

Preface

The Commission for the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change within the International Geographical Union (IGU) has a tradition dating back to the 1980s when it comes to organizing conferences and facilitating publications on tourism geographies. The Commission's objective is to examine the geographical nature of tourism, leisure and global change. Tourism and leisure are seen as deeply geographical phenomena that do not happen in a socio-spatial vacuum. They are understood as social and cultural activities occurring in space and time.

This volume is an outcome of such a conference in 2014, which was organized together with the Polish Geographical Society and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization within the Polish Academy of Sciences around the theme *Tourism and Transition in a Time of Change*. The local organizers Marek Więckowski and Denis Cerić from the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Polish Academy of Science, had done an excellent job in selecting the Pieniny Mountains, Southern Poland, as venue for the event and about 40 geographers from Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia and Oceania gathered in this inspiring environment to discuss the topic of the conference. Following the appreciated tradition of previous events, the hosts of the conference provided excellent field trips demonstrating the conference topic in practice. This was food for thoughts and contributed to making the conference a great success. Marek and Denis deserve great thanks for organizing such a memorable event.

This volume is also the first book in the new book series *Geographies of Tourism and Global Change* published by Springer and edited by Dieter Müller (Umeå University), Jarkko Saarinen (University of Oulu) and Carolin Funck (University of Hiroshima). The book series is in line with the mission of the IGU Commission for the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change and it will be one channel to illustrate the activities of the commission and its members. In this context, we would like to thank the team at Springer, and not least, Stefan Einarson and the production team, for accepting and facilitating this series.

Moreover, a great thanks to all authors and colleagues contributing manuscripts and comments on draft versions, respectively, and to all other colleagues who during the recent years helped to make this book become a reality.

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