

ABSTRACT

The scientification of tourism: Reflections and Future Issues.

Tourism as a past-time is deeply rooted in human history. The early migrants, venturing into unknown terrain, were the equivalent of contemporary adventure tourists. Tales of their wanderings often led to settlement, accompanied by reciprocal visiting of family and friends.

Towner (1996) provides a substantial historical perspective of the role of recreation and tourism in the Western world, 1540-1940. Adopting in part, that format, this article addresses the post-1950 emergence of tourism as a major factor in economic development. This new concept initiated studies leading to the scientification of tourism, as an integrated multi-disciplinary social science.

The sixty years, 1950-2010 are marked by rapid tourist expansion from a small business base to a global industry. World War II effected major changes in technology, as well as political structures and social values. Significant contributions from scholars in various disciplines demonstrate the successful process of scientification and the acceptance of tourism as a discipline and/or field of study.

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