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***Polar Tourism: A Tool for Regional Development*. Edited by Alain A. Grenier and Dieter K. Müller. Québec, QC: Presses de l'Université du Québec, 2011. 294 pp, 58 Figures.**

In *Polar Tourism: A Tool for Regional Development*, the editors collected papers presented at the first International Polar Tourism Research Network (IPTRN) meeting, held mid-August 2008 in Kangiqsujaq (Nunavik, Canada). The book contains nine chapters in addition to an introduction and conclusion provided by the editors. As is to be expected, such a collection takes the reader in many diverse directions and deploys concepts and issues from a variety of sources. However, contrary to expectations, the contributions also vary considerably in terms of quality of content and writing. On a very general note the editors could have had more stringent procedures in terms of spelling, grammar, and syntax and a more rigorous framework for the issues to be dealt with. However, at the end of the day, these are eloquently executed conference proceedings. There are three critical points I would like to discuss below, before concluding.

This book is one of many recent ones that detail the issues and challenges pertaining to polar tourism.¹ This book, however, can be considered somewhat apart from these as it documents ongoing and current research efforts. That being said, contrary to expectations about research being outlined and specific research findings presented, many of the chapters are busy laying out the general issues of polar tourism in too broad terms. This to me indicates how undeveloped research in this field is, yet at the same time I am ambivalent towards developing research into polar tourism as a particular field in and of itself. One chapter author (Enzenbacher, 54) explains how higher education politics might lead to the temptation of "niche carving" by many academics. An effort towards a polar tourism research agenda might indeed lead to such temptations. To counter this, she advocates a dialogue within the research community, and to me the title of the book is a contribution in that vein. This

dialogue, in my view, is something that needs to be carefully negotiated at all times when polar tourism is dealt with.

As stated, the title of the book does point the way towards such a dialogue—i.e., between regional studies *tout court* and tourism more generally, and polar tourism particularly. The book could, should, and somewhat does try to sketch out how issues pertaining to polar tourism and regional development play out in general in peripheral communities that are in fragile environments. However, the editors cannot be commended on this point, as there is a distinct lack of rigour in framing the issues presented in the overall context of regional development. What is missing is an outline of the issues regional development is faced with in the general context, albeit specific to peripheral communities in fragile environments, and how these can be related to those observed in the polar tourism context.² The editors could have staked out stricter parameters for the chapter authors to work within. One of them (Grenier) does well in conceptualizing polar tourism, and perhaps research in the field is still in the stage of being conceptualized; but then I would refer back to my point above and ask why create a new field of concepts and terms for a particular activity set in the region, albeit an issue being to what extent the “polar” is a region per se. Indeed tourism, being a global phenomenon, can be dealt with in terms of its specificity under the polar circumstances, but I would be wary of trying to develop a body of theory or concepts concerned with polar tourism.

Lastly among critical points to be addressed, is the fact that the book is very much focused on the Arctic regions of Canada, with cursory glances to Scandinavia. Wholly absent is the vast polar territory of Russia with all its regional and ethnic dynamics. The IPTRN should strive towards incorporating Russian colleagues into the network to lift the profile of research undertaken there. Arguably, insights from Indigenous populations are also missing, thus making the book susceptible to Western hegemonic academic discourse. An issue that I think is of great importance is how ethnicity and identity are being brought forth through the circuits of globalized capital via tourism. I believe the concerns that can be raised in this context are manifold and of utmost importance for Indigenous societies in polar regions and I missed an engagement with this debate in the book, although some chapters, especially those which are broader in scope, did mention the question.

All in all, I believe this book is an ambitious contribution to the field of tourism research in terms of bringing forth conference papers under a heading indicating their potential joint relevance. However, a clearer focus and set of terms to be dealt with needs to accompany such an effort and there one is left wanting. The book would thus have benefited from addressing

a wider field of inquiry and in a more inquisitive manner. On that note, I would have used a question mark in the title: *Polar Tourism: A Tool for Regional Development?*

Notes

1. Grenier, A.A. 2004. *The Nature of Nature Tourism*. Rovaniemi: University of Lapland Press; Hall, C.M. and Boyd, S. 2005. *Nature-based Tourism in Peripheral Areas: Development or Disaster?* Bristol: Channel View Publications; Hall, C.M. and Johnston, M.E. 1995. *Polar Tourism: Tourism in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions*. Bognor Regis: John Wiley and Sons; Maher, P.T., Stewart, E. and Lueck, M. 2011. *Polar Tourism: Human, Environmental and Governance Dimensions*. Putnam Valley: Cognizant Communication Corp.; Müller, D.K. and Jansson, B. 2007. *Tourism in Peripheries: Perspectives from the Far North and South*. Wallingford: CABI; Snyder, J.M. and Stonehouse, B. 2007. *Prospects for Polar Tourism*. Wallingford: CABI; Stonehouse, B. and Snyder, J.M. 2010. *Polar Tourism: An Environmental Perspective*. Bristol: Channel View Publications.
2. See, for example, a 2011 special issue of *Polar Geography* 34(1-2) on Social Indicators for Observing Arctic Change.

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***Cultural Heritage and Tourism: An Introduction*. By Dallen J. Timothy. United Kingdom: Channel View Publications, 2011. 456 pp.**

Since Dallen Timothy and Stephen Boyd published *Heritage Tourism*—the first course textbook dedicated to the field—in 2003, there has been a growing demand for heritage tourism publications both inside and outside of the academy. Many universities now offer undergraduate and graduate courses and programs in heritage tourism; publications such as the *Journal of Heritage Tourism* have come into existence; and countless new and existing heritage sites, events, and even ways of life have been positioned primarily as “attractions.” Furthermore, given that many public organizations appear unable or unwilling to contribute to cultural organizations during times of austerity, it seems likely that tourism will take an even more prominent role in heritage. It is because of tourism’s vital and increasing role in heritage that Dallen Timothy’s *Cultural Heritage Tourism: An Introduction* is a welcome addition to the heritage tourism canon. It is a comprehensive, accessible, and relevant text for undergraduate courses, a strong reference guide for graduate students interested in aspects of heritage tourism, and is a useful tool for more applied heritage and tourism practitioners.