

Preface

This book is the result of my 20 years' fieldwork on social and cultural processes in tourism environments. It began with the paper I presented to the 2007 annual conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth ("Thinking through Tourism" hosted by the London Metropolitan University in England). It grew further during 2008 through the papers presented in the *I Simposio Internacional sobre Interculturalidad en el Mediterráneo* organized by the Universitas Miguel Hernández of Elche, Spain; the *8 Tagung der Kommission für Tourismusforschung* held at the Institut für Volkskunde/Europäische Ethnologie of the Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München, Germany; and the "Intercultural mobilities in tourism contexts: migrants, tourists, new residents, and local population" workshop of the *10th Bi-annual Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)*, organized by the Oddelek za etnologijo in kulturno antropologijo of the Univerza v Ljubljani, Slovenia. Finally, it was shaped during a three-month research at the Leerstoelgroep Sociaal-ruimtelijke Analyse of the Wageningen University and Research centre in 2009. At every occasion, I had the enormous pleasure of meeting and learning from each and all of the contributors of this volume.

The detailed account of the process is twofold. First, it is an ideological declaration of the importance of linguistic plurality in scholarship. For this reason, some chapters are coauthored by scholars from different backgrounds. Consequently, some of the bibliographical references used in the contributions are deliberately not written in English. Additionally, it ensures a richer view produced by their different academic traditions as well as the knowledge and use of diverse literature and sources in several languages.

Second, it shows that the text is not the product of a specific conference session and that it is not a simple cluster of papers that incidentally share a similar research topic. The editor has personally invited the contributors to participate in this book, answering a simple research question: how a context shaped by the long-time presence of tourism mediates and

characterizes the way social actions acquire sense for people living in those regions. Hopefully the reader will find this volume interesting enough to confront and ameliorate it with further empirical researches, inquiries, and discussions.

Still, the most important thing now is to express my strongest gratitude to all the contributors for their rapid willingness to participate in this volume. During these last two years, I have strongly appreciated their personal involvement, with prompt replies and easy accessibility for this editor, and their fruitful and sharp comments and suggestions during the writing of the introduction and conclusion chapters. My warmest thanks to Jafar Jafari for his early confidence in this volume and for his profound understanding of human limitations. Mamnoon.

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