

Review

of the member of the dissertation council for the dissertation of Mahmoud Ibraheam Kotb Saleh on the topic: “Managing tourism resorts through destination social responsibility and information adequacy lenses: Attribution theory perspective”, submitted for the degree of candidate of sciences in economics in scientific speciality 5.2.6. Management.

In this review, I evaluate the quality of the dissertation in line with the structure of the overall contribution of the author.

Research topic is relevant and well-motivated, which is supported by the evidence of the continuously increasing number of tourists within few last decades. The tourism provides numerous opportunities for business and society, including employment, countries' growth, and international cooperation between firms and governments. The tourism supply chain comprises the interaction among not only resorts and hotels, but also for variety of stakeholders such as competitors, distributors, agents, and governments, which involvement in tourism business may stimulate significant economic return by maintaining public assets (e.g., boosting transport and infrastructure and services). Therefore, tourism management is linked to a broad range of business and management tasks and broader implications, which makes the dissertation topic crucial for understanding.

The elaboration of scientific problem. The dissertation accurately and thoroughly elaborates research problem and reveals research gap on tourists' events' attribution, corporate social responsibility, and information adequacy of destination events' management as attribution shifting mechanisms. Specifically, the factors that may change tourists' attribution to remain positive outcomes to enhance destination management.

Author argues that extant literature findings are insufficient to apply attribution theory dimensions. Therefore, the study introduces tourists' perception of corporate social responsibility and information adequacy as managerial solutions to maintain positive behavioral outcomes toward tourism destinations regardless of tourists' internal or external attributions.

The dissertation does successfully fill the respective gap, which might potentially help managers to shape strategy for each type of tourism, considering attribution shifting mechanisms and demographic variables, and contributes to tourism management literature and managerial implications.

The current thesis will address the following *aim and objectives* to address the research problem: This dissertation aims to reveal and justify the attribution shifting mechanisms (CSR and information adequacy) in tourism management to help managers bring favorable tourist behavioral responses toward their resorts. The study objectives are relevant and well-connected with the aim of the dissertation.

Theoretical basis and the method of the dissertation is aligned with the aim of the research. The study is grounded with few key theories (attribution theory dimensions, corporate social responsibility theory, and transaction cost) that helps to shape arguments and hypotheses to achieve the aims of the research. The combination of the theories provided a framework for understanding the relationships between the variables and shaping strong hypotheses, as well as developing a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the topic.

The thesis is characterized by **scientific novelty and theoretical contribution**. The study greatly contributes to tourism management literature in three ways. First, it adds attribution shifting mechanisms (e.g., tourists' perception of destination corporate social responsibility and destination information adequacy) to manage tourism resorts. Second, the thesis examines how the attribution shifting mechanisms are perceived depending on the different experiences. Third, the study contributes to attribution theory dimension (stability and controllability) to strengthen the attribution shifting mechanism as managerial tools to maintain the positive outcome of tourists' attribution toward events.

Finally, the thesis provides important **managerial implications**. The findings of the study may help tourist managers to understand the key approaches and respective strategies behind tourists' attribution toward various events.

Critical remarks. The study has some gaps that could be addressed in future research.

First, the study only examines positive tourist experiences rather than considering both positive and negative experiences. This slightly limits the findings, as addressing this point would provide a more comprehensive understanding of attribution processes. In his future research work, the author should look at how attribution theory applies to both positive and negative experiences to gain a well-rounded perspective on tourist behavior.

Second, there is a lack of clarity around how respondents were able to differentiate between attribution theory applied at the individual tourist level versus transaction cost theory at the managerial level within the same survey instrument. Addressing this gap would help obtain clearer results by separating the data collection for the two theoretical lenses into distinct methods. The author, in his future studies, could consider qualitatively exploring attribution theory perspectives from tourists and then quantitatively testing transaction costs with resort managers.

Third, limiting the scope to three types of tourism and only one data collection platform may fail to consider the wide diversity of tourist profiles and experiences. Broadening both the range of tourism sectors analyzed and the approach to data collection would strengthen the generalizability of any conclusions about how well the theoretical framework applies across the tourism industry. Subsequent author's research should examine more tourism types and utilize multiple data sources.

Fourth, only using survey data from Couchsurfing limits the sample to a specific platform and type of tourists (those using Couchsurfing). Collecting data from multiple platforms and sources could have yielded a more representative sample of different tourist profiles.

Although the study has some gaps that could be further addressed, it also has scientific merits that contribute to the tourism management literature. The abovementioned gaps do not diminish the overall positive impression from the dissertation work.

General conclusion. Considering the above, I believe that Mahmoud Ibraheam Kotb Saleh's dissertation on the topic: "Managing tourism resorts through destination social responsibility and information adequacy lenses: Attribution theory perspective" meets the requirements of speciality 5.2.6. Management.

The dissertation is a strong scientific qualification work that resolves an important scientific problem for the development of the relevant field of science.

No violations of paragraphs 9 and 11 of the Order No.11181/1 as of November 19, 2021 "On the Procedure for Awarding Academic Degrees at St. Petersburg State University" have been detected.

The dissertation meets the criteria of dissertations for the academic degree of candidate of sciences, established by the specified Order. The dissertation is recommended for the defense at St. Petersburg State University.

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