

TOURISM OF SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITIES

– CALL FOR PAPERS –

Deadline for submission of texts: 30 April 2014

Leisure travel is a way to shine and stand out through the acquisition of new experiences. There are people, however, for whom travel is primarily an exercise in self-assertion when part of their identity must remain hidden or suppressed in daily life. This may be the result of a domestic environment that does not allow one to achieve their desired freedom. This is the case for sexual minorities (gays, bisexuals, transsexuals and transgender).

For these people, tourism can be more than traveling for recreation or rest. It is a time to live and fully assume their identity without fear of reprisal. Leisure travel for sexual minorities can become an opportunity for empowerment and assertiveness when destinations and places allow an individual to fully assume and live one's difference openly and safely. Thus, this tourism (often referred to by the more restrictive expression "gay tourism") completely dissociates itself from sex tourism - travel in order to participate in sexual activities, whether commercial or not, all orientations combined.

The "gay tourism" industry has grown considerably during the last twenty years, a sign of an increasingly recognized and sought after market. Similarly, the recognition of gay rights in many Western states in recent decades might suggest that the illegitimacy of sexual minorities is a matter of the past. If so, is there still a need for a "gay tourism"?

Conversely, cases of physical and psychological violence against persons of sexual and gender minorities and homophobia still exist in regard to this population – as in the case of the Olympic Games in Sochi , Russia – the oppression suggests that sexual discrimination is far from over. In which case, how does it affect the tourism practices of these people?

This special issue of *Téoros* therefore offers an opportunity to study those dynamics. First, it seeks to understand the needs of a specific group of travelers and their practices. Then, we ask how the destination and its stakeholders will develop products for the specific experience sought by those customers.

Your contribution may cover:

- The state of research on tourism for people of sexual minorities;
- The mobility issue for gay, bisexual, transgender and transsexual tourists;
- The role of tour operator specializing in services for these customers;
- The development of tourist services for a hyper specialized clientele in relation to identity issues;
- The strategies for tourism development of the destinations /enterprises which welcome sexual minorities;
- The coexistence of the tourism of sexual minorities with the rest of the industry;

- The impact of possible ghettoization of homosexual and transgender tourists and / or host communities;
- The role of social media in the promotion of the services and tourism destinations specializing on homosexuals and transgender people;
- The impact of popular culture and the representation of sexual minorities in tourism;
- The marketing of tourism for people of sexual minorities;
- The impact of gay pride festivals on the destination and its image (and other clients);
- Any other matter related to the theme .

In addition to documenting the problems faced by these tourists, this thematic issue identifies and proposes solutions that are needed to build a safe and healthy industry of tourism services, opened to one and all.

Contributors must submit a manuscript written in either English or French. An article in French will allow contributors to access a new group of readers. The articles must be presented according to the rules of the journal, available at www.teoros.revue.org/168. Submissions in Word format (no PDF) must be approximately 7000 to 7500 words and should include an objective, clearly stated research question, a description of the research methodology and a theoretical framework. A case study can be added to these elements but without tying up all of the space allocated to the theoretical development. *Téoros'* readership is international. Contributors are invited to reflect this reality in the presentation of their case study in order to make them accessible to readers less familiar with the destination studied.

Manuscripts submitted for publication in *Téoros* must convey an original scientific contribution. The authors are responsible for the content or opinions expressed as well as data correction and references. The deadline to submit a manuscript is April 30, 2014. The proposed texts must be submitted to the journal at:

teoros@uqam.ca

Please write "GAY Tourism" in the subject line. For more information, please contact Anne FOURNIER, Editorial Assistant (teoros@uqam.ca)

Téoros is an academic journal of tourism, published in French (although articles are occasionally published in English). The journal, founded in 1982, became a fully academic journal in 2008. It is multidisciplinary and is published twice a year. *Téoros* is a member of the Canadian Association of Learned Journals (ACRS) and is recognized by the *Agence d'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur de France* (AERES).

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