

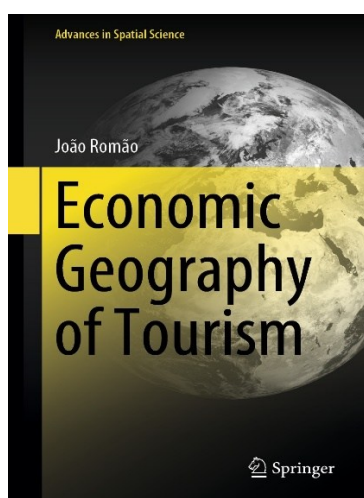
BOOK REVIEW

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF TOURISM

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Economic Geography of Tourism, João Romão, Cham, Switzerland, Springer, Advances in spatial perspectives Series, 2025, 249 pp., ISBN: 978-3-031-88625-6



This book addresses the major contemporary issues in tourism from an economic perspective. It constitutes essential reading for all those engaged in tourism—scholars, researchers, and students alike. The volume represents a valuable academic contribution distinguished by its multidisciplinary approach. From the opening pages, the author highlights cross-disciplinary perspectives that link tourism, economics, and geography, emphasising the significance of spatiality and temporality in contemporary economic geographies. Tourism is presented as an integral component of both the economy and economic geography, encompassing numerous facets that require careful examination.

Accordingly, the introduction makes a critical contribution by situating tourism within the interconnected contexts of economics and geography, while also presenting key perspectives relevant to current academic debates on tourism in a rapidly changing economic world. The first part of the book, entitled *Economic Geography to Tourism*, conceptualises tourism as a life-cycle phenomenon, connecting evolutionary development with path dependence and exploring the notions of spatiality, temporality, and co-terminality in tourism as a place- and knowledge-based activity. A particularly engaging chapter on smart tourism and the co-creation of experiences examines the role of social networks and big data, underscoring that in a digitalised world tourism cannot be understood apart from data and digital resources. Special attention is devoted to the

attributes of specialisation and innovation, critically analysed in the chapter *Tourism, Specialisation, Externalities, Agglomeration, and Regional Innovation Systems*.

Within the framework of contemporary smart specialisation, tourism is approached through the lenses of competitiveness, growth, and resilience, reflecting its dependence on global economic change and adaptation. In this respect, the author situates tourism within the new economic geographies, exploring creative economies and urban tourism. The second part of the book focuses on tourism and economic geographies, addressing urban tourism through circular economic processes, regeneration, gentrification, and social conflicts, before moving into more complex terrains such as thematic routes, spatial integration, and mediatised places. This section continues with an analysis of transport and spatial mobility, framed by sustainability and climate change, as well as tourism's impact on common resources under the umbrella of participatory governance. The final section is dedicated to regenerative tourism and management, aiming to inspire policy development at both regional and international levels. The conclusion reflects on the future of tourism within the context of contemporary spatial economies. Overall, this volume enriches existing literature in the field and stands as a significant academic work, with merit in both research and teaching.