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GPTStudioS is a peer-reviewed international journal, publishing two-issue a year (June/December). GPTStudioS has been published online in English.

Although it is a peer-review academic journal, the authors have complete responsibility for the content of their papers.



ISSN


2791-7460

Journal's website

www.gpt-studios.org

e-mail & social media

 gptsjournal@gmail.com

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Geographies, Planning & Tourism StudioS

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Editorial

The Melting Pot of Geography, Planning, and Tourism: GPTStudioS... Winter 2022

The 2nd issue of 2022 and the 4th issue of GPTStudioS's journal are now available for reading. They emphasize the value of interdisciplinary and national/international research on Geography, Planning, and Tourism. GPTStudioS continues to provide a very relevant platform for disseminating interdisciplinary works combining theory and practice in related fields. As previously stated, 'Studio Studies' are activities that encourage innovative problem-solving and the use of new techniques to address primarily place-related cases; GPTStudioS continues to provide a very relevant platform for the dissemination of interdisciplinary works combining theory and practice in related fields.

The second issue of volume 2 of GPT-StudioS contains five papers: one personal reflective review and, as is the custom for the Studios, four intriguing papers, including three empirical and review manuscripts from the disciplines of urban planning, tourism, and geography. These are "Some Insights on Studio Courses in City and Regional Planning Education: A Personal Reflection"; "Accessibility Analysis of Green Spaces in Two Neighborhoods with Diverse Socioeconomic Status (SES) in Istanbul"; "Destination Love Analysis: Lake Van through Photographs and Comments"; "Challenges and Opportunities in the Opening Up of Van as a Tourism Destination in Iraq"; and "Evaluation of Psychogeography in Planning as a New Spatial Methodology via Walking Body

- The first paper is from the field of city and regional planning, by a legend scholar Tekeli who served as a Professor in the METU, focussing on the tenets of studio modules in the planning departments with a personal reflective experience of 40-year service as a lecturer. This paper opens a discussion on teaching and learning issues in planning departments as well as some learning lessons for the neighbour disciplines such as Geography, Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Design, and other space and place related studies.

- The second research is by Kılıç & Terzi, and mainly from the city and regional planning field: This article explores whether there is a relationship between socio-economic status (SES) level and accessibility to urban green spaces. Bakırköy and Bağcılar districts of İstanbul were chosen as sample areas because they are close to each other in terms of location, they are similar in terms of area and population, but their inhabitants' SES is different. Accessibility to green areas in these districts was evaluated according to the following indicators: a) the ratio of the amount of green area to the neighborhood area, b) the green area per capita, c) the average size of the green area and d) the ratio of the coverage of walking distance to the green space to the neighborhood. Scatter Plot Diagrams and GIS Buffer Analysis were used as analysis methods for the article. The findings reveal that there is a link between the SES index of the neighborhoods and the level of access to existing urban green spaces.

- The third article is from the field of Tourism, by Özoğul-Balyalı, Bayram-Öz, & Ocak, and to determine which elements stand out in the photographs and comments shared by visitors to Lake Van on the TripAdvisor website. 742 photographs and 278 comments created by visitors on the online sharing platform TripAdvisor formed the sample of this research. Photographs and comment analysis were performed through the MAXQDA qualitative data analysis program. As a result, visitor comments,

comprising prominent components of Lake Van, analogies to Lake Van, prominent components of the city of Van, suggestions, and negative comments are gathered under five themes. Seven themes were obtained from the visitor photographs; local products, activities, attractions around Lake Van, reflections, flora-fauna, historical buildings, and islands. In general, it was understood that the visitors liked the unique view of Lake Van and described it as a must-see place. It is expected that these research outputs will provide an idea about the destination image to all stakeholders and visitors involved in the tourism movement to determine which elements stand out in the photographs and comments shared by visitors to Lake Van on the TripAdvisor website. 742 photographs and 278 comments created by visitors on the online sharing platform TripAdvisor formed the sample of this research. Photographs and comment analysis were performed through the MAXQDA qualitative data analysis program. As a result, visitor comments, comprising prominent components of Lake Van, analogies to Lake Van, prominent components of the city of Van, suggestions, and negative comments are gathered under five themes. Seven themes were obtained from the visitor photographs; local products, activities, attractions around Lake Van, reflections, flora-fauna, historical buildings, and islands. In general, it was understood that the visitors liked the unique view of Lake Van and described it as a must-see place. It is expected that these research outputs will provide an idea about the destination image to all stakeholders and visitors involved in the tourism movement.

- The fourth article is once more from the tourism discipline, by Karaduman, Acar, Zengin & Sarikaya and focuses on Van's current tourism potential through the opinions of the participants, and to reveal the impact and change through knowledge in the field. Qualitative research was used as the research method. In this context, face-to-face interviews were held with local stakeholders working on Iraqi tourism in the collection of qualitative data. The conclusions reached in this research are as follows. Van has not been able to reveal and manage its tourism potential, due to a variety of reasons in recent years. Van's low recognition can be seen in the Iraqi market, and that Iraqis come to Van independently of any promotion, lobby, or information tour activities. In addition, it is concluded that the city of Van has the potential to achieve fast and effective results from the Iraqi tourism market thanks to its geographical and cultural proximity and strong historical ties. Another result is that since there is no direct air transportation to Van from Iraq, no data other than the number of foreign visitors entering through the border gates could be found. Therefore, the planning of direct flights between Iraq and Van, as a priority, remains important.

- Finally, the fifth article is a review, and from the discipline of city planning, by İlkey. It explores the concept of psychogeography and its relationship with the planning issues. Within this study, the main question is: "What kind of a knowledge can psychogeography present to planning via 'representations of walking experience' based on the two-folded map assumption?" This question will be answered within ontological, epistemological, and methodological scales via theoretical and practical readings on psychogeography, spatial topology, and place attachment. In the introduction part, the definition of psychogeography will be discussed. Constructing the methodology section, the epistemology of 'walking body' and the ontology of urban space will be held in relation. As the findings, the review of the related studies will be evaluated in relation with planning, space and psychogeography.

The first-year issues of GPTStudioS were indexed in the Directory of Research Journals Indexing, Türkiye Turizm Dizini, ResearchBib, and EuroPub in 2021, and the journal will continue to work in the coming years to reach its goal of being recognized in international indexes in addition to the TR DZN index.

We would like to begin by extending our gratitude to the issue's authors and referees, who contributed to the successful transformation of the studies into published papers by expending significant and invaluable scientific effort and time. We would also like to thank the journal's Editorial Team and Copy-Editing Editor for their crucial assistance and support.

We hope you find this issue interesting, and that it piques your interest enough to participate in future editions...

Editors

Dr. Emine Cihangir

(Van Yüzüncü Yıl University), eminecihangir@yyu.edu.tr

Dr. Kübra Cihangir-Çamur

(Gazi University), ccamurster@gmail.com

Dr. Mehmet Şeremet

(Van Yüzüncü Yıl University), mseremet@yyu.edu.tr

December 2022/Ankara-Van

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Studios