Tourism Geographies: toward a more inclusive world

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After skipping an issue due to space limitations, ‘Tourism Geographies’ continues its series of commentaries from our Editorial Board members in celebration of our 20th year of publication. The set of commentaries included in this issue of the journal were selected to support the special issue topic of Inclusive Tourism. The guest editors, Scheyvens and Biddulph (2017, p.5), build upon the United Nations Development Program’s (UNDP) 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in defining inclusive tourism development as ‘Transformative tourism in which marginalized groups are engaged in ethical production or consumption of tourism and the sharing of its benefits.’ This is a timely issue as marginalization and inequalities have become more apparent in recent decades, even as average income levels are rising worldwide and globalization is increasingly bringing people closer to one another through advances in telecommunications and transportation. The commentaries address some of the issues and possible solutions in this reconceptualized inclusive tourism, including understanding the challenges of race, gender, and ethnic discrimination; overcoming the marginalization of peripheral places and underrepresented cultures; and creating a tourism that increases mutual respect and appreciation for the diversity of peoples and places of the world. We are all parts of this planet, we all belong to this planet, and only by including everyone can we create a planet that expresses the full potential that life has to offer.

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References