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2016 has been a very productive year for the Tourism Research Cluster (TRC). We continue to work with dedication to achieve our overarching research goals. Building research capacity and working together in partnerships, TRC’s vision is aligned with sustainable tourism development goals. We are increasing our capacity to connect with local, state, national and international industry partners, government, academic institutions and the local community, providing advice on a range of projects related to sustainable tourism. We are expanding our scope both nationally and internationally in the area. These collaborations have resulted in research funding, quality publications, engagement and impact, furthering TRC’s reputation as a recognised local, national and global group of researchers producing research contributing not only to the academic community, but well beyond.

TRC values the relationships we have developed with our industry partners, benefitting our group of researchers and students. We have partnered with the University of Bologna, Italy, and planning student exchanges and further research collaborations. The Food, Wine, & China symposium at Margaret River in February featured academic and industry experts providing motivating and challenging discussions on the theme.

The TRC hosted national and international scholars as part of its 2016 seminar series providing opportunities for collaborative learning and new networks of partnerships encouraging the nexus between research, teaching and industry outreach. We are welcoming Professor Jane Ali-Knight from University of Napier, Edinburgh for our first 2017 seminar series, and co-hosting a networking event with Murdoch University and Forum Advocating Cultural and Ecotourism (FACET) in February 2017. The last TRC event for 2016 is the co-hosted Australia-China Forum, with University of South Australia, and Sun Yat-Sen University in Adelaide this December. Stay tuned.

Thank you for your ongoing support to the TRC. Enjoy the festive season, and have a wonderful New Year.

Best wishes,

Associate Professor Haywantee Rumi Ramkissoon
Director, Tourism Research Cluster
Curtin Tourism Research Cluster and Asia Business Centre, recently hosted the “Food, Wine and China: A Tourism Perspective” Symposium in February 2016. The symposium was attended by more than 80 delegates from academia, government, industry and the community. Leading academics and industry representatives from Australia and abroad, discussed this year’s theme on food and wine tourism.

Day 1 of the symposium was opened by Koomal Dreaming’s Josh Whiteland performing a Welcome to Country ceremony followed by an opening from Curtin University’s Head of School of Marketing, Prof. Nigel de Bussy and former Asia Business Centre Director, Prof. John Evans.

WA Shadow Minister for Tourism Paul Papalia also welcomed the delegates.

WA Tourism Shadow Minister Papalia expressed his delight in addressing the symposium. “The state needs to grow tourism businesses and provide opportunities and jobs, but we are confronting a very competitive environment”, he said.

Additionally, through a pre-recorded message, China Tourism Academy Director Prof. Dai Bin opened the ceremony with a message, stating that the symposium could act as a catalyst in intensifying interactions with China’s academics and industry representatives.

Highlights of Day 1 were as follows:
1.) Prof. Michael Hall (NZ) opened the session with a presentation titled “Food & Wine Tourism: Challenges, Issues and Opportunities”.

2.) Prof. Sam Huang from The University of South Australia, discussed how Australia can develop its food & wine tourism towards the Chinese visitor market.

3.) Prof. Richard Chang from National Dong Hwa University focused on dining behaviour of Chinese tourists.

4.) Prof. Hanqin Qiu from Hong Kong Polytechnic University discussed the travel barriers for Chinese tourists in visiting Australian wineries.

5.) Derryn Belford (Tourism WA), Pip Close (Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association), Senior Industry Advisor Julia Tolji (Tourism Council WA) and Managing Director Meng Wong (Blue Travel) discussed the theme in the context of the increasing visitation from China.

6.) Dr David Lamb and Dr Alfred Olge from Edith Cowan University, put forward a thought provoking question in the context of restaurant menus; “Are we China ready?”

7.) Chair of Tourism and Head of the Centre for Entrepreneurship at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt Prof. Harald Pechlaner and Research Fellow Dr Michael Volgger, explored the responses to Chinese wine tourists from an Italian perspective.

8.) Prof. Steve Charters (Burgundy School of Business) gave an insight into Chinese wine tourists in France.

9.) Day 1 was concluded by a presentation by Dr Ben Thomas (Curtin University) titled “Winescapes and Perspectives from New World Wine Economies: Australia, USA & Taiwan.”

Day 1 Symposium Chair A/P Christof Pforr highlighted that the annual international symposium has become a key research and industry event in Western Australia. He pointed out that without support from outside the university and the assistance of sponsors like Tourism Western Australia, Australia’s South West, the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association, the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre, Vine Collective, Sandalford Winery and Polytechnic West, this year’s symposium would not have been possible.

Day 1 of the symposium was closed with a dinner organised in partnership with Polytechnic West’s Manager of Culinary Arts & Hospitality, Bernhard Staggl, at the White Elephant Café in Gnarabup.

“The program brought together Academia, Industry and Government, which was compelling. The speakers were excellent and knowledgeable with the information presented highly applicable to my region in Margaret River. It presented informative statistics and concepts that we have never heard before and was packed with fresh ideas and practical suggestions that we hope to implement over time. Thank you to all the speakers for their messages and wealth of knowledge which was amazing. It was a highly motivational symposium! Well done to Curtin University!”

—Pip Close
Chef Tony Howell from Margaret River Hospitality Group and WA Tourism Minister Dr Kim Hames, prepared dinner showcasing 10 dishes from some of the best South West produce. With his passion on WA’s food, wine and tourism, Dr Hames said he was delighted to be a part of the event. “WA’s alliance with markets such as China is something I think we can grow through tourism and business relationships. Events like this, really showcase what WA has to offer. From our produce to our people”, he said.

Day 2 of the symposium, chaired by Prof. Pechlaner and Dr Volgger, mainly focused on wine exports. Highlights of the presentations were as follows:

- Prof. Pechlaner and Dr Volgger used a case example of South Tyrol in discussing issues of whether and how tourism & the export of agricultural products may provide mutual benefits.

- Curtin University’s Luxury Branding Research Cluster represented by Dr Graham Ferguson and team, alongside wine producers; Dr Ben Thomas, Founder of Vine Collective; Larry Jorgensen, Wines of WA CEO, Mat Lewis, South West Development Commission and Paul McArdle, Fraser Gallop Estate CEO; discussed ideas to build brand positioning in the China market.

- Merano Wine Festival CEO Dr Helmuth Köcher’s presentation titled “Current Trends in the World of Wine from a Consumer & Producer Perspective.”

- Curtin University Prof. Piyush Sharma’s presentation titled: “Great Wall or Red Carpet? Challenges & Opportunities for Australian Wines in China.”

- Prof. Jeremy Galbreath presented the launch of The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre report; “WA Wine Exports: Building an Economic Future with China”.

The symposium was concluded with discussions, lunch and wine tastings.

“The Symposium, organised by Curtin’s Tourism Research Cluster was one of the best I have ever attended. It included world class speakers from industry and academia from a host of countries. The information shared has much value for understanding the China Tourist market to Western Australia and is significant for the entire food, wine and tourism industry at all levels. The exchange of ideas, workshop and networking opportunities were all outstanding. Finally, the Conference Dinner at Gnarabup Beach was the best I have ever participated in anywhere in the world with a stunning range of local dishes prepared by White Elephant Café owner and Chef Tony Howell as well as WA Minister of Tourism Dr Kim Hames. Overall Curtin’s TRC is to be highly commended for this excellent contribution to research and engagement in the wine & food industries and their relationship with Chinese tourism.”

- Prof. Ross K. Dowling OAM (Foundation Professor of Tourism, Edith Cowan University)

The Symposium presentations are now available on:

Following on from the 2016 TRC Symposium on Food Wine & China in Margaret River, A/P Christof Pforr, Prof. Harald Pechlaner, & Dr Michael Volgger were invited by the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association, in collaboration with the South West Development Commission, to return to the region to present and participate at workshop on Umbrella Branding.

This was followed by a panel discussion on its relevance and potential for the Margaret River Region. Their presentation on ‘Regional Umbrella Brands as a Mean to Generate Synergies Between Tourism & the Export of Agricultural Products’ was well received by more than 100 industry & government representatives from the Margaret River Region. This special event took place on 22 February 2016 at Wyndham Resort in Busselton.

**In the Press:**

**INDUSTRY WORKSHOP IN MARGARET RIVER**

Following on from the 2016 TRC Symposium on Food Wine & China in Margaret River, A/P Christof Pforr, Prof. Harald Pechlaner, & Dr Michael Volgger were invited by the Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association, in collaboration with the South West Development Commission, to return to the region to present and participate at workshop on Umbrella Branding.

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Special Honours:
A/P KIRSTEN HOLMES HONoured WITH TWO AWARDS

The Tourism Research Cluster continues to extend its national and international links working on industry funded projects, delivering high-quality publications and Higher Degrees by Research supervision. This is evidenced by the team’s efforts and recent award won by Associate Professor Kirsten Holmes as the CBS Researcher of the year 2016. Associate Professor Kirsten Holmes visited Professor Karen Smith at Victoria University, Wellington and Dr. Judith Mair at the University of Queensland to collaborate on projects in the events sector.

Associate Professor Kirsten Holmes was the winner of the ‘Thought Leadership’ award together with Associate Professor Leonie Lockstone-Binney at the Volunteering Victoria state awards this past November. The award which recognises research that advances the knowledge and study of volunteering, was given for their work on how volunteer-involving organisations can help volunteers manage their stress. The study sought to identify the main causes of stress and burnout for volunteers, as well as effective ways for organisations to support their volunteers.

In addition to her award winning study, A/P Holmes has also recently had an article published regarding the declining numbers of people in Australia offering to volunteer, the reasons behind this decline, and what can be done to increase participation. The article is titled “Why don’t more people volunteer? Misconceptions don’t help”. A copy of this article is available via the link below.

[Link to article: http://theconversation.com/why-dont-more-people-volunteer-misconceptions-dont-help-69284]
The rapid growth of the sharing economy in recent years has challenged traditional economies in many countries around the globe. Airbnb is an online platform that enables people to list, find and book accommodations worldwide with more than 1.5 million listings in more than 190 countries. Many consider Airbnb as one of the most disruptive developments in tourism over the past decade.

A Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre (BCEC) workshop held on the 19 September 2016 featured a presentation of preliminary findings from a BCEC-funded project led by Associate Professor Christof Pforr (Curtin University) and co-investigator Dr Michael Volgger (European Academy Bolzano, Italy) on the main characteristics of Airbnb in Western Australia as well as its growth and impact.

To assist an informed decision making on the Airbnb phenomenon, a panel of key stakeholders from industry and government then discussed potential implications of this research, which was followed by a Q&A session.

Panel members were Mr Evan Hall (CEO, Tourism Council WA), Ms Pip Close (CEO, Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association); Mr Bradley Woods (CEO, Australian Hotels Association WA); Hon Alyssa Hayden MLC (Member for East Metropolitan Region) and Dr Kylie Coulson (Assistant Director, Department of Treasury).
Local Government is at the forefront of tourism delivery and in many ways is the linchpin to other spheres of government, industry and the community. It provides an expanse of tourism infrastructure, ranging from roads to airports, caravan camping grounds, visitor centres and parks just to name a few.

Local Government in a tourism setting is governed by legislation from the Commonwealth and State, from land-use planning through to environmental and health legislation. It is impacted by national and state tourism as well as other government strategies, and participates in and contributes to the activities of tourism organisations and networks. Industries that support tourism – such as accommodation, retail and hospitality - all have reciprocal relationships with, and exist of course within Local Government jurisdictions.

As a State, Western Australia is abundant in natural attractions with a climate conducive to tourism activity; there is a lot to celebrate. Local Governments in Western Australia have an interest in tourism as a driver for economic development.

In response, WALGA released a Local Government and Tourism Discussion Paper in 2015 including a set of recommendations which are currently being implemented and has noted that the value of tourism from a Local Government perspective is not well understood and is generally unobserved. As such, we are seeking to scope further research in this area to inform our future work.
February 2016: A/P Ramkissoon was invited as Visiting Professor at the Tourism Research Centre, University of South Australia (UNISA). Her visit lead to collaborations with UNISA colleagues on research projects.

April/May 2016: A/P Ramkissoon worked on strategic partnerships between the Tourism Research Cluster and the National Research Council of Italy.

December 2015: A/Prof. Ramkissoon was hosted as Visiting Professor at the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management. This visit has resulted in research projects with Professor Ercan Sirakaya-Turk, Associate Dean of Research and colleagues at the University of South Carolina, United States of America.

Mauritius, April 2016: A/P Ramkissoon was invited as a Guest of Honour at the Ray of Light Charity Dinner, a Corporate Social Responsibility initiative by LUX® Resorts and GenderLinks.
TRC Director, Associate Professor Haywantee Ramkissoon visited University of Bologna in November 2016. She had several exchanges with Alessia Mariotti, Director of the Center for Advanced Studies in Tourism (CAST) and her team. CAST researchers are from a wide range of disciplines and scientific approaches, integrating economics, business, statistics, sociology, history, geography, law and the environment as essential aspects in tourism research. Associate Professor Ramkissoon also met with other faculty staff members across the university to discuss research synergies.

November 2016: Bologna Collaboration

Associate Professor Haywantee Rumi Ramkissoon met with Associate Professor Alessia Mariotti and her team in November at the University of Bologna, Italy. The Tourism Research Cluster and Centre for Advanced Studies in Tourism, and colleagues from other departments at the University of Bologna discussed potential collaboration in multidisciplinary lines of research.

Associate Professor Ramkissoon and Associate Professor Battilani discussed student exchanges on tourism programs between Curtin University and Bologna University which will be led by Associate Professor Christof Pforr.

November 2016: IRISS-CNR collaboration

Associate Professor Haywantee Ramkissoon, TRC Director, and Professor Jafar Jafari, Founding Editor of the Annals of Tourism Research, were hosted at IRISS-CNR (National Research Council of Italy) in November 2016. Associate Professor Ramkissoon had several meetings with partners on the project “Innovation and Sustainability in Tourism”.

Professor Roy Jones was a Scientific Committee member at the Tourism 2016 Conference, Green Lines Institute for Sustainable Development, Portugal. His presentation was titled “Socioeconomic unsustainability to environmental unsustainability? The trajectory of tourism in Australia’s south west corner.”
Workshop with local tourism development - China

Associate Professor Haywantee Rumi Ramkissoon with researchers on innovation and sustainability at IRISS-CNR

Left to Right: Associate Professor Haywantee Ramkissoon, Professor Gogan Gursoy, Associate Professor Christina Qui, Dr Tekle Shanka

Left to Right: TRC Director, and CEO, LUX* Resorts & Hotels

Attending the AHTMM conference - Guangzhou, China
Adjunct Professor Harald Pechlaner

Adjunct Professor Pechlaner from the University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany) and Research Fellow Dr Michael Volgger from the Institute for Regional Development and Location Management at the European Academy Bozen/Bolzano in Italy visited the School of Marketing in February 2016, working with Associate Professor Christof Pforr on a number of research projects.

Prof. Dr Harald Pechlaner is Chair of Tourism and Head of the Center for Entrepreneurship at the Catholic University Eichstaett-Ingolstadt (Germany) and Director of the Institute for Regional Development and Location Management at the European Academy (EURAC) in Bozen/Bolzano, Italy.

Furthermore, he is Adjunct Research Professor at the School of Marketing, Curtin University. Prof. Pechlaner is also the President of the Association Internationale d’Experts Scientifiques du Tourisme (AIEST) and was President of the German Association of Tourism Research (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Tourismus) from 2002 till 2010.

He is the author and editor of more than 40 books and approximately 150 articles for books and academic journals in the field of tourism and strategic management. Prof. Pechlaner’s research interests include; strategic product development, regional value management, networks & social capital, co-operative core competencies and destination governance.

Dr Michael Volgger

Dr Michael Volgger is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Regional Development and Location Management at the European Academy Bozen/Bolzano in Italy.

His main research areas include destination governance and location management, product development and innovation in tourism, inter-organizational cooperation and qualitative research.
Forthcoming Events

The TRC will co-host the Australia-China Forum in Adelaide this December, with the University of South Australia, and Sun Yat-Sen University in China. The Australia-China Tourism Forum is supported by the Australian Government, providing an invaluable platform for tourism academics, industry leaders and government officials in both Australia and China to exchange their views and perspectives on a variety of topics pertaining to Australia-China tourism trade and relations.

The TRC, Murdoch University and The Forum Advocating Cultural and Ecotourism (FACET) will have a networking event end of February 2017, connecting industry and academia.

SELECTED ISSUES ABOUT INNOVATION IN THE ACCOMMODATION SECTOR: CASES FROM EUROPE

On 18 February 2016 Adjunct Professor Pechlaner from the University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany) and Research Fellow Dr Michael Volgger from the Institute for Regional Development & Location Management at the European Academy Bozen/Bolzano in Italy presented at a well-attended TRC Seminar on ‘Selected Issues about Innovation in the Accommodation Sector: Cases from Europe’.

Using case studies from Europe and linking them to the Australian context, the presenters discussed current challenges and future potential in the accommodation sector. Issues ranged from rentability to positioning, and also included architecture and regional building culture.
Guest lecturer Dr Michael Volgger

Senior Research Fellow Dr Michael Volgger from the European Academy (EURAC) in Bolzano, Italy, gave a guest lecture on innovation in the accommodation sector with case examples from Europe to our second year tourism and hospitality students.

Associate Professor Christof Pforr invited on Sharing Economy Panel

At the 2016 WA Tourism Conference (8-10 August 2016) organised by Tourism Council WA, Caravan Industry Association WA, Visitor Centres WA and the Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco Tourism (FACET), Associate Professor Christof Pforr was invited to a panel to discuss the growth and impact of the Sharing Economy, together with panel members Sam McDonagh (GM Airbnb Australia & New Zealand), John Hart (Restaurant & Catering Australia), Hon Alyssa Hayden MLC (Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Minister for Tourism) and Andrew Dolling (WA Department of Finance).

Guest Lecture: Associate Professor Connie Locher

A/Professor Connie Locher from the University of Western Australia (http://www.uwa.edu.au/people/connie.locher) gave a guest lecture on ‘Medical Tourism in Australia’ to our 3rd year students in the unit ‘Contemporary Issues in Tourism Management’.

Professor Locher specifically outlined the implications of Australia’s health care system for outbound medical tourism in Australia.

Prof. Locher during her presentation
Other News

Sam McDonagh, Airbnb Country Manager for Australia & New Zealand Visits Curtin

From Left to Right: Sam McDonagh (Airbnb Country Manager for Australia & New Zealand), Professor Richard Francis (Director, CBS Asia Business Centre), Catrin Allsop (CEO, Australia’s South West), A/Professor Christof Pforr (CBS Tourism Research Cluster), and Brent Thomas (Airbnb Head of Public Policy for Australia & New Zealand)

Associate Professor Christof Pforr invited Sam McDonagh (Airbnb Country Manager for Australia & New Zealand) and Brent Thomas (Airbnb Head of Public Policy for Australia and New Zealand) to visit Curtin University during their brief visit to Perth. During their meeting on June 8 they discussed issues in relation to the growth of the sharing economy, in particular the development of Airbnb in Australia and specifically Western Australia over the past few years, as well as some of its challenges and opportunities.

Field Trip to Kings Park

MAY 12, 2016: A/Professor Christof Pforr took his second year students on a field trip to Kings Park, one of Perth’s top tourist attractions, to give them the opportunity to apply some of the theory they learnt in the classroom to a ‘real world’ context. The students were able to learn more about the challenges and opportunities of developing sustainable tourism attractions.
STEVE MATTHEWS: TOURISM RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

MAY 4 - TRC hosted a seminar workshop with a guest appearance from the Principal Analyst of Tourism Research Australia Steve Matthews. The workshop was attended by guests from within Curtin University, Tourism WA, Industry personnel, The University of Western Australia and Central TAFE.

In his talk, Mr Matthews focused in discussing the prevalence of TRA activities within the Australian tourism; domestic and international travel; alongside VFR and education related tourism. He also disseminated the contribution of domestic and international tourism towards the Australian economy.

Together, VFR and education related tourism contribution was found to make up 34% (2.3 million) of international visitors. Additionally, within the group of international tourists, 40% of them were Chinese tourists. The seminar continued on discussing the lack of dispersal of Chinese tourists, given the fact that majority of this group of tourists were found in Australian metro areas.

Views on issues regarding opportunity within Australian tourism in targeting tourists from Europe, China and other Asian countries were discussed between the seminar attendees.

TRC SEMINAR SERIES AND GUEST LECTURES

TRC Seminar August 2016

TRC Seminar August 24, 2016 with WALGA Community Policy Officer Nina Hewson – Role of Local Government in Tourism, Western Australia.

Guest lecturer Dr Michael Volgger September 2016

Senior Research Fellow Dr Michael Volgger from the European Academy (EURAC) in Bolzano, Italy, gave a guest lecture on innovation in the accommodation sector with case examples from Europe to our second year tourism and hospitality students.
Associate Professor Haywantee Rumi Ramkissoon

Director, Tourism Research Cluster

Associate Professor Haywantee Ramkissoon has been recommended as one of the three Academy Emerging Scholars 2017 by the International Academy for the Study of Tourism. The award will be confered in 2017. Associate Professor Haywantee Rumi Ramkissoon has instigated an MOU with the Italian National Research Council. A/P Ramkissoon is working with renowned professors and scholars on a range of projects e.g. place attachment, pro-environmental behaviour, place satisfaction in national parks and overall quality-of-life, sustainable destination choice, and wine tourism among others. A/P Ramkissoon is also working with Italian Research Institute on Innovation and Development Services (IRISS-CNR) on a funded project titled “Innovation and Sustainability in Tourism”, and with several other industry partners.

A/P Ramkissoon is working on building research synergies between the TRC and the Tourism Group at the University of Bologna, Italy. She is furthering research links on a range of topics related to sustainable tourism, such as subjective well-being, cultural heritage management, and wine tourism among others. She was invited as a visiting professor in Rimini/Bologna, Italy this November. She is also working closely with the University of South Australia and Sun Yat-Sen University in China, and was successful in securing funding from the Australia-China council to co-host the 1st Australia-China Tourism forum in Adelaide this December. The forum will focus on leading Chinese figures in academia, industry and government to share their knowledge, viewpoints and perspectives with their Australian colleagues on a number of sustainable tourism related issues around the theme “Strengthening Australia-China people and cultural links through tourism: Looking beyond economic ties.” A/P Ramkissoon acts as assessor for prestigious International Research and Development (CRD) Grants council. A/P Haywantee Rumi Ramkissoon continues to be active as a member of the scientific organization of good quality conferences, as a reviewer of book proposals e.g. Routledge, and peer-reviewed top-tier academic journals, and conferences both at the national and international levels. She is also supervising a number of doctoral candidates, and mentoring ECRs both at Curtin University, and beyond.

Publications:


**Co-organiser** of Australia-China Forum, Adelaide, December 2016, with the University of South Australia, and SunYat-Sen University

**Scientific Committee Member:** *Tourism 2016 1st International Conference on Global Tourism and Sustainability Lagos – Portugal 12 - 14 October 2016*

**Scientific Committee Member:** *Advances in Hospitality & Tourism Marketing & Management, Guangzhou, China, 14-17 July.*

**Co-chair** of conference streams, guest of honour and speaker at national, and international conferences.

**Co-editor** of a special issue of the *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management* on “The Sharing Economy in Tourism and Hospitality” with Prof. Levent Altinay & Prof. Jingyan Liu) to be published in 2017

**Book Review Editor:** *Current Issues in Tourism*

**Research Note Editor:** *Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management*

**Editorial Board Memberships:**


**Reviewer:** More than 30 Peer-Reviewed Journals
**Associate Professor Kirsten Holmes**

Associate Professor Kirsten Holmes is the winner of a CBS and School of Marketing award.

A/P Holmes is working with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations to examine the volunteer legacy for the London 2012 Olympic Games providing recommendations to the International Olympic Committee. She visited Professor Karen Smith at Victoria University, Wellington and Dr Judith Mair at the University of Queensland to collaborate on projects in the events sector.

**Publications:**


**Awards:**

Associate Professor Kirsten Holmes won the CBS Researcher of the Year Award 2016, as well as the ‘Thought Leadership’ award together with Associate Professor Leonie Lockstone-Binney at the Volunteering Victoria state awards

**Current or Completed Projects:**

- An evaluation of the volunteer infrastructure legacies of the Sydney and London Olympic Games – funded by the IOC and in partnership with Volunteering Australia and the NCVO (UK) and many organisations in the UK and Australia.

- Volunteer tourism development in South West Australia with the South West Development Corporation and the Dolphin Discovery Centre

- A/P Kirsten Holmes also has a number of projects in development looking at the Chinese market for food and wine tourism and (separately) agri-tourism in Australia’s South West. She is also supervising a number of doctoral candidates.

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**Associate Professor Christof Pforr**

Associate Professor Christof Pforr is working on the impact of Airbnb on WA’s Tourism Industry and Economy in collaboration with Bankwest and Dr Michael Volgger from Bolzano, Italy.

A/P Pforr is coordinating the student exchange programs and is also involved in Higher Degrees by Research supervision.

**Publications:**


Abstract:
Indigenous tourism products, attractions and activities can offer a point of difference for tourism destinations, and consequently the role of, and opportunities for, Indigenous people in providing these tourism experiences have been recognised increasingly by government and industry alike. This paper reviews and discusses the factors influencing successful Indigenous tourism development and provides a global comparison of best practice to inform future decision-making processes in achieving sustainable Indigenous tourism development. Data was derived from interviews with key government and non-government organisations, and Indigenous tourism organisations and operators were analysed as a means of critically engaging with the sustainability problematic of Indigenous tourism development. Furthermore, a comprehensive analysis of international case studies focusing on Indigenous accommodation provision was carried out to complement the research, as were observations during site visits. By offering a framework for the Indigenous tourism development process, we contribute in a positive and flexible way to the complex, and evolving, discourse on Indigenous tourism practice. It is argued that the effectiveness of governance structures and the level of involvement of Indigenous stakeholders as well as the selection of legislative and policy instruments are key to ensuring a more sustainable approach to Indigenous tourism development.

Dr Jong-Hyeong Kim
Dr Jong-Hyeong Kim’s areas of research interest are customer experiences in tourism and hospitality, particularly memorable experiences and authentic experiences. He is working on (1) Authenticity in ethnic restaurants, and (2) A neuroscience approach to understand memorable experiences. His most recent publications are in the Journal of Travel Research, and in the International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management

Publications:
3. July 21-24, 2016: Dr Jong-Hyeong Kim was a co-chair of the “Advancing Tourism & Hospitality Marketing” session, at the Global Marketing Conference, in Hong Kong.
Dr Tekle Shanka

Dr Tekle Shanka presented a few papers and was co-chair of conference stream for the Advances in Hospitality & Tourism Marketing and Management (AHTMM) conference. 2016, Guangzhou, China, 14-17 July 2016.

Publications:


Professor Roy Jones

Professor Roy Jones is a Non-Member Director of the Wadjuk Boodja Gateway Aboriginal Corporation, an organisation which seeks to develop an Indigenous cultural centre with a strong tourism focus in the Swan Valley.

Publications:


2. 2016 Roy Jones. “Balancing the scales: learning to be a retired geographer at the edge of the world.” Arab World Geographer 19, 77-83.


Award: Invited as guest of Professional Association of Romanian Geographers (22-30 October 2016) in Romania

Other Activities:

- Steering Committee Member, Commission on Sustainable Rural Systems, International Geographical Union.
- Non Member Director, Wadjuk Boodja Gateway Aboriginal Corporation.
• Scientific Committee Member, Tourism 2016 Conference, Green Lines Institute for Sustainable Development, Barcelos, Portugal.
• Examining Panel Member Year 12 Geography ATAR Examination, School Curriculum and Standards Authority, Western Australia
• Appointed as Steering Committee Member, International Geographical Union Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems, 2016-2020.

Dr Tod Jones

Dr Tod Jones worked on the “Emerging Western Australian Aboriginal Art Showcase” for the Department of Culture and the Arts, leading to an increase in investment and moving the event to Fremantle. The research has also been published in Artlink and in the Journal of Arts Management, Law and Society. The festivals draw tourists and residents, providing satisfying interactions both between Indigenous artists and customers, and also between artists, managers, policy makers and other industry insiders.

Professor Ross Taplin

Professor Ross Taplin was part of the team winning the highly prestigious ARC Discovery Grant Project titled “Inside the black box - Intra-household resource allocations of older couples” with a total grant of $326,000 for the next 3 years.

Dr Amanda Davies

Dr Davies researches population demographics and migration, local leadership and rural and peri-urban development issues.

She has completed studies on a range of issues related to regional and rural change, adaptation and socio-economic viability. She is currently involved in research examining the role of local leadership, volunteering and social innovation in promoting sustainable adaptation in rural societies.

Publications:

The Tourism Research Cluster works closely with local, state and national government departments, providing advice on a range of projects related to sustainable tourism. We are expanding our scope internationally in the area.

The TRC has built strong links with industry – both commercial and not-for-profit organisations - through the TRC Research Seminar series and annual symposia. Industry representatives are invited to present case studies at each symposium. This provides opportunities for government, industry and academics to come together to debate and propose solutions to mutual problems, leading to collaborative research projects.

**TRC Executives:**
- Associate Professor Kirsten Holmes
- Associate Professor Christof Pforr
- Professor Ross Taplin
- Professor Roy Jones
- Dr Jong-Hyeong Kim
- Dr Tekle Shanka
- Dr Amanda Davies
- Professor Mohammed Quaddus
- Dr Tod Jones

**TRC Director:**
- Associate Professor
- Haywantee Ramkissoon
  - Haywantee.Ramkissoon@curtin.edu.au

The TRC is an informal network for all those interested in tourism research

Visit the TRC Online:
Joining the TRC

Key Benefits:

For Interested Organisations:

• Access targeted, innovative and timely solutions to your research problems
• Share knowledge and expertise
• Explore collaborative opportunities
• Access to Curtin’s undergraduate and post graduate student network for tourism fieldwork

For Tourism Researchers:

• Meet other tourism researchers
• Share ideas
• Explore collaborative opportunities
• Increase your resource network
• Upskill through professional development opportunities

Research Agenda 2016-2017

1. Health & wellness tourism as a driver for regional development.
2. Coastal tourism governance (i.e. in Australia/Western Australia).
4. The volunteer legacy of events & festivals.
5. The constraints & barriers to volunteering.
6. Spatial mapping the tourism product in WA.
7. The role of social media in health tourism development, promotion & marketing.
8. Destination branding.
10. Sensory experiences and memory.
11. Storytelling as a driver for destination marketing.
12. Cultural tourism in island destinations.
13. Place attachment, visitor satisfaction and pro-environmental behaviour in national parks.
14. Wine Tourism
15. Corporate Social Responsibility
16. Place attachment and quality-of-life tourism
17. Climate change
TRC Membership is free, to join email your contact details to: trc@curtin.edu.au