



Wageningen School  
of Social Sciences



## **CSPS PhD Summer School: Critical Tourism Studies (3 ECTS)**

**Thursday 2 – Sunday 12 July 2020**

**Prof. Edward Huijbens - Cultural Geography, Wageningen University**  
**Dr. Arjaan Pellis - Cultural Geography, Wageningen University**  
**Members of the CSPS cluster Tourism@WUR**

### **Introduction**

Through the democratization of travel, transport technology developments, ubiquitous internet use and growing global affluence, international tourism is booming. Globetrotting tourists are seen as part of the frictionless flow of capital, information, culture and goods and most places on the planet are meant to be competing in a global marketplace to entice these. As such tourism is generally promoted as a motor for economic growth and regularly cited as the world largest industry, employing one in ten people of the planetary workforce. Under these terms there is a need to tend to the diverse relations through which tourism places and spaces emerge, and thus define tourism development successes from a broader perspective than merely as measurable economic growth. The course will enable PhD students to unravel the multiple relations surrounding tourism and its development in a range of settings. The course will equip students with a nuanced appreciation of the social and cultural dimensions of power manifest in tourism destination development, in tandem with an appreciation of the production and material aspects of tourism and mobility. These will be embedded with an understanding of the forces of structural power that characterize twenty-first century capitalism and globalization.

Moreover, this summer school is to engage graduate scholars of tourism in thinking about plurality of tourism futures. The course is organised around theories that move beyond dichotomous understandings of tourism, such as good/bad tourism, global/local, production/consumption and mass/independent. Thereby the course will equip the student with the conceptual tools to transgress highly abstracted and often idealised notions of tourism development. Indeed tourism is mainly constructed through social, cultural, and economic practices. As such the tourism production system constitutes a distinct sphere “of a specific sort of phenomenon variously called ‘society’, ‘social order’, ‘social practice’, ‘social dimension’, or ‘social structure’” (Latour, 2005, p. 3). Tourism is bound together by accepted participants, labelled stakeholders, whose roles are prescribed under the idealised conditions of tourism development and dynamics. In this course we will explore and scrutinise these

power geometries and unravel alternative tourism capacities for inducing a positive change to destinations. Moving beyond tourism defined as an industry based only on a particular economic logic derived from perceived structures and essence of a society *sui generis*, more can be included. Tourism is life itself. It grows through relations and the act of being-with others and the world. Therefore, it is imperative that our conceptual frameworks assist in critically engaging with the realities they describe and perform.

The course is organized around theories that link tourism with poststructuralist, relational and political ecology scholarship. The course thus moves beyond theories on tourism as a social construct and industry. It offers students a solid theoretical basis to problematize the relation between tourism and its material and socio-cultural setting. We draw on different disciplines (history, philosophy, political sociology, geography, economics) to rethink the relation between tourism and the world. The various sessions in the course combine the reading of foundational texts with readings of more recent academic work from critical tourism studies.

### Learning outcomes

During the course, participants develop a conceptualization of tourism relevant to their research question and setting. Students will engage directly with foundational texts on critical tourism studies and link these to the manifold ways in which tourism unfolds in a range of settings. Students learn to see how tourism development trajectories are created and maintained and what are the impacts on their research project and on the research population.

After successful completion of this course, participants are expected to be able to:

- **Identify** core theoretical frames to rethink the ways in which tourism and development are linked
- **Understand** the importance of historical, abstract and theoretical texts and **apply** them to contemporary debates on critical tourism studies
- Critically **reflect** on the implications of different theoretical framings for their research projects
- **Develop** a conceptualisation of tourism for his or her own research project.

### Activities

The course is organised in tandem with the Erasmus funded master level summer school on 're-thinking circular tourism', which is aimed at stimulating and facilitating circular tourism thinking by focussing on methodologies, experiences and sustainable development. Thereby joint lectures and excursions are planned as outlined in the programme. Being a PhD course, more demands will be made around reading, self-study, active pre-class preparation, and in-class dialogue. Tutorial sessions take place every morning, thereafter a lecture and then scope for team work with focus on individual projects. The summer school concludes with a presentation seminar from each of the participants. Readings will be provided at least two weeks before the start of the course.

**Participants are expected to read the literature, and send in questions and points for discussion to the teacher no later than 08.00 am the day of the session!**

- **Session one** will serve as an introduction into the topic and set-up of the course. We will allow participants to get to know each other, briefly discuss each other's research projects, set the overall theme, and align expectations.
- **The literature-based lectures** will discuss foundational texts and relate these to contemporary work that addresses the relation between resources and conflict. Where appropriate we discuss how the specific literature of that day is applied in empirical research. The sessions will

introduce the literature based in engaging lecture format. The active contribution of participants to bring in their observations and reflections is encouraged.

- The **final day** of the course consists of two parts. In the morning there is a lecture and then a **PhD research seminar** in which participants present their research in relation to the different perspectives discussed in the course. In the afternoon, the school will be rounded of with some drinks and pleasantries.

### Lecturers

Prof. dr. Edward. H. Huijbens (GEO) (coordinator, contact person)

Dr. Arjaan Pellis (GEO) (coordinator, contact person for parallel summer school)

Members of the CSPA cluster Tourism@WUR (33 faculty and PhDs)

### Programme:

(Detailed programme to be announced)

Each session starts with tutorial sessions, where members of Tourism@WUR are available for conversations and feedback with each of the students reflecting on the readings, their project or their bigger PhD project more generally. This will start 9am and last till 11am.

Thereafter a lecture will take place, introducing the key conceptual components of the topic of the day. Discussion and questions are embedded in the session, which is meant to take place from 11-12.30am

After lunch spaces are provided for group work on student projects. Groups will be made and each day meant to engage with particular topics of individual PhD projects, so all participants will get active group reflection on their individual larger project. This is meant to take place 1.30-4pm.

Afternoon activities are planned for most days, which are more informal team building exercises, yet with focus on the topics of the day.

### Assessment

The assessment consist of 1) an evaluation of the student's participation in the sessions and 2) a short essay (3-5.000 words) in which participants will reflect on the ways in which forms or aspects of critical tourism studies they are confronted with in their PhD research.

- 1) Preparation through reading all required literature in advance, labelled 'readings'.
- 2) The active participation in class is assessed through the submission of at least one question for debate and comments on the reading prior to the class, to be submitted no later than 8.00 am on the day of session to allow for the lecturer to prepare (questions/reflections to be sent to the lecturer by email).
- 3) In the final essay, students are asked to work with the theory of one or two sessions and make a connection between the theoretical debates and their own research.

### How are the intended learning outcomes assessed?

	Participation	Final Essay
<b>Identify</b> core theoretical frames to rethink the ways in which tourism and development are linked	X	
<b>Understand</b> the importance of historical, abstract and theoretical texts and <b>apply</b> them to contemporary debates on critical tourism studies	X	X
Critically <b>reflect</b> on the implications of different theoretical framings for their research projects	x	X

<b>Develop</b> a conceptualisation of tourism for his or her own research project		X
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### Assumed prior knowledge

This course gives a thorough introduction to important debates in the social and environmental sciences and cultural studies on tourism theory and development. Participants are expected to have a basic level of knowledge about debates in the broader sciences. Please contact the course coordinators in case of doubt about the required entry level.

### About the Centre for Space, Place and Society

This course is initiated by the Tourism@WUR cluster of the Centre for Space, Place and Society (CSPS) that is a platform of collaboration and outreach for researchers from four chair groups within Wageningen University & Research (WUR), straddling the environmental and social sciences. Including Cultural Geography (GEO), Health and Society (HSO), Rural Sociology (RSO) and Sociology of Development and Change (SDC), the aim of the CSPS is to facilitate and advance creative, critical and engaging scholarship within and beyond the social sciences. CSPS meets this aim with particular focus on issues of earthly, socio-spatial and environmental justice. Through facilitating research collaboration and a range of activities across and beyond the four chair groups, the CSPS investigates dynamics of spatial and social rootedness, connections, and circulations, with special attention to questions of inequality, exclusion, difference and plurality. CSPS aspires to translate this knowledge into practical action in pursuit of a more just and equitable world

### Location

The sessions will be held in building “Gaia and Lumen”, Droevendaalsesteeg 3 in Wageningen, The Netherlands. The exact rooms will be announced later.

### Further information

On *course content* please contact the course contact person, Edward H. Huijbens. He can be reached via email at: [edward.huijbens@wur.nl](mailto:edward.huijbens@wur.nl)

For details about the *logistics, accommodation, registration, fees, study materials*, etc. please contact Marcella Haan

Tel +31 317 484126

[marcella.haan@wur.nl](mailto:marcella.haan@wur.nl)

### Accommodation possibilities in Wageningen:

#### Hotels:

Wageningen International Congress Centre (WICC): 75 euro for 1 persons room, 90 euros for 2 persons room, both prices are including breakfast; <https://www.wicc.nl/en/>

Hotel de Wageningseberg: 85 euro for 2 persons room, also including breakfast; <http://hoteldewageningseberg.nl/en/>

Hotel Nol in 't Bosch: 79 euro for 1 person room, 85 euro for 2 persons room, also including breakfast; <http://www.nolintbosch.nl/>

**Air B&B Wageningen:**

[https://www.airbnb.com/s/Wageningen--Netherlands/homes?allow\\_override%5B%5D=&ne\\_lat=51.98588152023385&ne\\_lng=5.688003552017875&search\\_by\\_map=true&sw\\_lat=51.965332680231015&sw\\_lng=5.656776971552205&zoom=15&s\\_tag=vDEq\\_E8E](https://www.airbnb.com/s/Wageningen--Netherlands/homes?allow_override%5B%5D=&ne_lat=51.98588152023385&ne_lng=5.688003552017875&search_by_map=true&sw_lat=51.965332680231015&sw_lng=5.656776971552205&zoom=15&s_tag=vDEq_E8E)

**Bed&Breakfast:**

See also : <https://www.bedandbreakfast.nl/bed-and-breakfast/wageningen/netherlands/c2745088> or <http://www.shortstaywageningen.nl/> or <https://www.duwowageningen.com/>

B&B De Heksenspeeltuin: 30 euro for a 1 person room

Address: Einthovenstraat 15, 6706JA Wageningen

Phone: +31 317-418161

E-mail: [callyd@zonnet.nl](mailto:callyd@zonnet.nl)

Website: [www.heksenspeeltuin.nl](http://www.heksenspeeltuin.nl)

Ons Bakhuus Bed & Breakfast: 50 euro for a 1 person room

Address: Dolderstraat 64, 6706 JG Wageningen

Phone.:+31 317-411994

E-mail: [info@onsbakhuus.nl](mailto:info@onsbakhuus.nl)

Website: [www.onsbakhuus.nl](http://www.onsbakhuus.nl)

Toproom B&B: 60 euro for a 1 person room

Vossenlaan 17

6705 CD Wageningen-Hoog

Phone: +31 317-450214

E-mail: [info@toproom.nl](mailto:info@toproom.nl)

Website: [www.toproom.nl](http://www.toproom.nl)

Possibilities to rent a bike

## From Schiphol Amsterdam Airport to Wageningen

At the Airport you can buy a train ticket in the 'arrivals' area by the baggage claims. You will see the sign "Train tickets" near the exit. Then follow the signs 'Nederlandse Spoorwegen' (NS) or 'Trains and busses' to the railway station.

**Buying a single-use chipcard**

You can travel with the train on NS with a **single-use chipcard** The single-use chipcard is a paper ticket with a chip inside.



- The most important thing to be aware of when buying a single-use chipcard is that you can only buy these tickets from an NS ticket machine (with the blue sign and white NS logo across the top).
- Tickets can also be purchased from the Tickets & Service desks at major stations.

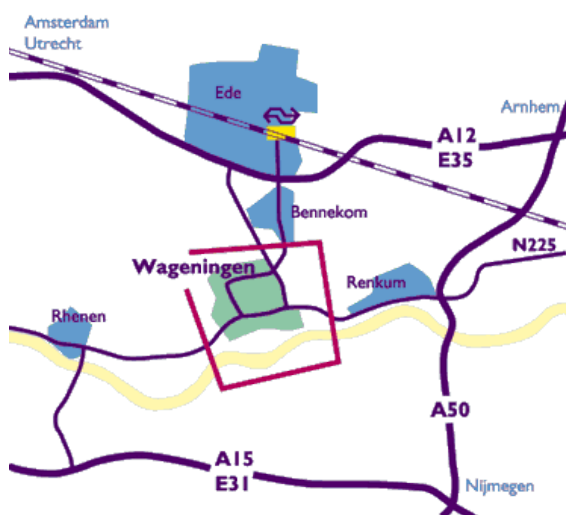
### Travelling with a single-use chipcard or OV-chipkaart

To travel with a single-use chipcard or OV-chipkaart you have to **check in** and **out** at an access gate or check-in/check-out point. When travelling with NS you have to check in and out with an NS reader at a gate or post. If you change to a different carrier during your journey, you have to check in and out then as well. For questions about using the card, please contact our staff at the Tickets & Service counter, at the station or on the train.



There are direct connections from Schiphol Amsterdam Airport to Ede-Wageningen every 30 minutes. Additionally, twice an hour there is a connecting service from Schiphol to Ede-Wageningen where you have to change trains in Utrecht. The destination boards on the platform will indicate the different stations where the train will stop. Check for the names Ede-Wageningen or Utrecht and board the train and when necessary change in Utrecht. The trip from Schiphol to Ede-Wageningen takes you a bit more than one hour.

For Dutch train connections use [www.ns.nl](http://www.ns.nl), [www.thalys.com](http://www.thalys.com), [www.db.de](http://www.db.de)



The train station is not located directly in Wageningen. This lack is fully compensated by fair means of transportation by buses and taxis. From railway station Ede-Wageningen you can take a taxi (approx.15 min.). Taxis leave at the north side of the station. You can also come by bus: line 84, line 86 or line 88 (direction Wageningen/ Arnhem) leaves from the north side of the station. You have to purchase a ticket from the driver in the bus, which will cost about 3 euros.

