Chapter 10
Banalizing the Altherity: When Suffering Turns Attractive

Maximiliano E. Korstanje
University of Palermo, Argentina

Lourdes Cisneros Mustelier
Universidad de la Habana, Cuba

ABSTRACT
This chapter discusses the problem of poverty as something finely integrated in dark tourism. Though originally, both concepts sound very distant, no less true is that dark tourism and slum tourism are inextricably intertwined. Throughout this chapter review, we placed a hot debate on the role of globalization as a chief agent oriented to connect dissimilar economies into an all-encompassing system. The question whether tourism should be considered ethical or not still remains open. In days of Thana-Capitalism the suffering pivoted as the main commodity not only that helps structuring social institutions, but the necessary mediator between lay-people and their states.

INTRODUCTION
In the academy, the attention given to themes associated to development, sustainability and problems emerged from real estate speculations has reached a significant facet of maturation (Holden, 2003; Lea 1993; MacBeth, 2005; Kampaxi, 2008). However, over recent years some critical voices questioned to what extent tourism should be considered an ethical activity (Hultsman, 1995; Malloy & Fennell, 1998; Garrod & Fennell, 2004; Fennell, 2015). Starting from the premise that tourists only are in

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-2750-3.ch010
Banalizing the Alterity

quest of pleasure-maximization, this raises the pungent question, what is the role of otherness in this hedonist behaviour?

Within philosophy, ethics are valorised as a form of enhancement which leads the self to progress. In tourism fields, for some reasons very hard to explain now, ethics was originally associated to the needs of protecting the interests of natives, or vulnerable agents as women, children. Ethics are commonly understood as the system of codes that promotes the correct conduct (Rushworth, 2003). While aboriginals have been historically debarred to live in conditions of poverty during years or occupying marginal position in main economy, no less true was that tourism offers a fertile ground to abandon poverty, slum accelerating the conditions for a fairer wealth distribution (Altman, 1989; Waitt, 1999; Korstanje, 2012).

Beyond European paternalism, which accompanied the inception and evolution of social anthropology, the fragility of local voices subrogates a sentiment of empathy from where tourism is rechanneled. This essay-review explores not only the ebbs and flows of ethics in tourism, but also the effects of neo-capitalism producing poverty worldwide. To be more exact, one of the promises of neoliberalism which is associated to the possibilities poor nations better their situation by embracing liberal trade, development and sustainability remain unchecked. In second terms under the quandary tourism is ethical or not, this chapter-review dissects the role of market and rationality as the main tenets of global consumption. Most likely, the fascination for others` pain derives from European Paternalism that accompanied not only the rise and expansion of colonialism, but also social sciences as well.

THE RATIONALITY OF DEVELOPMENT

At some extent, tourism metaphorically reflects the allegory depicted as a vehicle towards development was originally studied by Emanuel de Kadt who in his book, *Tourism: passport to development?*, dangles the probabilities that culture plays a vital role in explaining why development fails while in others points reaches success. For de Kadt, as well as many theorists of development, the problem of development are not constituted in the content of programs, unless by the fact some cultures are symbolically determined to accept authoritarian values, which impedes the revitalization of democratic institutions. Those countries which kept a past of violence, genocide or slavery have lesser probabilities to embrace development as a main option than other nations which forged an stable democracy. This discourse which was reinforced during neoliberalism not only resonated in tourism fields during 90s but also persisted up to date. The current narratives emulated by academy envisages

www.igi-global.com/e-resources/library-recommendation/?id=132

Related Content

The Effect of Room Service, Comfort, and Reservation Process on The Performance Dimension Evaluation: The Case of Grand Mercure Hotel Gajah Mada Jakarta
www.igi-global.com/article/the-effect-of-room-service-comfort-and-reservation-process-on-the-performance-dimension-evaluation/189744?camid=4v1a

Impact of Consumer-Generated Content (CGC) on Travel-Related Decisions
Ankush Ambardar and Himanshu Malik (2019). Handbook of Research on International Travel Agency and Tour Operation Management (pp. 238-250).
www.igi-global.com/chapter/impact-of-consumer-generated-content-cgc-on-travel-related-decisions/228304?camid=4v1a
The Impact of Social Network on Italian Users’ Behavioural Intention for the Choice of a Medical Tourist Destination

An Evaluation of the Attitudes and Perception of the Local Communities in Mysore Towards the Impacts of Tourism Development