



Geographies t u d Planning Tourism S

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Editorial

We are pleased to present the first issue of the fifth volume of GPT-StudioS, bringing together five original research articles at the intersection of geography, planning, and tourism. Each study addresses a current issue with a unique methodological approach and contributes to the field by creating a strong link between theory and practice.

The first article focuses on a specialized academic journal in the rapidly expanding field of SPA and wellness tourism. Titled “Bibliometric Analysis of the International Journal of Spa and Wellness,” the article by Mutlu offers a bibliometric overview of articles published in the International Journal of Spa and Wellness between 2018 and 2024. Based on Scopus data, the study identifies publication patterns, thematic concentrations, and country-level contributions, providing strategic insight into the structure and growth of wellness tourism literature.

The second article, focusing on participatory environmental management, proposes an innovative method to assess the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement in protected area planning. Titled “A New Approach to Analyzing the Participatory Dimension of Protected Area Management Plans in Türkiye,” the article by Düzgüneş and Karabıçak Günaydın applies this approach to Saros Bay Special Environmental Protection Area. Using expert surveys and stakeholder information forms, the study quantitatively evaluates plan effectiveness and highlights the need for enhanced legal and participatory mechanisms.

Extending the sustainability focus into the realm of cultural heritage, the third article explores how historical sites can be reinterpreted within tourism strategies. Titled “The Role of Cultural Heritage in Sustainable Tourism Development: The Case of Istanbul Kalkhedon Region,” the article by Aydın and Yüce investigates how the Kalkhedon (Kadıköy) district, long overshadowed by urbanization and demographic change, can contribute to sustainable tourism. The findings emphasize the importance of environmental sensitivity, cultural continuity, and local collaboration.

Shifting the lens to digital platforms, the fourth article examines how tourists’ experiences are shaped and remembered through online reviews. Titled “Examining the Memorable Tour Experiences of Tourists Using Google Maps Reviews,” the article by Aksoy analyzes 731 Google Maps reviews using a phenomenological approach. The study develops a theoretical model of eight core components, including shared experiences, knowledge, guide quality, and local culture, showing how digital content becomes part of the tourist memoryscape.

The fifth and final article engages with current discussions in tourism education by exploring the impact of legal change on students’ professional orientation. Titled “Reflections of Law No. 7500 Amendment on Career Decidedness of Tourist Guidance Students,” the article by Özsoy draws on survey data from 177 students. The findings show that the amendment to Law No. 7500 has increased students’ professional anxiety and shaped their career expectations, emphasizing that career decidedness is influenced not only by personal attributes but also by structural factors.

These contributions reflect interdisciplinary perspectives and offer both theoretical insights and practical solutions to emerging issues. We extend our sincere thanks to all contributing authors, the reviewers who supported the evaluation process, and the editorial team for their work in preparing this issue. We look forward to meeting you again in future volumes.

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