



Research Week Presentation

The Local Turn in Tourism & Indigenous Place-Based Governance in the Kimberley

Date: Wednesday September 28 2022

Broome AWST Time: 09:00 – 10:00

Sydney AEST Time: 11:00 – 12:00

London BST Time: 02:00 – 03:00

Montreal: 27th September 21:00 – 22:00

Presenter/Presenters: Bobbie Chew Bigby & Joe Edgar



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Abstract

This session introduces the forthcoming edited volume, “The Local Turn in Tourism: Empowering Communities” (Channel View, 2022). Focused on the importance of ‘localising’ tourism in line with the values, perspectives, cultural lifeways and goals of local communities—inclusive of the non-human living environments in which communities are embedded—this volume argues for a turn away from profit-driven, consumptive tourism models, and towards visions of tourism that are grounded in communities. Drawing on theoretical perspectives, case studies, tourism practitioner cases, empirical research and future visions from around the world—ranging from the Kimberley region to Malta, Costa Rica and Oklahoma—this volume presents a kaleidoscope of approaches and ideas on the ways that a local turn in tourism is and can be possible.

Specific focus in the session will be devoted to the volume’s first chapter co-written by Bobbie, Joe and Freya Higgins-Desbiolles, entitled, “Place-based Governance in Tourism: Placing Local Communities at the Centre of Tourism.” This chapter talks about the ways that local governance and tourism intersect and influence one another, with exploration offered from the insights of place-based approaches to governance. Special attention is given the key case study of the chapter that focuses on Karajarri governance and tourism, with Joe Edgar detailing the differences in traditional versus contemporary governance approaches and how these apply to tourism development on Karajarri Country.

Biography

Bobbie Chew Bigby

Bobbie Chew Bigby is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Bobbie is based between Broome, Australia and Tulsa, Oklahoma where she is completing a PhD at the Nulungu Research Institute in the University of Notre Dame Australia, focused on comparative Indigenous tourism, culture and resurgence. Her past research fellowships, including a Fulbright award and Rotary Peace Fellowship, have taken her to Indigenous Australia, Burma, Cambodia, China and India for research and community-based work. Bobbie is a recent co-editor of the volume, “Socialising Tourism: Rethinking Tourism for Social and Ecological Justice” (Routledge, 2022). Bobbie is a recent co-editor/author of the volumes, “Socialising Tourism: Rethinking Tourism for Social and Ecological Justice” (Routledge, 2022) and “The Local Turn in Tourism: Empowering Communities” (forthcoming, Channel View, 2022).

Joseph Edgar

Mowandi Joe Edgar is a Parrjarri man, a descendant of the Karajarri and Yawuru people from the Kimberley region of Western Australia, and is a member and director of the Karajarri Traditional Lands Association Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBC) and Nyamba Buru Yawuru (RNTBC). Joe currently serves as the Senior Cultural Advisor/Elder-in-Residence for the Broome public school cluster. In his career that has spanned over 35 years, Joe has had extensive experience in Aboriginal affairs across numerous sectors, including with Indigenous tourism, arts, culture, governance, education and environmental issues. Joe has recently contributed as an author to the edited volume, “The Local Turn in Tourism: Empowering Communities” (forthcoming, Channel View, 2022).