

EMMET McLOUGHLIN

Resilient Tourism Management



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Goodfellow Publishers Ltd



Published by Goodfellow Publishers Limited,
26 Home Close, Wolvercote, Oxford OX2 8PS
<http://www.goodfellowpublishers.com>

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data: a catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: on file.

ISBN: 978-1-917433-632-4

DOI: 10.23912/9781917433372-6212

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Design and typesetting by P.K. McBride, www.macbride.org.uk

Cover design by Cylinder

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Preface

The global tourism industry has undergone profound transformations in recent years. Amidst the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate-related disruptions, geopolitical instability, and shifts in traveller behaviour, the need for resilience in tourism has never been more pressing. This textbook, *Resilient Tourism Management*, emerges from the belief that resilience is not a temporary fix or a catchphrase, but a strategic, multidimensional framework that must be embedded into every level of tourism education, policy, and practice.

The origin of this textbook lies in a combination of academic instruction, professional engagement, and personal research. Much of the material was originally developed for and refined through undergraduate and postgraduate teaching across several tourism, hospitality, and event management programmes. Modules such as *Destination Management*, *Technologies for THE*, *Exploring Tourism and Hospitality Landscapes*, and *The Global Tourism Environment* all provided me with opportunities to research and discuss many of the theories, frameworks, and case studies presented across the twelve chapters of this textbook.

Beyond the lecture theatre, this work has also been informed by many informal conversations with industry professionals in both Ireland and the United Kingdom. Such discussions have shed light on the realities of managing tourism in an era marked by uncertainty. Their experiences, ranging from small tourism entrepreneurs to representatives from national tourism development authorities, have been invaluable.

At a more personal level, this textbook is a natural extension of my ongoing research interests in destination and event management, leisure studies, and tourism sociology. Over the past number of years, my academic inquiry has increasingly focused on the intersections between tourism, crisis, and resilience. In particular, recent research into destination resilience, leisure and biosecurity, and crisis management within the events sector has deepened my appreciation of how complex and interdependent tourism systems are. These strands are woven throughout the chapters, offering different lenses through which resilience can be understood, not just as a response to shock, but as a proactive and systemic approach to sustainability, inclusion, and transformation.

This textbook brings together contributions that span a wide thematic range, from governance, digitalisation, and crisis management to food-service, ethics, and regenerative tourism. Each chapter explores a different dimension of resilient tourism management, offering both conceptual frameworks and applied insights. While diverse in focus, the twelve chapters are unified by a shared concern: how can tourism adapt to and recover from crises while becoming more equitable, sustainable, and future-ready?

In writing and compiling this textbook, I was also motivated by the gap that often exists between academic research and industry practice. Too often, the language of resilience remains abstract, disconnected from the day-to-day decisions that tourism professionals must make. Another key motivation was to centre the interdisciplinary nature of resilience. Resilient tourism management cannot be reduced to a single discipline or sector; it involves governance, economics, community development, technology, health, environmental science, and culture. This textbook reflects that complexity. It is written for a broad audience that includes undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as academics, policymakers, destination managers, tourism entrepreneurs, and hospitality professionals.

Yet, this textbook is not intended to offer definitive answers. Resilience is not a fixed starting or end point, nor is it a one-size-fits-all. Rather, it is a process of continuous learning and adaptation. In this context, each chapter invites readers to question assumptions, engage with emerging debates, and consider the plural ways in which resilience might be imagined and operationalised in different contexts. As the tourism sector continues to navigate an uncertain global landscape, it is my hope that this book will serve as a valuable resource, one that not only charts where we have been but also points towards a more resilient, inclusive, and regenerative future for tourism.

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