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Indexes

ASOS index

CABI

Directory of Research Journals Indexing

EBSCO

EuroPub

OJOP

ResearchBib

Road

Türkiye Tourism Indexing

Geographies, Planning & Tourism StudioS

Content

Editorial

Pages

I-VI

Research Articles

Erol Geçgin
Hazal Şeval Özbek

*Gastronomi ve Mutfak Sanatları Öğrencilerinin
Gıda Neofobi Düzeyinin Ölçülmesi*

1 - 10

*Measuring the Level of Food Neophobia of Gastronomy and Culinary
Arts Students Nature Education in Mount Ararat and Its Surroundings*

Adem Yulu

Ağrı Dağı ve Yakın Çevresinde Doğa Eğitimi

11 - 31

Nature Education in Mount Ararat and its Surrounding

Hakan Çalhan
Buse Küçük

*Otellerin Kariyer Yönetimi Uygulamaları ve Çalışanların Kariyer Tatmini:
Kapadokya Bölgesinde Bir Araştırma*

32 - 46

*Career Management Practices of Hotels and Employees' Career Satisfaction:
A Research in the Cappadocia Region*

Burcu Gök Olgun

Dünden Bugüne Antalya'da Turizm: Hüseyin Çimrin ile Bir Söyleşi

47 - 54

*Tourism in Antalya from Past to Present:
An Interview with Hüseyin Çimrin*

Özlem Altun
Servet Nasıfoğlu Elidemir
Mete Ünal Girgen
Ayşe Demir

*Cyprus Meyhane Flavours in the Context of Gastronomy Tourism:
Case of North Cyprus*

55 - 66

*Gastronomi Turizmi Bağlamında Kıbrıs Meyhane Lezzetleri:
Kuzey Kıbrıs Örneği*

Fatih Volkan Tırı
İsmail Kervankıran

Turizm Mekânlarını Post-Modern Coğrafyalarla Birlikte Düşünmek

67 - 86

Thinking tourism spaces together with post-modern geographies

Editorial

GPT Studios, Summer 2024: The Melting Pot of Geography, Planning, and Tourism

We would like to share some positive news while introducing the new 2024 volume: the GPTS Journal has started being indexed in EBSCO databases. Aiming to underscore the significance of interdisciplinary and national-international studies on geography, planning, and tourism, the first issue of 2024 and the seventh issue of the journal GPTStudioS are now ready to read. As we have mentioned before, ‘Studio Studies’ are activities that stimulate innovative ways of problem-solving and use 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 4 of GPT-StudioS includes six papers: five research papers and a review article from the disciplines of tourism and geography. These, respectively, are “Measuring the Level of Food Neophobia of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Students”; “Nature Education in Mount Ararat and its Surroundings”; “Career Management Practices of Hotels and Employees’ Career Satisfaction: A Research in the Cappadocia Region”; “Tourism in Antalya from Past to Present: An Interview with Hüseyin Çimrin”; “Cyprus Meyhane Flavours in the Context of Gastronomy Tourism: Case of North Cyprus” and “Thinking tourism spaces together with post-modern geographies”.

- The first research is by Geçgin and Özbek, mainly from the tourism field, intersecting social sciences, gastronomy and culinary arts, and tourism management, to discuss a new concept of food neophobia, which refers to the fear of trying new foods, and it is stated that this fear can cause nutritional difficulties. The general objectives of this study include providing details on how to administer the food neophobia scale to students studying gastronomy and culinary arts, evaluating the results, and formulating conclusions. This study employed a quantitative research method, selecting the survey technique as the primary data collection tool. The study, which consists of two parts, includes demographic information in the first part and 10 questions on food neophobia in the second part. These questions assess the fear of trying new foods using a scale called the Food Neophobia Scale. In the survey results, in which a total of 390 people participated, the rate of female participants was 65.9%, while the rate of male participants was 34.1%. Examining the age distributions reveals that 62.3% of the participants fall between the ages of 18 and 21. We performed a factor analysis reliability test and found the scale's reliability value to be 0.814. We collected data from 390 randomly selected Gastronomy and Culinary Arts students in Turkey, with a 95% confidence interval and a 5% margin of error.

- The second article is from Yulu in the geography discipline, and it provides outputs for the tourism and planning fields. Sustainable development goals, which prioritize environmental education and raising awareness, have led to an increase in the number of institutions supporting nature education projects in many countries around the world, including Turkey. Nature education projects have a known effect on individuals' awareness of nature. However, we face various difficulties, particularly in identifying nature education areas that align with the project's contents and formulating activity implementation plans. As a result, applications for these nature education projects are often limited. Hence, this study focuses on determining nature education areas and preparing different thematic sample activity implementation plans to benefit institutions and

researchers who want to apply to TÜBİTAK 4004-Nature Education and Science Schools Support Programs in Mount Ağrı (Ararat) and its immediate surroundings. The study employed the action research method, a qualitative research approach. At the end of the study, seven (seven) activity implementation plans were developed in five (five) main locations determined by nature education areas and various project contents in and around Mount Ağrı.

- The third article is once again from the tourism discipline, by Çalhan & Küçük, and focuses on the vibrant destination of Turkey, namely Cappadocia, with stimulating findings and examines the relationship between hotel career management practices and employee job satisfaction. To achieve this, we conducted a field study in the Cappadocia region. 400 survey data were collected through the questionnaire technique from the employees of 4 and 5 star hotels by convenience sampling method. We employed some central tendency measures and explanatory factor analysis. We applied Pearson correlation analysis to examine the relationships between variables. The analysis revealed that hotels actively employ strategies to choose employees who are fit for their roles, allocate tasks and responsibilities based on their skills, train new hires, and assess their job performance. On the other hand, it has been found that practices such as determining in advance the paths that employees will follow in order to reach higher positions in hotels, providing the necessary organizational assistance to employees to progress in their professions, and planning the jobs that the personnel can do in the future are implemented very rarely. Additionally, research reveals a significant and positive relationship between hotel career management practices and employees' career satisfaction.

- The fourth article is again from the discipline of tourism and geography by Olgun. This paper makes a methodological contribution to the literature by designing a qualitative model based on oral history. This study is particularly important for the historical development of a well-known tourism destination in Turkey, namely Antalya. This study was facilitated by an interview with Hüseyin Çimrin who went to Germany between 1965 and 1966 to do research on tourist promotion and tourist guidance, and after the training he received, he became Turkey's first tourism expert with a diploma from Germany and Antalya's first professional tourist guide in German. Throughout his career, Çimrin wrote many works on the history, culture, traditions, and customs of Antalya and was deemed worthy of the "Civilian Historian of Antalya" award for these works. At the same time, Çimrin, who has many works published in various languages and columns in newspapers and magazines about the tourist guiding profession and Antalya tourism, has received many awards from various institutions and has served as president of various associations that direct Antalya tourism. In this study, it is aimed at evaluating the tourism activities in Antalya from past to present through the eyes of Çimrin, who combines the identities of a tourism expert, a professional tourist guide, and a city historian. For this purpose, a three-hour face-to-face interview was held with Hüseyin Çimrin in Mermerli Park, located in the centre of Antalya, on February 24, 2024. In the interview, Çimrin answered questions about tourism activities in Antalya from the past to the present based on his experiences, observations, memories, and studies. This study presents a leading tourism professional's testimony on the evolution of touristic activities in Turkey from the past to the present, highlighting Antalya's significance as a key destination in Turkish tourism.

- The fifth article is from the discipline of tourism and gastronomy, by Altun, Elidemir, Girgen, and Demir, and it relates to the fields of gastronomy values of North Cyprus, providing local cultural values of North Cyprus. The primary goal of this research is to introduce the flavors of taverns "meyhanes" in Cyprus' eating and drinking culture and to explain the notion of gastronomy

tourism, which has gained popularity worldwide. A secondary goal involves promoting the highly valued tastes of Cyprus's culinary tradition. It also invites gastronomy tourists to Cyprus to explore what flavors to try. The literature review did not include a thorough academic investigation of Cyprus's traditional tastes. The study of gastronomy tourism will provide a fine illustration of Cyprus's tastes and food, where many different civilizations converge, and contribute to the body of literature. The study will clarify the terms "gastronomy" and "gastronomy tourism," and it will be the first academic examination of Northern Cyprus's food, culture, and preferences. The study aimed to make a contribution to the literature with its a comprehensive literature review on Cyprus cuisine to verify its validity. On the other hand, it's important to preserve the Cypriot culinary tradition and pass it on to future generations.

- The last, but not least, paper is from the field of tourism geography, a review paper by Tiri & Kervankiran. This study focuses on the post-modernism paradigm from the perspective of Tourism Geographies. This theoretical study has been prepared to try to understand the manifestations of post-modern geography and post-modern views on tourism spaces, which have been a critical paradigm in human geography since the 1980s. In this context, post-modern theory and post-modern geography literature within the boundaries of the study were analyzed through the relevant literature. The fractures of changing socio-economic conditions and many other parameters over time have brought about complex structures by materializing in spaces. We have attempted to comprehend the meaning of post-modern geographies and their formation within the framework of relationality. Additionally, we have attempted to communicate the perspectives formed within this framework through tourism spaces. The main goal of this study is to discuss the necessity of considering the restructuring and production of tourism spaces in conjunction with post-modern geographies.

Given that international and national recognition of GPT Studios increasing, we will persist in the upcoming period to achieve our goal of international index recognition. We would first 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 the journal's Assistant Editors (namely Dr. Emre Karaduman and Halil İbrahim Karatekin) and the Copy-Editing Editor (Kadir Başak) for their invaluable help and support.

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

We would also like to thank the journal's Assistant Editors (namely Dr. Emre Karaduman and Halil İbrahim Karatekin) and the Copy-Editing Editor (Kadir Başak) for their invaluable help and support.

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