In the case of Nagdaha, the story goes that Naga Raj, or serpent god travels from Taudaha to Panauti to celebrate a festival, passing to-and-fro Nagdaha, bringing with him heavy rains (the monsoon). To conserve and restore these wetlands a convivial conservation approach is proposed, promoting environmental enrichment and human well-being in mutually reinforcing ways. The goal of the assignment is to study the mythical trail of the Nagas, develop a regenerative tourism plan including the conservation of these threatened wetlands. A hiking and cycling trail are proposed. The plan could include activities of cleanup, invasive species removal, tree plantation in its watershed, local income generation, adoption of suitable nature-based solutions, and promoting educational and advocacy for further restoration.

Developing nature-inclusive and convivial supply and demand networks around organic farms/resorts, like the Okharbot Organic Farm, in Nepal

There are several hotels and resorts with their own organic farms and organic farms with overnight stay in Nepal, who are providing an example of regenerative hospitality. These examples include The Farm of The Pavillions and Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge in Pokhara, Dwarika Resort, Namobuddha Resort, Vissudhialaya and Okharbot Organic Farm in Dhulikhel. How do these resorts/lodges/farms become more nature-inclusive and convivial? How do they source organically, environmentally friendly, and locally and how do they find the right suppliers/ How do they present/market their businesses to tour operators and tourism businesses in Kathmandu and abroad? Do they focus on specific markets? The study could start with research of a few businesses and widen the scope to a wider regenerative hospitality sector later in the study.