

Organized session at MMV10 Inclusive and accessible nature-based tourism

10th International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas - MMV10

Lillehammer, Norway, August 24-27, 2020.

This session addresses issues of inclusive and accessible nature-based tourism, and outdoor recreation on equal terms for different groups and needs. Access to tourism services and recreational activities is stated in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and increasingly, national and regional goals, policies and guidelines on accessibility and universal design are being developed. Still, it is a challenge for both public and private actors to make environments conducive to physical accessibility. Recently, Godtman Kling and Ioannides (2019) showed that relatively few studies have been published on nature-based tourism and disabilities. Accessible nature-based tourism appears to be a rather marginalized field of study even though there is evidence that spending time in nature has a number of health benefits.

This session wishes to highlight research on dilemmas and conflicts of interest in planning and management of natural areas, for example, how can improved accessibility and universal design be balanced with other priorities such as the need to safeguard “wilderness” experiences and aesthetic considerations and to protect nature from infrastructural developments. Are natural area commons open to all? What are the theoretical understandings of the concept of inclusive nature-based tourism?

This session would also like to explore good practices and solutions for increasing accessibility. In order for tourist destinations and recreational areas to be innovative and competitive, both private and public actors need to provide and develop infrastructure that allows for accessibility on equal terms. We therefore welcome research on public – private collaborations in planning and management, as well as research on key aspects for improving accessible tourism among nature-based companies and public organizations. In addition, as participation in nature-based activities can be linked to issues of health and well-being, we encourage studies concerning the topic of health and accessible nature-based experiences.

References:

CRPD Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-30-participation-in-cultural-life-recreation-leisure-and-sport.html>

Godtman Kling, K. & Ioannides, D. (2019). *Enhancing Accessibility in Tourism & Outdoor Recreation: A Review of Major Research Themes and a Glance at Best Practice* (Etour-report, 2019:4). Östersund: Etour, Mid-Sweden University.

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An extended abstract of **maximum 1000 words + one figure or table** should be submitted to the conference organizer by **March 31st, 2020**, and upon submission please adhere to the below guidelines. Abstracts will thereafter be reviewed by the steering committee and feedback will be given to authors by **May 15th**. Revised abstracts based on this review must thereafter be submitted to the conference organizer no later than **May 31st, 2020**.

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If one believes it to be relevant, a thematic session to be referred to can be selected from the list that is indicated in the conference website.

Save the document in MS Word format using the **First and Family name** of the presenter, for example *john.smith.doc*. E-mail the document (and your figure/table) no later than **March 31st, 2020** to: mmv10@nmbu.no

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