

SPORT

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TOURISM

*Strategies to Develop  
Tourist Destinations*

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*Edited by*

MARCO VALERI

NEW PERSPECTIVES IN TOURISM  
AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

# **Sport and Tourism**

# New Perspectives in Tourism and Hospitality Management



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# **Sport and Tourism: Strategies to Develop Tourist Destinations**

EDITED BY

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# Table of Contents

List of Figures	ix
List of Tables	xi
List of Contributors	xv
Preface	xvii
<b>Chapter 1 Mapping the Research Trends on Sports Tourism and Sustainability: A Bibliometric Analysis</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Suneel Kumar, Marco Valeri, Varinder Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar and Isha Kumari Bhatt</i>	
<b>Chapter 2 Brand Love as a Trigger of Sport Tourism: A Study in Portuguese Football</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>Ana João Peixoto, Vasco Ribeiro Santos and Bruno Barbosa Sousa</i>	
<b>Chapter 3 Sports Tourism in the COVID-19 Era</b>	<b>41</b>
<i>Panoraia Poulaki, Antonios Kritikos, Nikolaos Vasilakis and Marco Valeri</i>	
<b>Chapter 4 Progress in Sports and Event Tourism Research: A Review Study</b>	<b>55</b>
<i>Shekhar and Marco Valeri</i>	
<b>Chapter 5 Winter Sports Mega-Event Destination Experience: An Experience Economy Model Perspective During the Post-COVID-19 Pandemic</b>	<b>79</b>
<i>Bob Yi-Chen Duan, Jingjing Dai and Emily Ma</i>	

<b>Chapter 6 Hiking Tourism in Greece</b>	95
<i>Panoraia Poulaki, Stylianos Bouzis, Nikolaos Vasilakis and Marco Valeri</i>	
<b>Chapter 7 Assessing the Impact of a Sports Event From Big Data</b>	113
<i>Vincenzo Asero and Simona Gozzo</i>	
<b>Chapter 8 Profiling Trail Runners by Experience–Use–History, Environmental Consciousness and Travel Carbon Footprint</b>	139
<i>Hrvoje Grofelnik, Marko Perić and Nicholas Wise</i>	
<b>Chapter 9 A Business Network Model for the Development of Cycle Tourism in a Destination</b>	157
<i>Vincenzo Asero and Sandro Billi</i>	
<b>Chapter 10 Tourist Motivation Factors Towards Health and Wellness Tourism in Malaysia: A Case Study of Marathon Events in Kuala Lumpur</b>	175
<i>Nurul Farah Izzah Zailani, Ahmad Albattat, Sin Yee Wong, Mohammad Haziq Md Nazri and Nini Shaliza Mohd Zuraimi</i>	
<b>Chapter 11 Is Marathon a Sport Tourism Event? The Authentic Athens Marathon</b>	195
<i>Evangelia Kasimati and Vincenzo Asero</i>	
<b>Chapter 12 Sport Venues as Sport Tourism Destinations: Examining a Dynamic Multilinked Leisure Proposal</b>	211
<i>Ourania P. Vrontou</i>	
<b>Chapter 13 European Union Managing Tourism and Sport: The Attitudes of EU Citizens on Sport and Physical Activity</b>	229
<i>Marian Šuplata</i>	
Index	247

# List of Figures

## Chapter 1

Figure 1.	PRISMA Flow Diagram Illustrating Processes in the Identification and Screening of Publications.	6
Figure 2.	The Publication Trends on Sports Tourism and Sustainability Throughout the Year.	7
Figure 3.	Co-cited Author's Network Analysis.	13
Figure 4.	Co-citation Source Network Analysis.	14
Figure 5.	Author's Keyword Co-occurrence Network Analysis.	15
Figure 6.	Country-wise Collaboration Network.	16

## Chapter 4

Figure 1.	Publication Trends in Sports and Event Tourism Research.	57
Figure 2.	Country-wise Publication Count.	61
Figure 3.	Author Collaboration Network.	63
Figure 4.	Keyword Co-occurrence Network.	65

## Chapter 5

Figure 1.	Proposed 4Es Model in Event Sports Tourism.	90
-----------	---	----

## Chapter 7

Figure 1.	Main Comments Within the Nets: Languages and Sources for Periods of Extraction.	119
Figure 2.	Co-occurrences Analysis: Word Associations With the Four Most Frequent Unassociated Lemmas.	122
Figure 3.	Factorial Analysis: Clusters and Main Words.	123

Figure 4.	Factorial Analysis: Clusters of Emerging Themes (Among 165,846 Elementary Contexts).	126
Figure 5.	MDS on the First Thematic Cluster ( <i>Campione</i> ).	127
Figure 6.	MDS on the Second Thematic Cluster ( <i>GirodItalia</i> ).	128
Figure 7.	(A) MDS on the Theme <i>stage</i> and (B) MDS on the Theme <i>tappa</i> .	130
Figure 8.	MDS on the Last Thematic Cluster ( <i>Torino</i> ).	132
<b>Chapter 8</b>		
Figure 1.	Experience–Use–History on 100 Miles of Istria.	144
<b>Chapter 10</b>		
Figure 1.	The Framework for Tourists’ Health and Wellness Motivation Factors.	178
<b>Chapter 13</b>		
Picture 1.	Adoption of Tourism and Sport Policy Initiatives by the Communitarian Method.	233
Graph 1.	EU Generally: ‘How Often Do You Exercise or Play Sports?’ EU Aggregate Responses.	234
Graph 2.	Question: ‘How Often Do You Engage in Other Physical Activity (Such as Cycling From One Place to Another, Dancing, Gardening, etc.)?’ EU Aggregate Responses.	235
Graph 3.	Question: ‘In the Last Seven Days, On How Many Days Did You Do Vigorous Physical Activity, Like Lifting Heavy Things, Digging, Aerobics or Fast Cycling? (% EU)’. EU Aggregate Responses.	236
Graph 4.	Question: ‘In the Last Seven Days, On How Many Days Did You Do Moderate Physical Activity, Like Carrying Light Loads, Cycling at a Normal Pace, or Double Tennis (Excluding Walking)?’ EU Aggregate Responses.	238
Graph 5.	Question: ‘In the Last 7 Days, How Many Days Did You Walk for at Least 10 Minutes at a Time?’ EU Aggregate Responses.	240
Graph 6.	Question: ‘How Much Time Do You Spend Sitting on a Usual Day? This May Include Time Spent at a Desk, Visiting Friends, Studying or Watching Television.’ EU Aggregate Responses.	241

# List of Tables

## Chapter 1

	Review of Literature on Sports Tourism and Sustainability	3
Table 1.	Most Influencing Sources of Sports Tourism and Sustainability (2002–2021).	3
Table 2.	Most Productive Scholars in the Fields of Sports Tourism and Sustainability From 2002 to 2021.	8
Table 3.	Top Ten Most Influential Publications Based on Highest Citation (2002–2021).	9
Table 4.	A Country With the Most Contribution (in Terms of Publications and Citations).	11

## Chapter 4

Table 1.	Most Preferred Publications for Sports and Event Tourism Research.	58
Table 2.	Most Influential Articles Based on Local Citations (LC).	59
Table 3.	Most Influential Articles Based on the Global Citations (GC).	60
Table 4.	Most Productive Authors on Sports and Event Tourism.	62
Table 5.	Top Keywords in Sport and Event Tourism Research.	64
Table 6.	Evolution of Bibliographic Clusters.	66
Table 7.	Top 2 Papers From Each Bibliographic Cluster.	67

## Chapter 5

Table 1.	Demographic Information.	84
----------	--------------------------	----

**Chapter 7**

Table 1.	Information About Net Structure.	120
Table 2.	Clusters and Numbers of Elementary Contexts (For Each Factor).	124

**Chapter 8**

Table 1.	Differences Between Segments of Trail Runners.	145
Table 2.	Differences Between Segments of Trail Runners Regarding Their Environmental Consciousness.	148

**Chapter 9**

	List of Businesses That Expressed Interest in the Network by Activity.	166
	Travel by Destination From the Catalogue Butterfield & Robinson.	166

**Chapter 10**

Table 1.	Summary of Profile Demographics.	181
Table 2.	Summary of Relaxation and Relief.	184
Table 3.	Summary of Health and Beauty.	185
Table 4.	Summary of Escape.	187
Table 5.	Summary of Self-Development.	189
Table 6.	Intention to Visit Health and Wellness Services in Malaysia.	190

**Chapter 11**

Table 1.	Authentic Athens Marathon Data 2011–2021.	199
----------	---	-----

**Chapter 13**

Table 1.	The List of Commissioners Responsible for EU Tourism and EU Sports Policies After the Enlargement in 2004, Commissioner President, Mandate (From-To).	232
Table 2.	Question: ‘How Often Do You Exercise or Play Sports?’ Attitudes of Citizens of EU Member States – Clustered by EU14, EU13, and V4 Countries (% of ‘Never’ Responses).	234

Table 3.	Question: ‘How Often Do You Engage in Other Physical Activity? (Such as Cycling From One Place to Another, Dancing, Gardening, etc.)’. Attitudes of Citizens of EU Member States – Clustered by EU14, EU13, and V4 Countries (% of ‘Never’ Responses).	236
Table 4.	Question: ‘In the Last Seven Days, How Many Days Did You Do Vigorous Physical Activity Like Lifting Heavy Things, Digging, Aerobics, or Fast Cycling?’ Attitudes of Citizens of EU Member States – Clustered by EU14, EU13, and V4 Countries.	237
Table 5.	Question: ‘In the Last Seven Days, On How Many Days Did You Do Moderate Physical Activity, Like Carrying Light Loads, Cycling at a Normal Pace, or Double Tennis (Excluding Walking)?’ Attitudes of Citizens of EU Member States – Clustered by EU14, EU13 and V4 Countries.	239
Table 6.	Question: ‘In the Last 7 Days, On How Many Days Did You Walk for at Least 10 Minutes at a Time?’ Attitudes of Citizens of EU Member States – Clustered by EU14, EU13 and V4 Countries.	240
Table 7.	Question: ‘How Much Time Do You Spend Sitting on a Usual Day? This May Include Time Spent at a Desk, Visiting Friends, Studying or Watching Television.’ Attitudes of Citizens of EU Member States – Clustered by EU14, EU13 and V4 Countries.	242

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# Preface

In recent years the relationship among sport and tourism have expanded considerably and become more clearly defined. The latter part of the twentieth century witnessed the rapid development of sport and tourism. Both now stand among the largest and fastest growing industries in the global economy. Sport and tourism have achieved mass participation in the post-war years and in many cases, participation in sport and tourism takes place simultaneously. This process has created new links between the sport and tourism industry. Indeed, the resources and infrastructural requirements of sport and tourism are often shared. These include natural environments, constructed facilities, transport, services and hospitality. This shared foundation suggests the likelihood that developments in sport will affect the tourism sector, and vice versa.

While there has been a recent proliferation of sports-related travel, much of the junction between sport and tourism is not researched yet. The capacity for international sporting events to generate tourism has been widely addressed to tourism and literary events. However, the impacts of sporting mega-events may have been overstated in many cases. Some mega-sports, in fact, generate varied and severe long-term negative impacts (for example, uncontrolled gatherings of people could facilitate the spread of viruses and generate serious health emergencies). While the links between high-profile sports and tourism become increasingly apparent, comparatively little attention *is* paid to lower profile sports-related travel.

Strengthening the relationship between sport and tourism can make a positive impact all over the world. Many nations are making efforts to boost their sports tourism industries because they play a predominant role as economic generators, creating positive social and cultural effects. Economic impacts include employment opportunities, investment, development and foundation of infrastructure. Social impact includes improvement of communities, cultural and social identities, reinforcement of social cooperation, creating a more positive image of the host event and the improvement of social structure. Cultural impacts include the promotion of the host culture internationally, the exchange of culture and information and the transformation, restructuring and development of culture.

The book *Sport and Tourism: Opportunities to Develop Tourist Destinations* will be an opportunity to stimulate academic research on the relationship between sport and tourism with multidisciplinary approaches. Furthermore, this book will encourage discussion among international scholars on how to stimulate cooperation strategies on sport and tourism to develop tourist destinations.

Strategies are needed especially in the COVID-19 pandemic scenario in which sport and tourism industries change their products and adapt their structure and performance according to the new situation. The new experiences gained during the pandemic show that sports and tourism organizations need crisis management programmes to deal with crises in the future. So, it's necessary to manage sports and tourism organizations with a different perspective and new plans to encounter future needs and problems.

## Genesis and Structure of the Book

The book *Sport and Tourism: Opportunities to Develop Tourist Destinations* aims to provide a comprehensive collection of chapters analyzing how and why interorganizational cooperation between sport and tourism occurs to develop tourist destinations. This book is the result of reflections involving research studies of different nationalities.

The book contains 13 chapters written by 31 authors located in 11 different countries and affiliated with 20 different universities.

The first chapter titled 'Mapping the Research Trends on Sports Tourism and Sustainability: A Bibliometric Analysis' is written by Suneel Kumar, Marco Valeri, Varinder Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar and Isha Kumari Bhatt. The aim of this chapter is to examine research trends in sports tourism and sustainability. Sports tourism is a form of travelling from one region to another to attend a sporting event of any kind. Sports tourism is an emerging new category of tourism that has grown rapidly over the past decade. Properly developed and regulated, tourism can help meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a sub-sector of tourism, sports tourism contributes to long-term growth in a unique way due to its specific characteristics. Through a bibliometric review of 157 research publications published over the past 19 years (2002–2021) in the research area of sports tourism and sustainability, this study extracts valuable insights from research trends, co-citation and keyword analysis. This study uses the indexed Scopus database to identify the articles published on this topic. The VOSviewer software was used to analyze further upcoming research topics. The results showed that interest in the concept of these subjects increased, especially after 2011 and 2018. This is a very young research area, and the first work was published in 2002; however, very little research has been done in this area since then. Despite significant progress in this research domain since 2010, substantial linkages between theme areas have yet to be discovered. There is a widespread shortage of researchers and publications. Many publications in this area have emerged as a result of commemorating major sporting events or announcing SDGs. Dealing with important research topics, such as sustainable tourism, environmental sustainability, innovation, sports sponsorship and social sustainability, which should be investigated in the future, is an essential contribution to this process.

In the second chapter titled 'Brand Love as a Trigger of Sport Tourism: A Study in Portuguese Football' Ana João Peixoto, Vasco Ribeiro Santos and Bruno Barbosa Sousa explore how emotions and brand love affect consumer

decision-making in specific tourism contexts (i.e. sports tourism), more specifically the case of professional football in Portugal and (post) pandemic scenario. A qualitative methodology was adopted collecting data from specialists of the phenomenon to be studied (i.e. semi-structured interviews with professionals and managers linked to sports tourism in Portugal) and consumers (i.e. adept-tourist), through a focus group. It is concluded that the feelings of affection and love to brands in sporting contexts (i.e. football) significantly influence the purchase decision by consumers-fans in the Portuguese context, namely with regard to travel to attend competitions (national or international). In this way, the present study is an instrument to support strategy and marketing and sports tourism. A marketing and sports tourism strategy will therefore be central to the success of football brands in the Portuguese context. This reinforces the role of sport intervention as an attempt to make individuals more aware of how to reconcile the practice of tourism and the search for leisure with their passion and loyalty for the football club (i.e. brand love) and feelings of affection towards brands.

In the third chapter titled 'Sports Tourism in the Covid-19 Era' Panoraia Poulaki, Antonios Kritikos and Nikolaos Vasilakis focus on the interconnection of sporting events with the development of tourism during the pandemic. Emphasis is placed on the development strategies of sports tourism and the involvement of tourism professionals by offering hospitality services during the stay of visitors in a tourism destination to attend or participate in a sports event. The tourism season due to the spread of COVID-19 has raised many questions to professionals and tourism authorities as how tourism will be enhanced through specific alternative forms of tourism and in particular sporting events. As it is well known sports has been particularly affected by the deadly virus, causing great concern in the international community as international sporting events will take place soon and an appropriate strategic plan must be put in place to deal with this virus. The strategy pursued by most governments of various tourism destinations was to take strict measures to stop the increase in transmissibility and thus to prevent the upward trend of the pandemic. The number of cases contributes to the increased tendency of isolation of the inhabitants of the affected tourism destinations, and on the other hand no particularly important sporting events took place. Previous research has focussed on how sports organizations manage the COVID-19 crisis by proposing new long-term business models for every tourism destination. COVID-19 is a tough test in attracting sports tourists with strong concerns for the economy and society. The originality of this research effort focuses on how popular tourism destinations utilize the combination of the sport sector with the tourism through appropriate strategic positions that will lead their visitors to enjoy a sporting event in peace and well-being during the COVID-19 era.

The fourth chapter titled 'Progress in Sports and Event Tourism Research: A Review Study' is written by Shekhar and Marco Valeri. The chapter aims to map the evolution, themes and collaboration pattern in the sports and event tourism research using the fit for purpose software and suggest future research agendas. The review study retrieved 261 articles published in the Web of Science (WoS) indexed journals. The descriptive analysis, consisting of research trends, most

influential articles, top contributing authors and most preferred publications was carried out using MS-Excel and Sci2. The knowledge cluster mapping, consisting of keyword co-occurrence network, co-authorship network and Bibliographic coupling network was done using the Open Refine, Sci2 and Gephi. The study finds the literature heavily focuses on the economic impact of such events, the social impact of events, residents' perception of these events and tourism, marketing aspects and sustainability concerns of this typology for the destination and the industry. The study observes an upward trend in the publication on the theme in the current decade and suggests that pandemic-related challenges will be the focus of practitioners in developing and maintaining loyalty in the tourists. The study offers implications for scholars by summarizing the literature and suggesting future research agendas. The study limits itself to literature from a single database.

In the fifth chapter titled 'Winter Sports Mega-Event Destination Experience: An Experience Economy Model Perspective During the post-COVID-19 Pandemic' Bob Yi-Chen Duan, Jingjing Dai and Emily Ma explore the winter sports destination experience in the context of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games, using the experience economy model (4Es) as the underpinning theory. The chapter presents two main contributions. Firstly, this study extended the 4Es model to the winter sports tourism domain. Secondly, we found new dimensions that expand the model. A two-stage investigation employing an inductive approach was chosen. Stage I adopted an ethnographic method, which collected 25 rich and detailed self-reporting travelling blogs. In stage II, a snowball and purposive sampling consisting of 12 informants was used for the project.

The sixth chapter titled 'Hiking Tourism in Greece' is written by Panoraia Poulaki, Stylianos Bouzidis, Nikolaos Vasilakis and Marco Valeri. The aim of this research is to highlight hiking tour as a key factor in the development of Greece in the context of tourism development and formulation of a tourism policy plan, which will include several selected actions for the design and management of walking tourism. Also, it aims to highlight the great challenges and opportunities brought by walking tourism. The presentation of the research findings highlights why the management of walking tourism is particularly important to make the 'paths' of Greece an important tool and advantage for their tourism. Greece keeps alive the cultural heritage through the customs and traditions that are still part of everyday life. The traditional forms of life and the great architectural and cultural heritage have been preserved by inhabitants who experience the traditions every day. In the case of Greece an important place is occupied by the 'paths', masterpieces of our cultural heritage which highlight the history and culture. The combination of the cultural, historical and religious wealth of Greece with the intense interest for hiking can be one of the main factors of their tourism development.

In the seventh chapter titled 'Assessing the Impact of a Sports Event From Big Data' Vincenzo Asero and Simona Gozzo explore the event experience from the audience's perspective through a Big Data approach, investigating the links between users and their sentiments, such as attitudes, opinions, views and emotions, expressed on Twitter. The study offers a contribution to understanding how

social media activities vary in terms of their function and their influence on a sports event. Studies in tourism and hospitality management have revealed a variety of factors that influence evaluations of the possible benefits from hosting events. In many cases, the benefits lead to new editions of the event, as the over one hundred editions of *Giro d'Italia* show. Furthermore, social impacts are often used as one of the main justifications for staging and funding future events. Organizers are therefore increasingly focussed on the promotion of positive attitudes among local residents of the hosting places and different stakeholders involved in the events. However, each organizer employs a different methodology and formula to evaluate the outcomes of the event, and it is therefore difficult to compare impacts of one event against another. Numerous authors agree on the important perceived role of sporting events in changing or enhancing the destination image of the host places. In this regard, social media could be useful to enable the faster identification of factors influencing attendance preferences and evaluations. Internet communities are places where fans and supporters get together and develop emotional ties with their favourite team, regardless of geographic locations. However, research has paid little attention to the possibilities of social media for analyzing sports event. Thus, the use of Big Data through social media and digital interactions can provide new insights for creating new sources, beyond traditional sources of data as a natural part of event planning and management.

The eighth chapter titled 'Profiling Trail Runners by Experience-Use-History, Environmental Consciousness and Travel Carbon Footprint' is written by Hrvoje Grofelnik, Marko Perić and Nicholas Wise. The chapter seeks to consider what affects sports tourists' travel carbon footprint behaviour in the case study of trail runners. Sporting events are one of the key drivers of tourism and sports tourism is one of the fastest growing segments of tourism demand. As more people travel to actively participate in sporting events, it is important that we understand how participants view environmental impacts. In particular, the travel carbon footprint is usually in the domain of event attendees and depends on their individual choices in terms of how they make their way to an event. Data were collected for this study using a questionnaire distributed to those who participated in the 100 Miles of Istria Ultra-Trail running event in 2021. 209 surveys are analyzed to help us consider a carbon footprint methodology looking at experience-use-history and environmental consciousness. The findings imply that all groups exhibited high levels of environmental consciousness while 'visitors' (who are experienced trail runners but have very little event experience) generated the highest carbon footprint.

The ninth chapter titled 'A Business Network Model for the Development of Cycle Tourism in a Destination' is written by Vincenzo Asero and Sandro Billi. The chapter analyzes the cycle tourism phenomenon and its contribution to the development of a tourist area in Tuscany. It explores the experience of the project *Strade di Siena*, which involves over 30 Municipalities, whose leader is the Municipality of Siena. The project leaves the traditional scheme of tourism promotion carried out by public bodies and adopts an organizational model where businesses play a key role. The creation of a formal network recognized by

the Italian law strengthens the autonomy of companies in destination management activities. This study supports the argument that cycling may be a tool for promoting sustainable tourism. In addition, it is argued that formal tourism networking amongst companies plays a key role for providing opportunities to combine cycling with the tourism development of a destination. The discussion provides valuable insights to policymakers and stakeholders in establishing a business network model for the building and management similar cycling routes.

The 10th chapter titled ‘Tourist Motivation Factors Towards Health and Wellness Tourism in Malaysia: A Case Study of Marathon Events in Kuala Lumpur’ is written by Nurul Farah Izzah Zailani, Ahmad Albattat, Sin Yee Wong, Mohammad Haziq Md Nazri and Nini Shaliza Mohd Zuraimi. The purpose of chapter is to determine the characteristics that motivate local tourists to visit Malaysia for wellness and health tourism. As a result, identifying the link between health and beauty, self-development, relaxation and relief and escape components and wellness and health tourism is important. Causal research design in experimental research design was applied in this research chapter as it determines cause and effect between the independent and dependent variables. This causal research design absolutely fits in as the design of this chapter consists of background information, knowledge and understanding about a particular issue that is already known or appeared in the literature. Raw data structures and information can be collected which helps the researcher to model the variables’ cause-and-effect relationships. In this case, quantitative research was implemented to obtain data and study the hypothesis in order to investigate cause and effect outcomes. Simple random sampling, which is a convenient sampling of the data from 400 tourists, was utilized by the researchers. The quantitative strategy involves distributing questionnaires to visitors who visit Malaysian wellness and health centres. The findings of this study indicated that among the four independent factors, “escape” had the greatest influence. This resulted in a favourable association between service quality and visitor motivating elements for wellness and health tourism in Malaysia. Indeed, the findings offered suggestions for increasing the quality of wellness and health-related services and products. The analysis reveals that many tourists agree that visiting wellness and health services can improve mental and physical health ( $r = 596$ ) and continued with self-development ( $r = 576$ ), as well as relaxation and relief ( $r = 565$ ), all of which leads to pleasure. As a result, the findings show that “escape” has the strongest significant relationship with tourist motivation towards wellness and health facilities ( $r = 611$ ). Originality of the research – wellness and health products and services – will ensure the best experience and offer great deals and packages to visitors. Escape, followed by relaxation and relief, is the most important motivation for Malaysian wellness and health tourism.

The 11th chapter titled ‘Is Marathon a Sport Tourism Event? The Authentic Athens Marathon’ is written by Evangelia Kasimati and Vincenzo Asero. The aim of the chapter is to give a short overview of the existing literature of the economic effects and social impacts of sport tourism events with emphasis on marathons. A special reference is made to Authentic Athens marathon. This study examines current literature to reach conclusions on the Authentic marathon’s

impact on Athens sport tourism development. Through this chapter, valuable insights for the Athens marathon are provided that can be useful for past, current and future host cities of marathons. In addition, the findings enhance the existing academic literature on marathons and produce useful information to policy-makers and stakeholders who are involved in the organization of a sport event and in particular of the Athens marathon.

The 12th chapter titled 'Sport Venues as Sport Tourism Destinations: Examining a Dynamic Multilinked Leisure Proposal' is written by Ourania P. Vrontou. The purpose of the chapter is to highlight the capacity of the sport venues to act as sport tourism destinations in order to face an unsustainable post-event reality that is now widely evident in numerous venues and overall exploits the attractive image of sport events and facilities. Indicators of this tension have been recorded in the present examination that aims to analyze this extrovert new venue behaviour towards generating a sport venue-specific tourism clientele. The analysis aims to reveal those decisive factors needed to base a sport venue tourism initiation mechanism and stimulate research on venue tourism destination making further. Methodologically, certain venue and leisure sector cases identified businesses associated with the provision of hospitality services to sport venues, consultant reports, policy documents and mainly, published theoretical work become the platform to base evidence and indications of this evolution towards a venue tourism-related potential. 'Case by case' and documentation qualitative factor analysis serve as instrumental vehicles to provide the crucial factors needed to facilitate the development of sport venue tourism. The analysis indicated the tendency towards sport venues' 'spectacularization', advancement of related technology and overall an increasing investment in supporting the venue function beyond hosting sport competition. The results section reveals some decisive factors towards materializing the new venue role of generating tourism flows. The necessity of planning a comprehensive post-event tourism related legacy programme is underlined despite the lack of supervisory mechanisms by sport institutions as well as local authorities that would secure venue visits and create tourism flows locally. Secondly, hospitality and travel partners are engaged to provide the implementation platform that would facilitate a venue-related tourism offer. From sport spectating to a holistic all-inclusive venue visit the study underlines the crucial contribution of the hospitality sector in uplifting the attendance experience. The third identified developmental factor refers to traditional established destinations, and more interestingly the leisure and entertainment sector, appreciating the unique and appealing character of sport investment in attractive competition venues to secure a quality image, extend tourism flows and create new visiting niches such as the vivid example of the City of Las Vegas.

In the 13th chapter titled 'European Union Managing Tourism and Sports? The Attitudes of EU Citizens on Sports and Physical Activity' Marian Șuplata examines tourism and sport as relatively newly created EU policies and consequently examine the attitudes of EU citizens to sports and physical activity. Tourism, sports and physical activity represent an important and particularly popular activity related to the daily lives of citizens of EU Member States. The objective of the chapter is fourfold: firstly, it briefly outlines the legal base and the

supranational role of the European Commission in managing the sport and tourism policy; secondly, to identify the level of heterogeneity of attitudes of citizens of EU Member States to sports and physical activity, clustered into four groups of countries. Thirdly, it looks at the frequency and levels of engagement in sports and other physical activity. In the fourth stage, the chapter identifies the main motives and barriers of EU citizens to sports and physical activity. Except literary review we used selected, analyzed and processed secondary sources from the European Commission, own author's abstraction of the relevant data, along with calculation and classifications, as well as other relevant secondary data and information processed from the national and European levels.

## Chapter 1

# Mapping the Research Trends on Sports Tourism and Sustainability: A Bibliometric Analysis

*Suneel Kumar, Marco Valeri, Varinder Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar and Isha Kumari Bhatt*

## 1. Introduction

The aim of this chapter is to examine research trends in sports tourism and sustainability. Sports tourism is a form of travelling from one region to another to attend a sporting event of any kind. Sports tourism is an emerging new category of tourism that has grown rapidly over the past decade. Properly developed and regulated, tourism can help meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a sub-sector of tourism, sports tourism contributes to long-term growth in a unique way due to its specific characteristics. Through a bibliometric review of 157 research publications published over the past 19 years (2002–2021) in the research area of sports tourism and sustainability, this study extracts valuable insights from research trends, co-citation and keyword analysis. This study uses the indexed Scopus database to identify the articles published on this topic. The VOS viewer software was used to analyse further upcoming research topics. The results showed that interest in the concept of these subjects increased, especially after 2011 and 2018. This is a very young research area, and the first work was published in 2002; however, very little research has been done in this area since then. Despite significant progress in this research domain since 2010, substantial linkages between theme areas have yet to be discovered. There is a widespread shortage of researchers and publications. Many publications in this area have emerged as a result of commemorating major sporting events or announcing SDGs. Dealing with important research topics, such as sustainable tourism, environmental sustainability, innovation, sports sponsorship and social sustainability, which should be investigated in the future, is an essential contribution to this process.

Sports tourism is one of the fastest-growing forms of the tourism industry. Tourism and sport are inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing (Higham & Hinch, 2002; Rheenen et al., 2021). Sports, whether professional, amateur or recreational, require a significant amount of travel to perform in different locations and countries and remain

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competitive. Sporting events such as the Olympic Games (Essex & Chalkley, 2004; Gratton et al., 2007), cricket, football (Koc, 2005) and rugby league (Gratton et al., 2000) titles have become effective tourist attractions in their own right, contributing directly to the host city's tourist image (Belias et al., 2018). The global sports tourism market was worth US\$323,420.0 million in 2020 and is projected to grow to US\$1,803,704.0 million by 2030, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 16.1% from 2021 to 2030 (DUBLIN, 2021). Tourism is inextricably linked with travel and sports (Cavalheiro et al., 2021; Hinch & Higham, 2001). Sports tourism is already an established niche business in the tourism industry (Weed, 2009), whether it is professional athletes or administrators attending games and matches or spectators travelling to a nation to see an international sports competition (Higham & Hinch, 2018).

The United Nations (2015) recognizes the relevance of tourism and sport in achieving the SDGs, arguing for their interdependence (Boluk et al., 2019; Lockstone-Binney & Ong, 2021; Slocum et al., 2019). The International Olympic Committee recognizes tourism's role in the path of sporting events sustainability, particularly within the Olympic Games (Malchrowicz-Moško et al., 2019; Paquette et al., 2011); and the sports tourism industry is spotlighted by the World Tourism Organization for its ability to improve sustainable development (Miller, 2017), both by having to raise awareness and promoting the implementation of pro-environmental initiatives, despite being one of the fastest growing business sections (Ratten et al., 2019). The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals by nations in 2015 was a turning point in global development (SDGs) (Tsalis et al., 2020). The tourism industry has the potential to achieve all goals, either explicit or implicit. Goals 8, 12 and 14 on long-term economic growth, responsible consumption and production (SCP), and in particular on the sustainable use of oceans and bodies of water have been included as goals (Birendra et al., 2021; Kaitano, 2020). The 2030 Agenda attaches great importance to sustainable tourism (Baum et al., 2016; Bonzanigo et al., 2016; WTO, 2020). Tourism and sustainability are, therefore, inextricably linked.

Unlike other tourist forms, sports tourism contributes to the efficacy of the SDGs through its advancement, qualities and attributes (Ferrer-Roca et al., 2020). Furthermore, since this classification method is related to the celebration of sporting events at various levels, both local and worldwide, the macro and microeconomic impacts on host territories, and societies may be investigated. As a result, sustainability has emerged as a central issue in tourism studies. The rising interest in sustainability at all levels of sports tourism is especially interesting since it shows how scholars have responded to these twenty-first-century concerns.

The study provides a preliminary look into this research issue. The purpose of this study is to add to the literature via the use of bibliometric tools and literature reviews. In this study, we examined the domains of sports tourism and sustainability.

## 2. Literature Review

Very few bibliometric studies have been done so far in the sports tourism and sustainability domain (Table 1). The first study, conducted by Cavalcante et al. (2021), performed a bibliometric analysis to examine the current knowledge base of eSports

Table 1. Most Influencing Sources of Sports Tourism and Sustainability (2002–2021).

Source	Documents	Cite-Score	Citations
Journal of Sport and Tourism	16	3.8	527
European Sport Management Quarterly	08	5.0	1,041
Event Management	08	2.2	650
Journal of Sport Management	07	4.6	1,834
Sport Management Review	07	9.0	1,997

Source: Authors’ preparation based on the Scopus database.

and its research networks spanning authors, journals, organizations and countries. The findings indicated that the extant eSports research is primarily focused on eSports games and eSports-related activities. The growing focus on sustainability and tourism marketing was one of the identified themes (Cavalcante et al., 2021). The football tourism sector shows a surprising proclivity to do research on and around its mega-events. The study (Oliveira et al., 2021) explored this literature gap by assessing football-based tourism research papers published in tourism-based journals, publications, authors, institutions, nations, regular authorship collaboration networks and the primary themes researched on it. As sports tourism and sustainability have developed slowly, so has study in the domain. However, no study combines all of the studies’ publications trends, top journals, authors, country and co-citation analysis (co-authorship, co-citation source, keywords co-occurrence and country-wise co-authorship networks). There is a noticeable lack of review research on sports tourism and sustainability. With study dispersed across many topics, disciplines, study countries and trends, aspiring researchers must exert considerable effort to cluster it. The study by Ito and Hinch (2020) conducted a thorough evaluation of the literature on sports tourism and sustainability in their research. However, the focus of the study was restricted to sports tourism studies in Japan.

There are the following objectives of the study:

Review of Literature on Sports Tourism and Sustainability

Authors	Objectives of the Study	Setting	Research Methodology	Results
Cavalcante et al. (2021)	Examine the authors’ journals, institutions and counties’ contributions and the network’s participation in	The Scopus database was used to retrieve 260 studies published between 2010 and 2021.	Bibliometric and Visualized Analysis	The findings lead to a better knowledge of e-sports research and can suggest more paths for the long-term growth of

*(Continued)*

<b>Authors</b>	<b>Objectives of the Study</b>	<b>Setting</b>	<b>Research Methodology</b>	<b>Results</b>
	the sustainable development of eSports research.			e-sports studies.
<a href="#">Cavalcante et al. (2021)</a>	The purpose of this study is to present a bibliometric analysis of research on sustainable tourism practices connected to marketing.	694 studies published between 1997 and 2020 were retrieved from the WoS database.	Bibliometric Analysis	This study examines state-of-the-art, identifying gaps and research possibilities in sustainability and tourism marketing.
<a href="#">Oliveira et al. (2021)</a>	This study attempted to solve this knowledge gap by reviewing football-related tourism research publications published in tourism-related journals.	The scope of the investigation was set to run from the year of the first identified publication, 2003, through 31 December 2019. Among 27 journals, 67 papers concentrating especially on football tourism were discovered.	Bibliometric Analysis	This study adds to the sports tourism field and the football tourism sub-field by giving decisive points regarding state of the art in football tourism research and what is required for its growth.
<a href="#">Ito and Hinch (2020)</a>	The purpose of this study is to explain what is known about sustainable sports tourism in Japan, as	The research was based on a thorough review of sports tourism studies in Japan.	Systematic Review	Some significant articles on the nature of sports tourists and their consequences

*(Continued)*

Authors	Objectives of the Study	Setting	Research Methodology	Results
	indicated by studies published in both Japanese and English.			on destinations have been found; however, further work is required to integrate and comport these studies into a cohesive body of research.

- (1) To highlight research advancements in the domain of sports tourism and sustainability.
- (2) To identify the most significant variables, the most cited research articles, the most referenced journals, and authors in this research domain.
- (3) To highlight most documents produced country and their work in collaboration with other country authors.
- (4) To identify the co-citation network, most frequently occurring keywords and country-wise collaboration network analysis in this research domain.

### **3. Research Methodology**

This study’s data came from the Scopus-indexed database. Scopus is Elsevier’s abstract and citation database for peer-reviewed works of literature, which includes science journals, monographs, book chapters and conference papers and proceedings (Levine-Clark & Gil, 2021 #606). This research study uses the Scopus database, which was accessed in January 2022. This dataset was chosen because it collects the most important research publications and is utilized as the major indication in academic decision making. To find papers in this dataset, use the phrases ‘sport\*’ AND ‘sustain \* touri\*’ OR ‘sustain\*’ AND ‘sport\* event\*.’

We have limited the contributions to business and management topics because our research interests are limited to business and management topics. The selected publications were chosen between 2002 and December 2021. In 2002, the first article on sports tourism and sustainability was published. We consider all articles, reviews, book chapters and conference papers published in the specified journals. We also selected articles published only in English. Fig. 1 shows our data collection strategy.

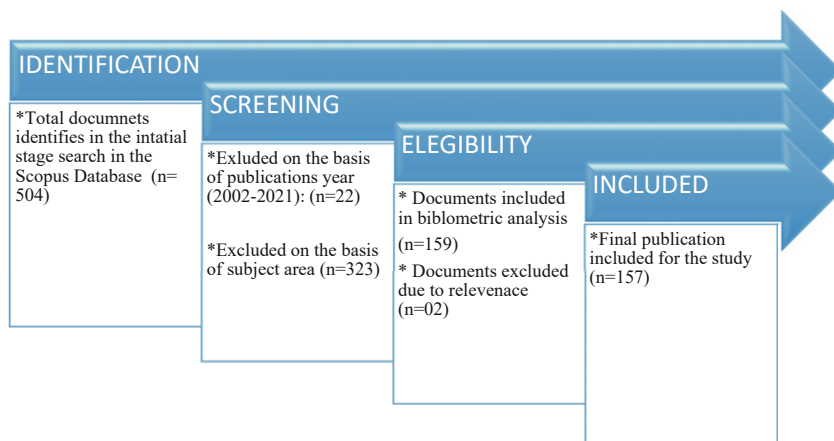


Fig. 1. PRISMA Flow Diagram Illustrating Processes in the Identification and Screening of Publications.

On 10 January 2022, we used the query [sport\* AND sustainable \* touri\* OR sustainable\* AND sport\* event\*] in the abstract, title, and keywords sections of the journals to search the Scopus basic search page. Scopus' methodological guidelines were followed when creating the search query. The initial search yielded 504 results. We refined the search criteria by picking papers from 2002 to 2021. We excluded 22 publications published in 2022. This resulted in 323 publications. In addition, we have restricted the selection to business and management subject areas, as well as English as the language. We also excluded 323 publications (by subject). This limited the number of articles to 159. We carefully read the descriptions of these publications and noticed that while some of the articles (02) referenced sports tourism, sustainability and other search phrases, the context of the article was not directly relevant to the current study. Two such papers were chosen and removed from further evaluation. Finally, we got 157 papers, of which 157 were chosen for the final bibliometric study.

TITLE-ABS-KEY (- 'sport\*' AND 'sustain \* touri\*' OR 'sustain\*' AND 'sport\* event\*') AND (EXCLUDE (PUBYEAR, 2022)) AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, 'SOCI') OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, 'BUSI') OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, 'ARTS'))

A quantitative approach to measuring the current level of knowledge in a given subject is bibliometric analysis (Donthu et al., 2021). A bibliometric review concludes the connectivity of publications by analysing their citation, co-citation and keyword occurrences by other publications. The resulting review is repeatable, structured and credible. Our main goal for this research is to extract insights from the development of publications related to sports tourism and sustainability year after year rather than offering a static structure of it. For these types of

studies, bibliometric analysis is considered the best option (Della Corte et al., 2021). As a result, we used the bibliometric approach and its related components to derive useful insights from published publications in the field of sport tourism and sustainability over the past 19 years. We used the VOS viewer software to conduct the assessments. First, the Scopus database for citation analysis was used to analyse the efficiency and influence of authors, articles, journals and research countries. Network citation analysis was then performed using VOS viewer (similarity visualization) tool (McAllister et al., 2021). The VOS viewer clustering technique was used to identify the generated clusters. Initially, an attempt was made to determine the topologies of cited publications using co-citation analyses (Klavans & Boyack, 2017). This does the work of citation intensity with which works are cited together, as the most frequently cited texts tend to form clusters of common research areas (Köseoglu et al., 2015). Then, in the research papers selected for this study, we performed a co-occurrence analysis of keywords published in the author’s keyword section. This study looks at the keywords that frequently appear in the selected articles (Grames et al., 2019; Leong et al., 2020).

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Number of Publications Trends Over the Year: 2002–2021

Fig. 2 shows the articles extrapolated year by year from 2002 to 2021. The first publications in the Scopus database were published in 2002. The literature has evolved greatly since then, from a single article published in 2002 to a total of 27 publications in 2021, out of 157 throughout. Fig. 2 shows the distribution of the 157 articles considered in this analysis. In addition, the pattern shows that

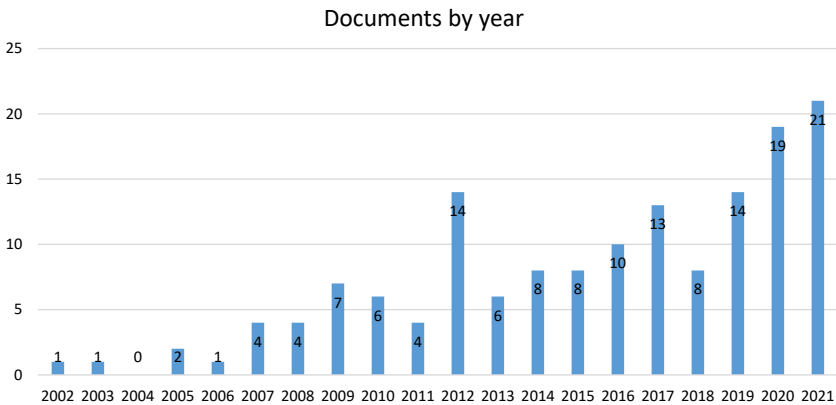


Fig. 2. The Publication Trends on Sports Tourism and Sustainability Throughout the Year. *Source:* The authors’ work is based on the Scopus database.

between 2002 and 2011, sports tourism and sustainability developed, and research was still in its infancy. Sports tourism and sustainability studies picked up speed in 2012 and were still in their infancy in 2017. During this period, the number of published works was practically similar year after year. The number of publications has increased significantly since 2018, possibly due to the growing popularity of sports tourism around the world. Since then, the number of articles has increased year by year. So far, the year 2021 has seen the most releases. Publications in 2020 and 2021 topped the exponentially moving two-period trend line, suggesting that research in sports tourism and sustainability has gained popularity.

#### 4.2 Most Productive Journals

This part of the study examines the most productive journals based on the total number of articles and citations received. The number of articles published by a particular journal, as well as the number of citations of the publication, reflects the influence of the journal. The *Journal of Sport and Tourism* produced the maximum number of 16 documents, followed by *European Sport Management Quarterly* and *Event Management* (08 each). In addition, *Sport Management Review* has the most citations overall, with 1,997 citations to published articles. In terms of the highest Cite-Score, *Sport Management Review* (9.0) and *European Sports Management Quarterly* (5.0) top the list. In terms of the number of articles published, Table 1 shows the journals that published the most articles on the subject of this study. This table shows that five journals account for almost 30% of all articles published.

#### 4.3 Most Productive and Influencing Authors

In this section, we strive to highlight the most prolific authors and influential works based on citations. Table 2 shows the most prolific authors in terms of the number (count) of papers written. The number of articles published by the author and the number of citations obtained by the author demonstrate the author's

Table 2. Most Productive Scholars in the Fields of Sports Tourism and Sustainability From 2002 to 2021.

Author	Number of Publications
Nico Schulenkorf	6
Danny O'Brien	5
Chalip, L.	4
McCullough, B.P.	4
Buning, R.J.	3