

2. Agency and authority in the representations of people, places, pasts and presents.

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This session follows on from coverage of the subject at the World Congress of Sociology in Toronto in 2018. It seeks to advance developing ideas on the REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLES AND PLACES in terms of THE DECLARATIVE AUTHORITY AND AGENCY OF TOURISM, particularly with regard to the role / function of tourism *to legitimate / to sanctify / to frame / to suppress / to normalise; and/or to project 'preformulated worldviews'*.

Whilst the last quarter of the 20th century may have been the period when questions of SUSTAINABILITY (and environmental stewardship) came to the fore in Tourism Management and Tourism Studies, the first quarter of the 21st century is conceivably the period when questions of SYMBOLIC POWER (and the contested stewardship of vital psychic / cultural / spiritual / 'treasures') have come to the fore.

The following three thought-starting examples of sites of REPRESENTATION vis-à-vis tourism come to mind:

- Palmyra – the destruction and desecration of the ancient city by Isis, viz., the unwanted presence of a remnant city which represents a prior and abhorred way of living and being;
- The Beijing Olympics – the 'soft power' representational use of a major global sports ceremony to build up international awareness of (and visitation to see) the manifold inventions and the creative traditions of China.
- Museum of Jewish Diaspora, in Tel Aviv – the difficulties endured in Israel where the management of one of the nation's leading historical centres cannot readily reach agreement on how to symbolise Jewish people (i.e., define what they have been / represent who they now are ... to the satisfaction of its broad mix of within-the-faith visitors).

The session organisers are notably keen to receive abstracts on matters of NON-REPRESENTATION which seek to critique longstanding understandings of 'REPRESENTATION', per se.