



The AGE (Spanish Association of Geographers) XV Colloquium of Tourism Geography will be organized by the Geography Department of the University of the Balearic Islands. The meeting will be held in Palma (Mallorca) between 6-8 October 2016. The key speaker will be Rob Fletcher, from the Sociology of Development and Change Department (Wageningen University, The Netherlands). Discussion boards will introduce further topics. Two fieldtrips will be organized to link theory and practice visiting Valldemossa, Deià, Escorca, Pollença and Alcúdia.

The themes covered will be the relation of tourism with capitalism crisis, nature conservation and sharing economy. The main language of the Colloquium will be Spanish, but the organizers encourage the submission of contributions in any other language of Spain, English or French. Abstracts should be submitted by 19 February 2016, and should be sent to coloquiogrupo10AGE@uib.eu, and should be no longer than 3,000 characters (including spaces).

The topics are:

1. **Tourism and crisis.** The relationship between tourism and the current systemic crisis is associated, particularly in Spain, with real estate development. This relationship has contributed to the bursting of the financial bubble, in a context of increasing liberalization of capital flows. Today, construction and tourism rise again as the sectors that will solve the crisis of capitalism, will revive the economy and will promote a new phase of growth. A dilemma exists: to return to the path of growth or to seize the opportunity to recast the relationship. Can we avoid repeating the same mistakes of the past? Can we help shape new forms of tourism that would bypass the contradictions that contribute to the crisis?

2. **Ecotourism.** Nature conservation is becoming part of tourist markets. For example, by promoting ecotourism as an element of the so-called green economy, which was proposed as a solution to the ongoing crisis at the Rio+20 summit. Furthermore, urban functions associated with tourism involve the commodification and privatization of natural areas, where conservation becomes just a complement. Additionally, the relationship between tourism and the physical environment is based on the demand for energy, water, land and materials. Tourism intensifies the use of natural resources, but how does it contribute to deepening systemic environmental contradictions?

3. **Sharing tourism.** The so-called collaborative economy is also presented as a fix to the crisis. Exchange practices, sharing goods or services between equals, change the rules of the market. However, the sharing economy has become a powerful business. Cases like Uber and Airbnb have raised the alarm due to their deregulatory effect, among other things. Advocates of this collaborative economy argue that the tourist rental of housing favours household economies, helping to stimulate local economies through increased social and territorial redistribution of tourism. In contrast, different groups have argued that this expansion of the "collaborative economy" entails the tourist commodification of housing and urban space. Where are the limits of "collaborative economy"?

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