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# Tourism, Territory and Sustainable Development

Theoretical Foundations and Empirical  
Applications in Japan and Europe



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# Preface

This book is the result of an extensive and diversified research work undertaken since the completion of my Ph.D. (2012), covering a large set of topics on the spatial-economic aspects of tourism, with different territorial levels in different countries. Most of these works are briefly summarized along the book, comprising 15 case studies complementing the theoretical and conceptual analysis presented.

During these 6 years, I had the privilege to cooperate with a diversified group of researchers, with different nationalities and working in different parts of the world. The diversity of these working experiences in different countries and cultural contexts clearly contributed to enrich my knowledge, while opening the opportunity to develop the comprehensive analysis of contemporary tourism dynamics offered in this book. I am extremely grateful to all of them.

In particular, Peter Nijkamp (Tinbergen Institute, the Netherlands) has been a permanent source of support and inspiration for my career. His continuous proposals to develop new research topics, his critical observations, suggestions and remarks, and his motivation to participate actively in a large part of my empirical studies were crucial to all my academic work. This close collaboration is clearly expressed through Peter's participation in 10 of the case studies presented in the book (2.1, 2.3, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.3, and 5.4).

Another long, regular, and enriching collaboration I had the opportunity to develop was with Bart Neuts (Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand), who complements his interest in the tourism sector with a deep knowledge on advanced econometric methods. Bart was involved in 7 of the case studies presented (2.1, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, and 5.2), developing the sophisticated and useful econometric models applied in all of them.

I am also grateful to *Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia* (FCT, Portugal) for supporting a significant part of the research conducting to the publication of this book through a post-doctoral research grant (BPD/98938/2013), under supervision of João Guerreiro (University of Algarve, Portugal) and Paulo MM Rodrigues (Nova School of Business and Economics, Portugal). They also contributed actively for the articles presented as case studies 2.2 (whose econometric model was developed by Rodrigues) and 3.2.

With less regular collaborations, I would like to thank all the other co-authors who have participated in the production of the case studies presented along the book. Asami Shikida, from Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Japan (2.1, 3.3, and 4.1); Eveline van Leeuwen, from Wageningen University, the Netherlands (3.4 and 4.2); Kazuo Machino, from Hokkaido University, Japan (5.3 and 5.4); Karima Kourtit, from Jheronimus Academy of Data Science, the Netherlands (4.4); and Hisamitsu Saito, from Hokkaido University, Japan (5.1).

The collaboration with different Japanese researchers and the study of diverse aspects of tourism in Japan would not have been possible without the invitation from Hokkaido University to work as a Special Appointed Lecturer. I am deeply honored for having this opportunity.

Finally, I would like to thank all my family in Portugal for their permanent personal support during very long stays in Japan over the last 3 years. And I would like to dedicate this book to my wife, who made my life in Japan, not only possible and productive, but also extremely beautiful:

*to Maki, with love!*

Sapporo, Japan

João Romão

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