

ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**TOURISM & LEISURE STUDIES**

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM MANAGEMENT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS, GREECE

**15-17 JUNE 2026**

**PATHWAYS  
TO RESILIENCE**

*SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES  
IN TOURISM AND LEISURE*

Eleventh International Conference on Tourism & Leisure Studies

<https://tourismandleisurestudies.com/2026-conference>

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# Welcome Letters



New Thinking

New Practices

New Societies

International Independent Interdisciplinary Scholar-led Non-Profit Since  
Research Networks Conferences Journals Books Media Lab 1984



Dear Conference Participants,

On behalf of Common Ground Research Networks, I welcome you to the Eleventh International Conference on Tourism & Leisure Studies.

Founded in 2015, the Tourism & Leisure Studies Research Network is brought together to explore the economic, cultural and organizational aspects of tourism and leisure. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

This truly international conference brings together a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world. We are proud to provide a platform for exchanging ideas, and presenting research, addressing some of the pressing issues of our time.

Our conference theme, "Pathways to Resilience: Sustainable Practices in Tourism and Leisure," reflects our commitment to exploring new frontiers in research and practice. Over the next few days, In-Person or Online, you will have the opportunity to attend keynotes, panel discussions, and other session types led by our Emerging Scholars. We encourage you to take full advantage of these sessions to gain new insights, expand your professional network, and find inspiration for your own work.

We want to thank our keynote speakers Dimitrios Buhalis, Aris Ikkos Vicky Katsoni, conference chair Apostolos Rafailidis, presenters, and volunteers whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. We also thank our host partner the University of Patras, for their generous support.

We hope you find this conference to be an intellectually stimulating and rewarding experience. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this event, and we look forward to the lively discussions and valuable connections that will emerge over the next few days.

Warm regards,

Dr. Phillip Kalantzis Cope  
Chief Social Scientist  
Common Ground Research Networks

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Department of Tourism Management at the University of Patras, Greece, and to the Eleventh International Conference on Tourism & Leisure Studies, with the special focus "Pathways to Resilience: Sustainable Practices in Tourism and Leisure." My colleagues from the Tourism & Leisure Studies Research Network and us are delighted to welcome you to this year's conference.

The 2026 edition of the conference provides an important opportunity to reflect on the transformations, challenges, and opportunities currently shaping tourism and leisure. In a context marked by global uncertainty, environmental pressures, technological change, and evolving social expectations, resilience and sustainability have become essential principles for the future of tourism and leisure systems. This conference invites participants to explore how destinations, organizations, communities, and individuals can contribute to more adaptive, responsible, and sustainable pathways for development.

Throughout the conference, we will engage in discussions across a wide range of thematic areas, including the changing dimensions of contemporary tourism and leisure, the evolution of tourism and leisure industries, and critical issues affecting the field today. Special attention will be given to innovative and sustainable practices, resilience strategies, technological transformations, and the role of tourism and leisure in fostering inclusive and socially responsible futures.

Our aim is to create an open and collaborative space for dialogue among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and educators from diverse disciplinary, cultural, and geographical backgrounds. The Eleventh International Conference on Tourism & Leisure Studies encourages us to exchange perspectives, challenge established assumptions, and collaboratively identify solutions that respond to the complex realities facing tourism and leisure worldwide.

We are especially grateful to our Conference Chair, Associate Professor Apostolos Rafailidis, Head of the Department of Tourism Management at the University of Patras, and the local organizing committee for their generous hospitality and invaluable support in hosting this conference. We would also like to thank our plenary speakers, panel participants, and colleagues at Common Ground Research Networks for their dedication and professionalism throughout the organization of this event.

We are confident that this conference will provide a stimulating environment for intellectual exchange, collaboration, and the development of new ideas and partnerships. Thank you for contributing your work, your insights, and your enthusiasm to this international community.

We wish you a rewarding and inspiring experience, both academically and personally.

Best wishes,

Prof. Esmeralda Crespo Almendros  
Prof. Ana I. Polo Peña  
Department of Marketing and Market Research  
University of Granada, Spain  
Research Network Chairs and Editors, Tourism & Leisure Studies Research Network



**University of Patras, Faculty of Economics and  
Business Department of Tourism Management**

**Eleventh International Conference on Tourism and Leisure Studies  
"Pathways to Resilience: sustainable practices in tourism and leisure"**

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of all colleagues at the University of Patras, we warmly welcome you to the Eleventh International Conference on Tourism and Leisure Studies and to Patras. The theme of the conference for this year is "Pathways to Resilience: sustainable practices in tourism and leisure", a topic with a global significance.

Working with the Tourism Administration Region of Western Greece and all conference participants, we will be striving to focus on aspects of the future of tourism and leisure, discussing the changing dimensions, challenges and critical issues contemporary tourism and leisure will be facing.

Along with the anticipated discussions and exchanges of views during our conference meetings, we will also have the opportunity for cultural discussions, should you choose to participate in the scheduled site visits and events, such as the walking tour of Patras, the dinner at Patras sailing club and the experiential visit to the historic Achaia Clauss winery. Our city is also a hub for the world heritage sites of ancient Olympia and Delphi, offering great opportunities for exploration.

Extending our warm welcome on behalf of our local host committee:

Dr. Maria Argyropoulou, Dr. Evangelia Chatzopoulou, Dr. Vassiliki Karioti, Dr. Paraschi Elen – Paraskevi and Dr. Nikolaos Theocharis

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Rafailidis".

Dr. Apostolos Rafailidis  
Dept. Head, Associate  
Professor



# Tourism & Leisure Studies Research Network

Founded in 2015, the **Tourism & Leisure Studies Research Network** is brought together to explore the economic, cultural and organizational aspects of tourism and leisure. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. As a Research Network, we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

The **Tourism & Leisure Studies Research Network** explores two key phenomena of contemporary times, each of which is currently undergoing striking processes of transformation.

Leisure is a domain of relative freedom and pleasure positioned in contrast to the necessities and duties of paid or domestic work. All human societies have modulated work with leisure, moments of dutiful exertion with moments of recreational pleasure. Today, the nature and place of leisure activities are undergoing transformations influenced by changing social norms, economic realities, and mediating technologies. What is the nature of these socio-historical changes? How can the study of leisure, as a bounded domain of investigation and as grounded site for the exploration of more general social phenomena, provide a unique insight into the nature of these socio-historical changes?

Whereas leisure is a universal in all societies, tourism is a principally modern phenomenon. Tourism is the social practice of travel, primarily for the purposes of leisure. Although affluent minorities undertook limited tourism before modern times, mass tourism is a phenomenon that began in the mid-nineteenth century with the affordable railway ticket. Today, more than one billion tourists travel each year, and their spending represents a significant and growing sector in the world economy. This is also a time of dramatic change in modes and markets for tourism. This affects questions of economics, management, and employment in the burgeoning tourism and leisure industries. Critical social and ethical issues accompany this transformation, including questions of sustainability, cultural interaction, local impacts, and variable access to opportunities to tour.

## Methods, Models, and Practices

How to connect conceptual foundations of tourism and leisure to the social and natural sciences and back?

- Subjects of History – Legacies of Hospitality, Tourism, and Leisure Practices
- Considering Scale and Frame – International, National, and Regional Tourism
- Diversity of Meanings – Navigating Cultural Sustainability and Heritage Development
- Visions of Progress – Management, Planning and Policy Interventions
- Participant and Observer – Integrative Approaches to Inquiry, Method, and Practice
- Theoretical Contributions – From Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Fields to the Social and Natural Sciences

## Participation, Access, Impacts

How do the practices of tourism and leisure reveal consequential impacts of everyday life?

- *Whose Leisure?* – Inequalities in access to leisure time and facilities
- *Who Counts?* – Stakeholders in the tourism ecosystem
- *In Search of the New* – Emerging Markets, Community Impacts
- *Lived Realities* – Changing Patterns and Cultures of Consumption
- *The Business of Travel and Tourism* -- Human resources and talent management, global employability
- *Volunteerism* – leisure / work, opportunity / exploitation
- *Recognizing Common Spaces* – Ecological Footprints, Biospheres, and Eco-Spheres

## Communicating Experience

What are the forces that shape the communication of experiences in time and space?

:

- *Beyond Place-Based* – Virtual Tourism, Online Experience, Digital Culture
- *Visual Vectors* – Media, Technology and Visitor Experience
- *Leisure Spaces* – Social Media, Online Interaction
- *More Than Images* – Journalism and Writing
- *Framing Authenticity* – Location, Service, Product Identity, and Branding
- *Collective Experience* – Festivals, Art and Creative Gatherings
- *Cultures of Care* – Considering Hospitality in Context

## Future Practices

In what ways must we consider new approaches, concepts, frameworks, to promote new research, models, and practices?

- *Long Term Planning*– Contesting “Financial Years” and “Instant Gratification”
- *Ethical Business Models* – Social Economies, Platform Cooperatives, Land Ownership
- *Managing Change* – Crisis management, risk and disaster management, business continuity
- *Evaluation and Measurement* – Education and Training for the Tourism and Leisure Industries
- *Fostering Diverse communities* – Culturally sensitive, Gender equity, ability access
- *Environmental Tourism* – Rural, Remote, Agrotourism, Eco-Tourism
- *Demographically Defined Tourism* – Children, Youth, Family, Retirement, Disability, Gender, LGBT Tourism

## Carolyn Lusby

Associate Professor, Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at Florida International University, United States



Dr. Carolyn Lusby is an Associate Professor and Co-direction of Global Sustainable Tourism at the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at Florida International University, where she teaches graduate and undergraduate-level courses in tourism, research methods and leadership. She received her doctoral degree in Tourism Recreation and Sport Management from the University of Florida in 2007. Furthermore, Dr. Lusby holds a master's degree in Tourism and the Environment from the World Leisure Center of Excellence at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

## Esmeralda Crespo Almendros

Full professor, Department of Marketing and Market Research, University of Granada, Spain



Esmeralda Crespo Almendros has a Ph.D. in Economic and Business Sciences from the University of Granada. She has been a University Professor in the Department of Marketing and Market Research since 2021, her lines of research are related to integrated marketing communication, online consumer behavior, tourism marketing, and cross-cultural communication. She has been a visiting professor at the Universidade do Algarve (Faro, Portugal) and at the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra (Portugal).

## Ana Isabel Polo-Peña

Full Professor of Marketing and Market Research, University of Granada, Spain



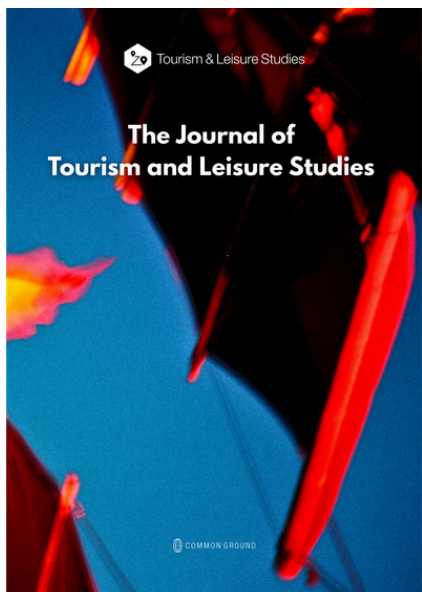
Ana Isabel Polo-Peña is an Full Professor of Marketing and Market Research at the University of Granada (Spain). She has developed a constant trajectory in research focused on tourist behavior, rural and sustainable tourism, marketing and technological strategies orientated to the market. She has published in Tourism Management, International Journal of Hospitality Management, Journal of Travel Research, Journal of Sustainable Tourism, Journal Small Business Management, Entrepreneurship and Regional Development, The Services Industries Journal, and other scholarly journals. She is collaborating as a coordinating editor with the International Journal of Hospitality Management since 2020. She has participated in several competitive research projects and coordinates research projects at the regional and at EU level. She is Visiting Research Fellow at the Liverpool John Moores University (Liverpool, UK) since 2022. Also, she coordinated six editions of the official Postgraduate Program Master in Marketing and Market Research at the University of Granada.

The **Tourism & Leisure Studies Research Network** is grateful for the foundational contributions, ongoing support, and continued service of the following world-class scholars and practitioners

- **Dr. Christina Cameron, Professor**, School of Architecture and Canada Research Chairperson in Built Heritage, Université de Montréal; former DG, Parks Canada; former Chair, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, Paris
- **Nimit Chowdhary**, Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Mahalgaon Gwalior, India
- **Dr. Chris Cooper**, Professor in the School of Events, Tourism and Hospitality Management Leeds Beckett University, UK; Co-Founder, Progress in Tourism, Hospitality and Recreation Research and the International Journal of Tourism Research and is now the Co-Editor of Current Issues in Tourism.
- **Raj Chintaram**, African Network for Policy, Research & Advocacy for Sustainability, Mauritius
- **Dr. Amaeswar Galla**, UNESCO Chair on Inclusive Museums and Sustainable Heritage Development, Professor of Inclusive Cultural Leadership and Director, International Centre for Inclusive Cultural Leadership (ICICL), and Dean of Faculty Development and Leadership, Anant National University, Ahmedabad, India; Executive Director, International Institute for the Inclusive Museum, Australia/India/USA; UNITWIN-UNESCO Network – Tourism, Culture and Development, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne; and Former Vice President, ICOM, Paris, and former President, ICOM of the Asia Pacific, Paris.
- **Dr. Sergio Moreno Gil**, Professor and Director of Institutional Relations of the UNESCO Chair of Tourism Planning and Sustainable Development; and Director of Marketing and Destination Development at TIDES Tourism and Sustainable Development Institute at the Universidad Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.
- **Dr. Vanessa GB Gowreesunkar**, Associate Professor in Tourism, Anant National University, India; Former Head of Department, Tourism and Hospitality Studies, University of Africa Toru-Orua, Nigeria; & Editorial Advisory Board Member/Liaison Officer - International Journal of Tourism Cities, Emerald Insight.
- **Dr. Maria Gravari-Barbas**, Professor and UNESCO Chair in Culture, Tourism & Development; Convener UNESCO UNITWIN; and Vice President for International Relations, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France.
- **Dr. Michael Hall**, Professor, Department of Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship, University of Canterbury, New Zealand; Visiting Professor, Linnaeus University, Sweden; Guest Professor, Lund University, Sweden; and Docent, University of Oulu, Finland.
- **Dr. Oliver Kesar**, Tenured Professor at the Department of Tourism, Faculty of Economics & Business, University of Zagreb, Croatia.
- **Rafael Robina Ramírez**, University of Extremadura, Cáceres, Spain
- **Dr. Asli D.A. Tasci**, Interim Chair, Department of Tourism, Events and Attractions; Associate Professor Tourism and Hospitality Marketing, UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, University of Central Florida, Orlando, US.
- **Dr. Shem Wambugu Maingi**, School of Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Studies, Kenyatta University, Kenya; IUCN WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group; ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Committee; and Member, Ecotourism Kenya.
- **Dr Huang Yong**, Researcher, Nature and Culture Heritage Research Center of Nanjing University; and Vice President, Suzhou Wudu National Association of Historical and Cultural Cities, China.
- **Dr. Mike Robinson**, Professor of Cultural Heritage, Nottingham Trent University, UK.
- **Dr. Ana Garcia-Lopez**, Professor, Researcher and Director of the Chair for Innovation in Crafts, Design and Contemporary Art (University of Granada). Principal Researcher of Interreg Project "HERIT ADAPT: HERItage and Territory Resilience Through Sustainable Tourism, Climate Change ADAPtation and Citizen Engagement.



**Journal of**  
Tourism and Leisure Studies



## Journal of Tourism and Leisure Studies

The Journal of Tourism and Leisure Studies provides an international and interdisciplinary forum for scholarly studies in tourism and leisure studies. Articles may be focused within disciplinary boundaries, however, many also take an interdisciplinary approach, at times necessarily so given the complex and expansive nature of the questions raised.

The Journal of Tourism and Leisure Studies is peer-reviewed, supported by rigorous processes of criterion-referenced article ranking and qualitative commentary, ensuring that only intellectual work of the greatest substance and highest significance is published.

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## Indexing

- CABI's Leisure Tourism Database
- Social Science (ProQuest)
- Management (Cabell's)
- Marketing (Cabell's)

Articles published in the **Journal of Tourism and Leisure Studies** are peer-reviewed by scholars who are active members of the **Tourism and Leisure Studies Research Network**. Common Ground Research Networks uses a two-way anonymous peer review system. The publisher, editors, reviewers, and authors all agree upon the standards of expected ethical behavior as based on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Core Practices.

## Journal Editors

**Dr. Carolin Lusby**

Florida International University, United States

**Dr. Esmeralda Crespo Almendros**

University of Granada, Spain

**Dr. Ana Isabel Polo-Peña**

University of Granada, Spain

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Common Ground Research Networks (Not-for-Profit) is proud to be a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Publishers Compact. Launched in collaboration with the International Publishers Association, the compact "features 10 action points that publishers, publishing associations, and others can commit to undertaking in order to accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Signatories aspire to develop sustainable practices and act as champions of the SDGs, publishing books and journals that will help inform, develop and inspire action in that direction."

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**Eleventh International  
Conference on Tourism &  
Leisure Studies**



Founded in 2015, the **Tourism & Leisure Studies Research Network** is brought together to explore tourism and leisure's economic, cultural, and organizational aspects.

## Past Events:

- 2016 - University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii
- 2017 - University of British Columbia, Robson Square, Vancouver, Canada
- 2018 - Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Tides Research Center, and EU Turismo de Lanzarote held at Hotel Princesa Yaiza, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain
- 2019 - Florida International University, Miami, USA
- 2020 - University of Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik, Croatia (Virtual)
- 2021 - University of Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik, Croatia (Virtual)
- 2022 - Muziris International Research & Convention Center, Kerala, India (Virtual)
- 2023 - University of Granada, Granada, Spain
- 2024 - Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK
- 2025 - University of Curaçao, Willemstad, Curaçao

The **Tourism and Leisure Studies Research Network** is thankful for the contributions and support of the following organizations.



MINISTRY OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Apostolos Rafailidis

Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Tourism Management,  
University of Patras, Greece



Dr. Apostolos Rafailidis is an Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of Tourism Management of the University of Patras, Greece. His background is in economics, whilst his postgraduate studies are in the field of economics of technology and, more specifically, in innovation and technology management. The PhD of Dr. Rafailidis refers to the subject of organizational learning. More precisely, the thesis is on technological learning from inter-firm cooperation. His main interests revolve around technology and innovation management, organizational learning, organizational change, technological cooperation between firms, business planning, entrepreneurship and business strategy. His engagement with issues related to innovation goes back to 1992, whilst he has worked on technology transfer between countries since 1994 and with entrepreneurship since 2001. Dr. Rafailidis has worked as the scientific director for the technology transfer office of the University of Patras. He has co-authored a book on tourism firms management and was the editor of another book on tourism management, whilst also having authored chapters in collective books. His work has been presented in international conferences and published in journals, having more than 300 google scholar references and more than 200 ResearchGate ones. Finally, he has taught at eight foreign universities, under the Erasmus+ program.

## Dimitrios Buhalis

Director, eTourism Lab and Deputy Director, International Centre for Tourism and Hospitality Research, Bournemouth University Business School, UK



### "Smart Tourism AI and Metaverse Transformations"

Professor Dimitrios Buhalis is Director of the eTourism Lab and Deputy Director of the International Centre for Tourism and Hospitality Research, at Bournemouth University Business School in England. He is a Strategic Management and Marketing expert with specialisation in Information Communication Technology applications in the Tourism, Travel, Hospitality and Leisure industries. He is the Editor in Chief of Tourism Review and the Editor in Chief of the Encyclopedia of Tourism Management and Marketing.

Professor Buhalis has written and co-edited more than 25 books and 400 scientific articles. Professor Dimitrios Buhalis was recognised as a Highly Cited Researcher 2020, 2021 and 2022 by Clarivate™. He is featured in the Stanford University's database of the world's top 2% of scientists. He is the 2nd most cited for tourism, 1st most cited for hospitality, 10th on strategy, and 24th in Marketing on Google Scholar with more than 90000 citations and h-index 123. Dimitrios works closely with United Nations World Tourism Organisation and the World Bank to ensure that his innovative research has relevance and impact to global communities. For more information, books, articles and presentations see [www.buhalis.com](http://www.buhalis.com).

**17 June - 09:00 AM Greece Time Zone (Online)**

## Aris Ikkos

Research Director, Institute SETE, Greece



***"Myths and Facts about (Greek) Tourism, its Resilience and Sustainability – a data-based approach."***

Dr. Aris Ikkos, ISHC, TTRA, is Research Director at Institute SETE, the Research Institute of the Greek Tourism Confederation. Under his Directorship, the Institute has published more than 350 studies and almost 100 statistical bulletins. In addition, it has developed an exemplary tourism business intelligence site which includes a section tracking current developments in the market with weekly updates.

INSETE's current research programme focuses on issues of market dynamics, contribution of tourism to the Greek economy, sustainability, digital transformation, quality and skills development and adaptation.

He has consulted the Greek Tourism Industry since the late '80s and has been involved in numerous projects ranging from destination development and regional tourism planning to market research and investment appraisal for all forms of private and public tourism infrastructure (e.g. hotels, marinas, casinos, spas, managed attractions and conference centers).

Dr. Ikkos holds a Ph.D. (Econ) from the University of London. He is also a Certified Trainer from the UK Institute of Training and Development. Currently he is on the Board of Directors of the European Chapter of the Travel and Tourism Research Association. He is also a member of the by-invitation-only International Society of Hospitality Consultants and has also been a member of The Academy of Experts, a body providing accreditation of Expert Witnesses.

**16 June - 09:00 AM Greece Time Zone**

## Vicky Katsoni

Professor, Tourism Marketing and e-Tourism, University of West Attica, Greece



***"Artificial Intelligence and Cultural Tourism: Connecting Technology, Heritage, and Regenerative Value"***

Vicky Katsoni holds a PhD in Tourism Marketing Management and ICT Applications in Tourism. She is a Professor in Tourism Marketing and e-Tourism modules at the University of West Attica, Athens, Greece, and Director of the Tourism Distance Learning Programs of the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Faculty of Business and Social Sciences. She has published 19 books on tourism, many chapters in edited volumes, and numerous papers on highly academic journals. She is the President of the nonprofit "International Association of Cultural and Digital Tourism" (IACuDiT.org), and a member of the Editorial Board of many journals in tourism and marketing. She has directed and participated in several European and National research projects and works as an Expert, evaluator and reviewer of projects requesting European Commission funding such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus + KA2, and Cost. Her research interests include e-tourism, tourism marketing, tourism destination strategies and DMOs, cultural tourism, tourism consumer behavior and sustainability in tourism.

**15 June - 09:30 AM Greece Time Zone**

Each year a small number of Emerging Scholar Awards are given to outstanding early-career scholars or graduate students. Here are our 2026 Emerging Scholar Award Winners.

**Varvara Bravou**

University of Patras,  
Greece



**Ekaterina Shebanova**

CETT Barcelona School of Tourism,  
Hospitality and Gastronomy, Research  
Group TURCiT, Spain



**Alexandra Maris**

State University of New York at  
Binghamton,  
United States



**Angelos Dimopoulos**

University of Patras,  
Greece



**Matthew C. Ogwu**

Appalachian State University,  
United States



**Fetine Bayraktar**

Eastern Mediterranean University,  
Northern Cyprus



**Vasiliki Matika**

University of Patras,  
Greece



**Tay Kai Xin**

Universiti Malaysia Sabah,  
Malaysia



**Matthew Retana**  
California Polytechnic  
University Pomona,  
United States



**Nicole Hay**  
International College of  
Management Sydney,  
Australia



## Online Welcome and Training Session

Join other delegates for a pre-conference welcome reception and training session. This special event will walk you through the CGScholar Event Mircosite so you have a rich online experience by learning how to comment and participate online. It will also teach delegates how to update their profile and Presenter Pages in order to add digital media: video, sound, other files. This will be held "live" via Zoom.

**15 June 2026 - 19:00 PM (Greece Time Zone) / 11:00 AM (Central Standard Time USA)**

## Online Talking Circle

Talking Circles are a distinctive feature of our in-person conference, and this year we are also taking them online. Talking Circles offer an opportunity to meet other delegates face-to-face, and engage in extended discussion about the issues and concerns they feel are of utmost importance to that segment of the Research Network. Participation is open, encouraged, and supported.

**17 June 2026 - 18:00 PM (Greece Time Zone) / 10:00AM (Central Standard Time USA)**

## Pre Conference Walking Tour - 14 June 2026

Discover the fascinating layers of Patras — from ancient Roman landmarks to lively modern squares — on this engaging afternoon walking tour that ends with a breathtaking sunset over the Gulf of Patras.

We begin with a guided visit to the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, the largest church in Greece, built on the sacred site where Apostle Saint Andrew was martyred. Here, we'll explore both the Old and New Saint Andrew Churches and the Demetra's Spring, an ancient water source associated with the area's early Christian and pre-Christian history.

From there, we stroll along Trion Navarchon Street and Riga Fereou Street, two of Patras' most vibrant thoroughfares filled with cafés, local shops, and neoclassical charm. We pause at Queen Olga's Square and King George I Square, the beating heart of the city, where we admire the Apollo Theatre, a masterpiece designed by Ernst Ziller that stands as a symbol of Patras' cultural heritage.

Our walk continues along Gerokostopoulou Street and Ifestou Street, both bustling with life and lined with historic façades. We then reach the Roman Stadium and the Roman Odeum, two well-preserved monuments that reveal the grandeur of Patras during the Roman era.

We'll then visit the Pantokratoras Church, one of the oldest surviving Byzantine churches in the city, before wandering through the oldest streets of Patras that wind around the Castle of Patras, offering glimpses into centuries of layered history.

Our journey culminates at the St. Nicholas Stairs, one of the city's iconic staircases connecting the lower and upper towns. From here, we'll enjoy a stunning sunset view over the rooftops of Patras, the harbor, and the Rio–Antirrio Bridge — a perfect finale to our exploration.

### Includes:

- English-speaking professional guide
- Walking route through historic and cultural landmarks

### Not Included:

- Food and beverages

**Date:** 14 June, 2026

**Time:** 17:00 h (5:00 PM)

**Duration:** Approx. 3 hours

**Meeting point:** Cathedral of Saint Andrew

## Tourism Case Study Day - 17 June 2026

### Tourism Case Study Day at Achaia Clauss Winery

Join us for a unique experiential learning activity at the historic Achaia Clauss Winery in Patras. This special Tourism Case Study Day offers participants the opportunity to explore the winery's heritage, learn about its regenerative tourism policy, and engage in a cultural tourism workshop led by experts from the University of Patras.

The program includes a guided historical tour of the winery, a presentation on regenerative tourism practices, a wine tasting session, and lunch at the winery. The day will conclude with an interactive Cultural Tourism workshop facilitated by Maria Argyropoulou, Research & Teaching Fellow at the Department of Tourism Management, University of Patras.

### Tourism Case Study Day - Schedule

10:30–11:00 - Transfer to Achaia Clauss Winery.

11:00–11:30 - Achaia Clauss historical tour.

11:30–12:30 - Presentation: Achaia Clauss Regenerative Tourism Policy.

12:00–12:15 - Questions & Answers.

12:30–13:00 - Wine tasting.

13:00–15:00 - Lunch break at the winery.

15:00–15:45 - Cultural Tourism workshop, led by Maria Argyropoulou, Research & Teaching Fellow, Department of Tourism Management, University of Patras.

16:00 - Transfer to University of Patras.

**Date:** Wednesday, 17 June 2026

**Time:** 10:30 (10:30 AM)

**Location:** Department of Tourism Management, University of Patras, Μεγάλου Αλεξάνδρου, Meg. Alexandrou, Patra 263 34, Greece

## Conference Opening Reception - 15 June 2026

The International Conference on Tourism & Leisure Studies will be hosting a Opening Reception at the University of Patras directly following the last session of the day. Join other delegates and plenary speakers to enjoy drinks and light hors d'oeuvres.

**Date:** 15th June 2026

**Time:** Directly following the last session of the day

**Location:** University of Patras

## Conference Dinner - 16 June 2026

Join your fellow delegates for a delicious dinner at Istioploikos Omilos Patra in Patras Sailing Club.

From the restaurant: "The Patras Sailing Club is undoubtedly one of the finest places in the city to enjoy fish and seafood. Located right by the waves, in the heart of Patras on Agia Beach, it promises an exceptional dining experience. It comes as no surprise that in recent years the Patras Sailing Club restaurant has become a favorite among locals, renowned both for its charming setting and the outstanding freshness of its ingredients. Be sure to try the shrimp wrapped in kataifi, the steamed or cream-style mussels, as well as the daily selection of fresh fish and seafood. One bite is enough to convince you, guaranteed! We tasted incredibly fresh red mullet, which remains unforgettable, along with the atherina and the octopus. The quality of the fish, combined with the stunning sea view at the Patras Sailing Club, will leave you completely captivated."

**Date:** Tuesday, 16 June 2026

**Time:** 19:00 (7:00 PM)

**Location:** Iroon Polytechnic Marina Terpsitheas, Patras, 26441 Greece



Common  
Ground  
Research  
Networks

# COMMON GROUND

Founded in 1984, Common Ground is committed to building new kinds of knowledge communities, innovative in their media, and forward-thinking in their messages. Heritage knowledge systems are characterized by vertical separations--of discipline, professional association, institution, and country. Common Ground Research Networks takes some of the pivotal challenges of our time and curates research networks that cut horizontally across legacy knowledge structures. Sustainability, diversity, learning, the future of humanities, the nature of interdisciplinarity, the place of the arts in society, technology's connections with knowledge--these are deeply important questions of our time that require interdisciplinary thinking, global conversations, and cross-institutional intellectual collaborations.

Common Ground Research Networks are meeting places for people, ideas, and dialogue. However, the strength of ideas does not come from finding common denominators. Rather, the power and resilience of these ideas is that they are presented and tested in a shared space where differences can meet and safely connect--differences of perspective, experience, knowledge base, methodology, geographical or cultural origins, and institutional affiliation. These are the kinds of vigorous and sympathetic academic milieus in which the most productive deliberations about the future can be held. We strive to create places of intellectual interaction and imagination that our future deserves.

#### MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS

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[www.cgnetworks.org](http://www.cgnetworks.org)



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The Common Ground Media Lab is the research and technology arm of Common Ground Research Networks. Common Ground Research Networks has been researching knowledge ecologies and building scholarly communication technologies since 1984.

Since 2009, we have had the fortune of being based in the University of Illinois Research Park while building our latest platform – CGScholar. This is a suite of apps based on the theoretical work of world-renowned scholars from the College of Education and Department of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. CGScholar has been built with the support of funding from the US Department of Education, Illinois Ventures, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The CGScholar platform is being used today by knowledge workers as diverse as: faculty in universities to deliver e-learning experiences; innovative schools wishing to challenge the ways learning and assessment have traditionally worked; and government and non-government organizations connecting local knowledge and experience to wider policy objectives and measurable outcomes. Each of these use cases illustrates the differing of knowledge that CGScholar serves while also opening spaces for new and emerging voices in the world of scholarly communication.

We aim to synthesize these use cases to build a platform that can become a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, one that rigorously democratizes the process of knowledge-making, rewards participants, and offers a secure basis for the sustainable creation and distribution of digital knowledge artifacts.

Our premise has been that media platforms—pre-digital and now also digital—have often not been designed to structure and facilitate a rigorous, democratic, and a sustainable knowledge economy. The Common Ground Media Lab seeks to leverage our own platform – CGScholar – to explore alternatives based on extended dialogue, reflexive feedback, and formal knowledge ontologies. We are developing AI-informed measures of knowledge artifacts, knowledge actors, and digital knowledge communities. We aim to build a trusted marketplace for knowledge work, that rewards participants and sustains knowledge production.

With 27,000 published works and 200,000 users, we have come a long way since our first web app twenty years ago. But we still only see this as the beginning.

As a not-for-profit, we are fundamentally guided by mission: to support the building of better societies and informed citizenries through rigorous and inclusive social knowledge practices, offering in-person and online scholarly communication spaces

## Supporters & Partners

As they say, “it takes a village.” We are thankful for the generous support of:



And to our Research Network members!

[www.cgnetworks.org/medialab](http://www.cgnetworks.org/medialab)



Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we engage in systemic change that averts climate catastrophe. At Common Ground Research Networks, we are committed to playing our part as an agent of transformation, promoting awareness, and making every attempt to lead by example. Our Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network has been a forum for sharing critical findings and engaging scientific, theoretical, and practical issues that are raised by the realities of climate change. We've been a part of global policy debates as official observers at COP26 in Glasgow. And we are signatories of the United Nations Sustainability Publishers Compact and the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

## Measuring

In 2022 we start the process of tracking and measuring emissions for all aspects of what we do. The aim is to build a comprehensive picture of our baselines to identify areas where emissions can be reduced and construct a long-term plan of action based on the GHG Emissions Calculation Tool and standard established by the United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative.

## Reducing

At the same time, we are not waiting to act. Here are some of the "low hanging fruit" initiatives we are moving on immediately: all conference programs from print to electronic-only; removing single-use cups and offering reusable bottles at all our conferences; working closely with all vendors, suppliers, and distributors on how we can work together to reduce waste; offering robust online options as a pathway to minimize travel. And this is only a small sample of what we'll be doing in the short term.

## Contributing

As we work towards establishing and setting net-zero targets by 2050, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement and United Nations Climate Neutral Now Initiative, and to make further inroads in mitigating our impacts today, we are participating in the United Nations Carbon Offset program. As we see climate change as having broad social, economic, and political consequences, we are investing in the following projects.

- Fiji Nadarivatu Hydropower Project
- DelAgua Public Health Program in Eastern Africa
- Jangi Wind Farm in Gujarat

## Long Term Goals

We're committing to long-term science-based net-zero targets for our operations – and we believe we can do this much sooner than 2050. We'll be reporting annually via The Climate Neutral Now reporting mechanism to transparently communicate how we are meeting our commitments to climate action.