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Indexes

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Geographies, Planning & Tourism StudioS

<u>Content</u>		<u>Pages</u>
Editorial		I-VI
 <u>Research Articles</u>		
Eda HAZARHUN Reşat ARICA Burçin Cevdet ÇETİNSÖZ	<i>Ecological Sustainability Activities in Travel Agencies: A Research on Encourages and Barriers</i>	07-20
Ergin CANPOLAT	<i>Evaluation of Geomorphosite Potential and the Tourism Attractiveness of Uçansu Waterfall (Gündoğmuş-Antalya)</i>	21-32
Tuğçe ÖZOĞUL BALLYALI Ezgi BAYRAM ÖZ	<i>Metaphoric Perceptions of Tourist Guides Regarding the Destination Image of Van Province</i>	33-39
Münevver Özge BALTA	<i>An AHP-Based Multi-Criteria Model for Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Buildings</i>	40-45
 <u>Review Article</u>		
Şirin Gülcen EREN Seema Mehra PARIHAR	<i>International Sustainability Indices</i>	46-57

Editorial

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

In memory of the beloved Prof. Martin J. Haigh...

Aiming and underlining the significance of interdisciplinary and national-international studies on Geography, Planning, and Tourism, the 1st issue of 2022, and the 3rd issue of the journal of GPTStudioS is now ready to read. As we have mentioned before, 'Studio Studies' are activities that stimulate innovative ways of problem solving and using new techniques to deal with mainly place-related cases; GPTStudioS continues to carry a very relevant platform for disseminating interdisciplinary works combining both theory and practice in associated fields.

The 1st Issue of volume 2 of GPT-StudioS includes five papers; four research and a review article from the disciplines of tourism, geography, and urban planning. These respectively, are "Ecological Sustainability Activities in Travel Agencies: A Research on Encourages and Barriers"; "Evaluation of Geomorphosite Potential and the Tourism Attractiveness of Uçansu Waterfall (Gündoğmuş-Antalya)", "Metaphoric Perceptions of Tourist Guides Regarding the Destination Image of Van Province", "An AHP-Based Multi-Criteria Model for Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Buildings", and "International Sustainability Indices".

The first research is by Hazarhun, Arica & Çetinsöz, and mainly from the Tourism field while intersecting social sciences, gastronomy and culinary arts, and tourism Management to determine the factors that encourage and barrier to the ecological sustainability practices of travel agencies. In this perspective, semi-structured interviews are conducted with travel agency managers operating in Istanbul. The data was analysed using MAXQDA 2020 analysis software. The analysis showed that travel agencies do not have enough knowledge regarding sustainable tourism and ecological sustainability concepts, and applications. In addition, very few travel agencies have written policies, principles, and rules regarding ecological sustainability applications, which may lay a path for firms and managers during managerial processes and have a low rate of participation in voluntary environmental programs and certification applications for preserving the ecological environment.

The second article is from the discipline of Geography, by Canpolat, and provides outputs to the tourism and planning fields. It points out that natural resources are the main elements that create attraction in tourism. Waterfalls, which can be natural or artificial, can be centers of attraction due to their unique sights, noises, and ecosystem features in the immediate vicinity. In this study, the geomorphosite potential and the tourism attractiveness of Uçansu Waterfall were evaluated. The Geosite Assessment Model (GAM) which was supported by Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) was employed to explain the geomorphosite and tourism attractiveness values. According to the set of evaluation criteria, geological and geomorphological values make the waterfall a unique natural resource, and the climate of the region supports this potential.

The third article is once more from the tourism discipline, by Balyalı-Özoğul & Öz-Bayram, and focuses on destination image with stimulating findings and examines the metaphors developed by tourist guides that play an important role in the formation of the destination image. It aims to determine the perceptions of the Van province destination image of the tourist guides through metaphors and concentrates on the key role that tour guides have in affecting tourists'

destination perceptions. It is the first study in the literature that reflects the destination image of Van from the point of view of the guides by using qualitative research methods; a phenomenological approach is used to understand the perceptions of tourist guides towards Van. The metaphors of “paradise”, “pearl mullet” , “miniatürk”, “mosaic”, “marbling art”, “a garden with many different fruits”, “an ore that needs to be unearthed”, “an abstract treasure waiting to be discovered”, “an unfinished poem because its poet died”, and “sleeping beauty” were the main outputs those will inspire each tourism stakeholder working to improve the destination image of Van”.

The fourth article is from the discipline of City Planning, by Balta, and it relates to the fields of preservation planning and architecture, providing clues for tourism priorities in the reuse of historic buildings. It studies the priority order of the reuse alternatives of the heritage buildings by employing an Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) to optimise the assessment process in Aksaray Case. A decision-making model was established by the research, with the support of a literature review. The results revealed that the changes in factors of building features, accessibility, and environmental value directly influenced the priority order of the historic building reuse alternatives.

Finally, the fifth article is a review, and from the discipline of City Planning, by Eren & Parihar. It explores the range of international sustainability indices and the contributions that they may make to sustainable urban development, asking for the question of which the indexes constitute one of the best bases for the sustainability efforts of urban developers and planners. The contents of the indices vary by the country due to the development strategies adopted by different cities and regions. A descriptive analysis method is adopted and supported by a review of the literature and an internet-based search. The objective was to create awareness about the indices and to contribute to the effective implementation of decisions and strategies for achieving the SDGs.

At last, but not the least the first year issues of the GPTStudioS have been indexed in the Directory of Research Journals Indexing, Turkey Tourism Indexing, ResearchBib, and EuroPub in 2021 and will continue to work in the coming period to reach the target of being recognized in international indexes.

We would firstly like to thank the issue authors and the referees who contributed to the process of successfully turning the studies into published articles by expending intensive and invaluable scientific effort and time. We would also like to thank all the Editorial Team and the Copy-Editing Editor of the journal for their invaluable help and support.

We hope you find this issue informative, and grow future expectations that they inspire your curiosity to take part in the next issues...

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