Welcome to our last newsletter for 2018. We witnessed an exceptionally successful six months for the TRC. This included growth in our member base, and new industry and international academic partnerships, applied projects, high-profile visitors and industry workshops. Our research activities have continued to focus on Asia, including China and Indonesia, and have remained firmly rooted in regionally important research questions.

We would first of all like to extend our warmest welcome to our new TRC members, Associate Professor Jeremy Galbreath, Dr Paul Weber, Ms Kristina Georgiou and Ms Karon Sibbri. They will further strengthen the TRC’s expertise in the areas of entrepreneurship, small business, wine and the sharing economy, which are all important to tourism in WA.

We have been hosting Dr Meng Wei (South China Agricultural University, China) and Ms Lanlan Huang (Shanghai Urban Construction Vocational College, China) for extended stays as well as Professor Karen Smith (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand), Professor Monika Bachinger (University of Applied Forest Sciences Rottenburg, Germany) and Professor Cathy Hsu (Hong Kong Polytechnic University) for shorter stays. It is of great value for us and the local tourism community that our visitors have shared their knowledge and insights through seminars and industry workshops.

We commend Dr Michael Volgger, Professor Christof Pforr and Ms Sara Marques for launching their Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre, South West Development Commission and Australia’s South West co-funded report on promoting product development and product adaptation for Asian visitors to Australia’s South West tourism region. The report was launched in Busselton and generated widespread interest from industry and media.

Recently, Curtin’s TRC has been particularly successful in extending its HDR and PhD activities by winning two highly competitive and prestigious scholarships. In 2019, doctoral researchers have been granted a Curtin-Aberdeen Alliance PhD Studentship in green economy transitions, and an Australian Government funded Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship on a cross-cultural analysis of host-guest relationships in the sharing economy. Moreover, two PhD volunteering-related candidates recently successfully completed their candidacies. Well done to the students and their supervisors!
We would also like to congratulate Professor Tod Jones for their respective promotions. This is a great achievement and recognition of their longstanding work for Curtin, the academic community and the Historic Heart of Perth on reinvigorating tourism in WA. Well done!

Last but not least, we would like to extend our congratulations to Professor Christof Pforr and Associate Professor Tod Jones for their achievements. This is a great achievement and recognition of their longstanding work for Curtin, the Western Australian tourism industry, and hope to see you soon at one of our 2019 events.

As always, a sincere thank you goes to the School of Marketing for its continuous support of the TRC!

On behalf of the TRC, we would like to wish you a wonderful year 2019. We look forward to continuing our work with our partners in the Western Australian tourism industry, and hope to see you soon at one of our 2019 events.

Best Wishes,

Michael and Tod

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Associate Professor Tod Jones
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On 23 October in Busselton, Dr Michael Volgger, Professor Christof Pforr and Sara Cavalcanti Marques launched a Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre, South West Development Commission and Australia’s South West co-funded report on ‘Australia’s South West for Asian markets: Promoting tourism product development’.

Attracting tourists from Asian source markets and providing them with a satisfying experience is a strategic priority for Australia’s South West (ASW) tourism region. This report explores Asian tourists’ motivations to visit the South West and suggests a number of product development initiatives to further improve the attractiveness of the region for Asian visitors. Extensive qualitative interviews with Asia-experienced tourism providers and with Asian visitors provided a strong evidence base. It was further enriched by a social media analysis, an online survey administered to tourism providers in ASW and an analysis of best practices. Based on this comprehensive data collection, the study produced ten tangible recommendations for product development and product adaptations.

The project launch workshop also included a special panel discussion on the topic with Professor Alan Duncan, Director of BCEC; Dr Michael Volgger, Co-Director of TRC; Ms Rebecca Guilbert, Sales and Marketing Manager from Willie Creek Pearls; Mr Adam Barnard, Managing Director of ADAMS Coachlines; Mr Xavier Sala Busquets, Market Manager at Western Australia Expedia Inc.; and Ms Dee Smith, Former Chair of Australia’s South West.

The successful report launch was attended by more than 80 delegates and attracted extensive media interest locally, nationally and internationally (including China), reaching an audience of more than 425,000 people.
From the left: Mr Yan Lyu, Bunbury Jiaxing Business Office; Prof Christof Pforr, Curtin University; Prof Alan Duncan, BCEC; Ms Rebecca Ball, South West Development Commission; Dr Michael Volgger, Curtin University; Ms Dee Smith, Australia’s South West; Ms Catrin Allsop, Australia’s South West.

From the left: Mr Xavier Sala Busquets, Expedia; Ms Rebecca Guilbert, Willie Creek Pearls; Prof Christof Pforr, Curtin University; Mr Adam Barnard, ADAMS Coachlines; Prof Alan Duncan, BCEC; Dee Smith, Australia’s South West; Dr Michael Volgger, Curtin University.

To view the full report, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/ymx47ayd
A delegation of the TRC recently met with Perth-based marketing agency, Marketforce, to brainstorm project ideas and explore avenues for intensified collaboration. Key outcomes of the meeting identified challenges around customer segmentation, event management and marketing. Marketforce is a Perth-based marketing agency which offers integrated creative and strategic solutions to meet communication and brand challenges of all shapes, sizes and budgets.

Delegation from Shanghai Business and Tourism School

In August 2018, Professor Rob Evans, Dean of International at the Faculty of Business and Law; Professor Ian Phau, Head of School of Marketing; and Professor Christof Pforr, Discipline Lead-
Dr Tod Jones and Dr Piotr Nie-wiadomski from the University of Aberdeen were successful in their application for a Curtin-Aberdeen Alliance PhD Studentship on green economy transitions in tourism using a case study of the Margaret River region.

In the last two decades, the concerns over how to reconcile the developmental objectives of societies with growing ecological challenges have significantly increased. In order to address these concerns, the concept of sustainable development is being replaced by the idea of green economy, which is defined by UNEP as ‘an engine for growth’ that will improve human well-being, foster social equity, reduce environmental risks, generate new jobs and eradicate poverty. However, despite the optimism associated with this concept, green economy policies tend to be elaborated at the international level without much consideration for the specific features of individual regions. This PhD project will use approaches in economic geography to examine how the Busselton-Margaret River region is responding to the opportunities and challenges posed by the transitions to a green economy.

The studentship is based out of the University of Aberdeen, with the student spending their second year in Western Australia collecting data, before returning to Aberdeen for their third year. Piotr will be the primary supervisor, and Tod will co-supervise. Piotr is an Adjunct of Geography and the Tourism Research Cluster at Curtin University, and Tod and Piotr are currently jointly supervising a doctoral project on tourism development in Tana Toraja, Indonesia.

Tod and Piotr look forward to engaging with the TRC partners in the Busselton-Margaret River region once the student is recruited, and as the project develops.

**Awards | Peter Keller Best Paper Award**

Dr Michael Volgger and Professor Arch Woodside (together with Ms Claudia Cozzio from the University of Padova in Italy) won the Peter Keller Best Paper Award at the 68th Conference of the International Association of Scientific Experts in Tourism (AIEST) in Treviso, Italy. They presented a paper on “Nurturing the consumption of green food: The persuasive strengths of different messages”. The AIEST is the oldest international association of scientific and practical experts in tourism. It is a unique social network with approximately 300 members in 49 countries on all continents. This network is devoted to an interdisciplinary approach to serving the needs of research in tourism.
The upcoming 2019 TRC Symposium aims to contrast (perceived) 'over-tourism' in some important source markets for Western Australia (WA), such as Europe and Asia, with the issue of voiced assumption of 'under-tourism' in WA. The symposium will present first-hand accounts on overcrowding in China and Europe, which has, in some destinations, sparked violent protests by residents against tourism. These perspectives will shed a different light on the notion of 'undertourism' in WA. The fact that WA has been only partially affected by some of the most powerful tourism waves can also become an opportunity to develop the local tourism industry for greater benefits to local residents and business, without compromising the region's nature and culture, the very foundation of the region's attractiveness. Being able to conceptualise and manifest 'just-right-tourism' can become a very strong proposition towards Asian and European markets struggling with overcrowded cities and nature sites.

The symposium will discuss such pathways to 'just-right-tourism' from international, national and local perspectives in order to support Western Australia's future approach to tourism development.

International keynote speakers include:

- PROFESSOR BAOGANG, Sun-Yat-Sen University, China
- PROFESSOR HELENE CRISTINI, International University of Monaco
- DR DIRK GLAESER, United Nation World Tourism Organisation, Spain
- PROFESSOR HARALD PECHLANER and NATALIE OLBIRCH, Catholic University Eichstaett-Ingolstadt, Germany
- PROFESSOR GEOFFREY WALL, Waterloo University, Canada

Further details soon to follow!
Dr Michael Volgger was invited to attend the 7th Annual Conference of UNWTO Sustainable Tourism Observatories in China held in Luoyang, Henan, China, from 15 to 19 October 2018. The conference was organised by the Monitoring Centre for UNWTO Sustainable Tourism Observatories (MCSTO), in collaboration with the Tourism Bureau of Henan Province, China and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Being the first country to host a UNWTO Sustainable Tourism Observatory in 2005, since then, nine observatories were established in China and more than a decade of monitoring work has been carried out. The Monitoring Centre for UNWTO Sustainable Tourism Observatories (MCSTO) at Sun Yat-sen University under the auspices of UNWTO, has organized six annual conferences in different observatories in China since 2012. The conference provides a platform for observatories to share experiences, new methods and practices in measurements for more sustainable tourism developments. International observatories are invited to attend the conference. Attendees included government officials from China, Thailand, Mongolia and speakers from Australia, Philippines and New Zealand.

Volunteering Conference, Augsburg in Germany

Professor Kirsten Holmes was a member of a panel on ‘Government and Volunteering: Help or Hindrance’ at the World Volunteering Conference, Augsburg, Germany in October 2018, alongside Michelle Muschett, Vice Minister of Social Development of the Republic of Panama and Kivutha Kibwana, Governor of Makueni County, Kenya (photo to the right). This year’s Conference theme was ‘Our responsibility for the Global Future’.

Heritage Across Borders: Association of Critical Heritage Studies 4th Biennial Conference

Emeritus Professor Roy Jones participated in the 4th Biennial Conference during the 1-6 September 2018, in Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China. Roy’s presentation was entitled "From Imperial Heritage to Inclusive Heritage: The Decolonisation of Perth’s Kings Park".
On 8 October 2018, Dr Meng Wei gave a presentation entitled ‘From Campaign-style Governance to Daily Governance: A policy network analysis of tourist attractions in China’. Based on a decade-long study, Dr Meng divided China’s tourism governance into two stages and three typical models. He analysed the causes of instances of unsustainable tourism governance in China and suggested ways forward.

Dr Meng Wei is a researcher from South China Agricultural University and is currently visiting the TRC until March 2019. Dr Meng’s main research areas are tourism governance and rural tourism, and he has recently particularly focused on campaign-style governance in China. South China Agricultural University (SCAU) is a key university in China, located in the bustling city of Guangzhou. The ‘Ecotourism Planning and Research Centre’ of SCAU has 12 members and hundreds of students. We envisage to extend cooperation between SCAU and Curtin University with particular regard to the fields of rural tourism and tourism education.

On 7 November, Dr. Monika Bachinger, from the University of Applied Forest Sciences in Rottenburg (Germany), presented a TRC seminar on peer-to-peer sharing in nature tourism. Her talk brought attention to the limited number of nature tourism products being offered on major sharing platforms. Looking at the case of the National Park Black Forest in Germany, she argued that locals and visitors exhibit similar attitudes towards forests and use them in similar ways, and thus could be considered a peer-group. However, there are two challenges that make it difficult for these peers to share nature-based experiences: a) locals lack competencies and knowledge for interacting with visitors as well as identifying and fulfilling visitor expectations and b) visitors do not see the added value of interacting with locals in nature experiences. Peer sharing of nature experiences therefore needs to be clearly explained to locals and visitors and may even be too complex for brokering on standard sharing platforms. It also became clear in the discussion that commercialisation or commodification of nature is often a problem for providers of nature experience.
‘Balancing Research, Teaching and Life’

The TRC Seminar on ‘Balancing Research, Teaching and Life: A conversation about academic careers’ was organised by Professor Karen Smith from Victoria University of Wellington and Associate Professor Leonie Lockstone-Binney from the William Angliss Institute. The seminar was held on 16 November, Professor Kirsten Holmes from Curtin University taking the place of Professor Lockstone-Binney in presenting due to unforeseen circumstances.

The speakers discussed their post-PhD career journeys, highlighting common challenges such as the current competitive environment and the changing pressures of academic life. Balancing work and life can be problematic given the fluidity of academic roles. Work-life management strategies discussed include clearly dividing time between these activities, establishing separate spaces, recognising the synergies between work and ‘non-work’ activities, getting support with childcare, houseold tasks, etc. Speakers also outlined that having a network of collaborators outside their institution is invaluable in supporting an academic career, providing them with alternative perspectives, wider opportunities, and overall support when needed.

To view TRC events, past and upcoming, visit our webpage below:

‘Introduction into Real World Laboratories’

Professor Monika Bachinger conducted a workshop on ‘Real World Laboratories’ on the 12 November. Real World Labs (RWL) as a new research format in sustainability science has received growing attention, and are institutions in which scientists and civil society jointly co-produce knowledge to make society more sustainable. They are characterised by real-world experiments, which may be understood as social interventions, aimed at knowledge production as well as making people understand how a different future may look like.

RWLs are characterised by five features: sustainability transformation, experiments, transdisciplinary approach, long-term orientation, learning and reflexivity. Professor Monika Bachinger explained how RWLs are set up, what their research design looks like and what challenges might occur. Some of the most important challenges are three kinds of trade-offs: spatial trade-offs, participation trade-offs and temporal trade-offs. From her personal experiences, she emphasised that RWLs in many cases challenge the self-image of researchers, since they are required to take on the role of change agents. Furthermore, RWLs need a lot of time to become operative. Therefore, she advocated RWLs as being understood as institutions not as projects, thus being able to stay in place for longer periods of time.
From 24 August to 7 September 2018, Dr Michael Volgger and Professor Christof Pforr led 15 Curtin Tourism and Hospitality students on an international study tour to Northern Italy, with stops in the cultural cities of Venice, Treviso, Verona, Bolzano and the breathtaking Dolomites mountains. The study tour focused on the themes of sustainable mass tourism, food and wine tourism, geotourism and heritage tourism. Amongst others, the tour offered a full immersion into the oldest academic tourism conference (69th AIEST Conference), the involvement in a challenging geotourism-related industry project (with the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation) as well as visits to Cantina Tramin (one of Italy’s best wineries) and Gloriette Guesthouse (an innovative boutique hotel). As part of the industry project with the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation, Curtin students were asked to develop ideas and plans on how to better present and market a specific geotourism attraction in the Dolomites mountains. The group gained fame as they aired on Italian National Radio (RAI) with their comments on the project.

The tour and the different visits helped the study tour participants gain a better understanding about the tourism and hospitality industry to benefit their personal development and careers. The team was pleased that participants described the tour as a truly enjoyable and enriching experience. Dr Michael Volgger and Prof Christof Pforr would like to sincerely thank the numerous world-class industry and academic partners which helped to make the study tour a unique learning and teaching experience.

Main partners (academia & industry):
Perth Zoo Experience

On 9 October 2018, Dr Ben Thomas and Professor Christof Pforr took second year tourism and hospitality students on a field trip to Perth Zoo for an opportunity to apply some of the theory they learnt in the classroom to a ‘real world’ context. Mr Gregory Priest, Senior Conservation and Sustainability Officer, gave students an insightful presentation and a tour through the zoo, which allowed them to learn more about the challenges and opportunities of developing sustainable tourism attractions.

Dynamics of Hospitality Industry Management: Students Attend Taylor Swift Concert at Optus Stadium

On Friday, 19 October 2018, Curtin University students in the Dynamics of Hospitality Industry Management descended upon Optus Stadium to shake it off at a Taylor Swift’s Retribution Stadium Tour concert. Students were hosted by Ms Lexie Edwards, Stadium Park & Tours Coordinator and Curtin Alumnus, as part of a project with the DHIM students to develop a new tour product for Optus Stadium. Students spent more than 4 hours at the state-of-the-stadium enjoying its hospitality services and, of course, Taylor Swift’s renditions of popular tunes.

PhD Candidacies & Scholarships

Professor Kirsten Holmes’ PhD students Sumayyah Ahmad (co-supervised by Dr Robyn Ouschan) and Mary O’Halloran (co-supervised by Associate Professor Amanda Davies), have successfully completed their candidacies. Their projects are ‘An Investigation of Spontaneous Volunteers’ Social Media Engagement in Emergency Disaster Management’ and ‘Sustaining Essential Service Delivery in Rural Communities: An Investigation into the Geographies Informing theatre and Function of Rural Volunteer Fire Services’. PhD student Angela has been awarded a mobility scholarship to conduct further work with Accor in Myanmar. Furthermore, Aji Nusantara, co-supervised by Professor Christof Pforr and Dr Michael Volgger, has obtained a highly competitive Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship funded by government. His project is entitled ‘A cross-cultural analysis of host-guest relationships in the sharing economy: the cases of Australia and Indonesia’.
Historic Heart IdeaGen Hackathon 2018

This semester the Tourism, Hospitality and Events Student Association (THESA) was proud to be a part of the organising committee for the first ever Historic Heart IdeaGen Hackathon. The Hackathon ran for five days, from Sunday, 21 October culminating on Thursday, 25 October. Together with Historic Heart of Perth, a community organisation that aims to revitalise Perth’s historic heart, and the Curtin Marketing Association, THESA put on a great event for students, and generated some excellent ideas for the Historic Heart.

The event began with a tour of the Historic Heart precinct, and the day that started out with sunny weather soon was covered in clouds by mid-day when it began to rain. Yet, that did not discourage students as approximately 60 people participated in the tour despite the weather.

The second day of the event ran on the 23rd when students faced the first round of academic judging. Groups had just over an hour to prepare their pitches and finalise an idea. Many great ideas ranging from high spatial science architectural solutions to vibrant marketing and publicity initiatives were generated from the 22 groups that attended, nevertheless, only four groups were selected to present at the finals. The final day of the event ran on the 25th at the newly built QT Perth Hotel, who were extremely generous in providing the event space and refreshments for the final judgment by an esteemed panel of judges. Judges included Mr Adrian Fini, Historic Heart/FJM Properties; Ms Lorissa Kelly, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; Mr Colin Walker, Department of Culture and Arts; Ms Marion Fulker, Committee for Perth; Ms Tanya Trevison, Property Council; Mr Marcus Canning, Fringe Festival; and Professor Ian Phau, Curtin University. After some excellent pitches, judges proceeded to deliberate on the winner for the competition.

Congratulations to Mr Olisa Anwasi, Mrs Maria Silva and Mr Fabian Tinglehoff who were presented with their prize of four overnight stays at the QT Perth Hotel. Their idea focused on bringing a novelty aspect into the Historic Heart through augmented reality technology, and a path of coins from the Perth Mint to a wall made of money. THESA would like to thank Kevin Teah from CMA and Dr Sean Lee from Curtin University for their immense contributions to the event and the opportunity to collaborate on such a rewarding program. This was the biggest event that THESA has been involved in to date and rest assured there will be more to come!
Visit of Prof Cathy Hsu (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

During her visit to Perth, hosted by Edith Cowan University, Professor Cathy Hsu also visited Curtin University to learn about the activities of the Tourism Research Cluster and Curtin’s advanced learning and teaching facilities. Professor Hsu is a Chair Professor at the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Her research foci are hospitality and tourism marketing, tourist behaviors, resident sentiment, hotel branding, and service quality. Professor Hsu has over 200 refereed publications and is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Teaching in Travel & Tourism.

Visiting Academic Ms Lanlan Huang and Dr Meng Wei

Ms Lanlan Huang (photo top right), Senior Lecturer in Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Director of Hospitality and Tourism Management Program from Shanghai Urban Construction Vocational College, China, has joined the Tourism, Hospitality & Events Discipline as a visiting scholar for the period October 2018 to September 2019. During her visit, she will work with the TRC team on a number of research initiatives including research on the professional curriculum and occupational qualifications systems in hospitality management in Australia as well as sustainable rural tourism development based on rural revitalisation strategies.

Dr. Meng Wei (photo bottom right) is Deputy Director of the Eco-tourism Planning Centre of South China Agriculture University and is a visiting academic at the TRC hub from October 2018 to May 2019. He holds a PhD in Tourism Management from Sun Yat-sen University and his main research interests include tourism governance, coastal tourism and rural tourism. Based on his research and professional experience, Dr. Meng Wei has some interesting ideas on tourism development models.
## TRC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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**Mr Mark Exeter**  
Industry professional  
South West Development Commission

**Ms Catrin Allsop**  
Industry professional  
Australia’s South West
LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Journals Articles


Books


Book Chapter


Report

FROM THE TOURISM RESEARCH CLUSTER

We wish you a fantastic 2019!

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR

We are looking forward to having you with us for another successful year ahead!