

# New Urban Tourism



## Call for Papers

### Touristified everyday life – mundane tourism: Current perspectives on urban tourism

*Urban Research Group New Urban Tourism*  
Georg-Simmel-Center for Metropolitan Studies  
Humboldt-Universität Berlin  
11. & 12. May 2017

[www.newurbantourism.wordpress.com](http://www.newurbantourism.wordpress.com)

Dear colleagues,

Tourist practices are shaping today's urban life in an unprecedented way. At the same time, established dichotomies such as tourism/everyday, visitors/residents or work/leisure become increasingly blurry, losing their power to explain recent developments in city tourism. This raises a series of questions: How can we analytically conceptualize the entanglement of tourism and the everyday? How can we describe it empirically? Are there situations where tourists cannot be distinguished from residents anymore? And, most importantly: What are the effects and consequences for our understanding of tourism and the urban, when traditional concepts of tourism studies fail to give satisfactory answers?

The ***New Urban Tourism*** research approach provides a productive perspective for dealing with these questions. We aim to build upon this interdisciplinary debate, which makes use of concepts from urban, tourism and mobility studies. Center stage of this approach are tourists whose primary motivation for travelling is participation in everyday life in their destination city – and who understand and frame these experiences as 'authentic'. In this sense conventional tourist performances are recalibrated and places beyond the usual sights are added to the touristic landscape of the city. Information and communication technology are clearly a major contributor to these developments. Moreover, *New Urban Tourism* research recognizes the role of highly mobile workers, temporary city users, and permanent residents as 'prosumers' of city life.

In the course of engaging with the renegotiation of tourism, the everyday and the urban, the conference will address the following questions:

- **Representations of the urban everyday:** Whose everyday life and which elements of it are becoming touristically interesting for whom? How are mundane spaces (e.g. of the creative class or marginal populations) made accessible for tourism experiences?

- **Digitalization of city tourism:** How are digital media and sharing platforms shaping the tourism experience of the city? How do they influence the tourists' journey through urban space?
- **New formations of city (tourism) development:** How is the (conflictual) touristic use of the city problematized – both in political administration and civil society? Which new forms of city governance emerge in the treatment and negotiation of city tourism?

Besides discussing these concrete phenomena, we would like to intensify **the fundamental and interdisciplinary debate on the understanding of tourism** during the conference. If the distinction between touristic and everyday practices is dissolved, what does this mean for urban/ tourism studies in relation to other interdisciplinary fields such as mobility studies? Has the thesis of a de-differentiation of tourism and the mundane already reached its limits and does it need to be critically assessed? Which practices are not part of the touristification of everyday life and the routinization of tourism? Is tourism even the appropriate term to describe people's allegedly touristic activities?

### Organizational remarks

Contributions may be theoretical as well as empirical and/or methodological oriented. Please send an abstract (in German or English) of your intended presentation (350 words max.) including the title until **1<sup>st</sup> December 2016** to: [newurbantourism-gsz@hu-berlin.de](mailto:newurbantourism-gsz@hu-berlin.de). Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **1<sup>st</sup> February 2017**. The application deadline for participating in the conference is **1<sup>st</sup> April 2017**. An **attendance fee of € 40** will be charged to cover the expenses for the event. For students, trainees, unemployed, and handicapped there is a reduced fee of € 20.

For any questions please contact:

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