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Understanding Tourism: A Critical Introduction

By Kevin Hannam, Dan Knox

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Understanding Tourism introduces tourism students to concepts drawn from critical theory, cultural studies and the social sciences. It does so with a light and readable touch, highlighting the ideas that underlie contemporary critical tourism studies in a practical and engaging way.

Specifically, the authors examine how post-structuralist thought has led to a re-imagining of power relationships and the ways in which they are central to the production and consumption of tourism experiences.

Eleven clear, relevant chapters provide an accessible introduction to tourism defining, explaining and developing the key issues and methods in this exciting field.

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Editorial Review

Review

An insightful and original approach to different aspects of tourism...The book is admirable for the interesting, vivid and shrewd style of writing which makes it really enjoyable for reading. Fun and humour are deliberately and successfully interwoven into the elevated academic analysis, thus making this text equally valuable for professionals, academics, students and anyone else who is passionate about tourism

European Journal of Tourism Research

At last! A refreshingly lucid text for students that substantially enriches the analysis of tourism and tourists. Hannam and Knox explore the recent theoretical insights that have helped tourist studies to escape from a self-imposed academic ghetto and have multiplied approaches to making sense of tourism. Clear, concise and stimulating

Tim Edensor

Manchester Metropolitan University

With this book Hannam and Knox have gone a long way towards elevating the study of tourism from the obscure margins of social science into a bona fide research area. They encourage us to think critically about the subject and successfully interweave dominant contemporary concepts to present tourism as a social, cultural, economic, and spatial phenomenon. Students will be sure to enjoy this innovative contribution which takes a 'user-friendly' approach and provides a useful pedagogic tool for those at all levels of study

Dimitri Ioannides

Professor of Human Geography; Mid-Sweden University and ETOUR

Understanding Tourism provides an in-depth and critical analysis of tourism studies that is conceptually rich, empirically strong and extremely accessible to scholars and students of tourism. It is a refreshing analysis of an extremely complex and multidimensional global phenomenon, and raises our understanding of tourism to new heights

Dallen Timothy

Professor of Tourism Development and Management, Arizona State University

A very interesting mobilities view of tourism with useful student-friendly text and exercises

John Urry

This is a useful and accessible introduction to critical approaches to tourism that will be a value for lecturers and students alike. The provision of many thought-provoking exercises will be of benefit for both teaching and learning

Greg Richards

Annals of Tourism Research

About the Author

Professor Kevin Hannam recently joined the Carnegie Faculty at Leeds Beckett University as Professor of Tourism Mobilities from the University of Sunderland where he was Associate Dean (Research) and Head of the Department of Tourism, Hospitality & Events.

Dr Dan Knox is Senior Lecturer in Tourism and Events Management at the University of West England, Bristol.

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