A review of studies on residents' attitudes towards tourism development (2011-2017)

Abstract

As a critical pillar of sustainability, residents' attitudes towards tourism is a subject of intense scholarly discourse and debate. However recently, there have been calls for new approaches designed to generate a constructive conversation with the capacity to push the body of knowledge on residents' attitudes towards tourism forward. Subsequently, the aim of this paper is to explore recent trends in the theories and methods applied to studies on residents' attitudes. To achieve this objective, this paper provides a review of 90 journal articles on residents' attitudes towards tourism published between 2011 and 2017. Key findings revealed that although Social Exchange Theory is still dominant in exploring residents' attitudes towards tourism, new frameworks are beginning to emerge such as Institutional Theory and Bottom-up Spillover Theory. Nonetheless, alternative theoretical perspective has only been applied once or twice and require further engagement. Quantitative methods still dominate the field, with the geographic dispersal of studies spanning 33 countries. Future studies should assess recent developments in foundation disciplines such as social psychology, rather than tourism specifically, to discern potential pathways with the capacity to advance theoretical discourse on residents' attitudes.

Keywords: Residents' attitudes; content analysis; theory; methodology; geographical setting

Introduction

Attitude is a psychological concept which refers to a person's evaluation of objects, places and issues, and this evaluation could be positive or negative (favourable or unfavourable) (Allport, 1937; Choi and Sirakaya, 2005; Cronin Jr and Taylor, 1992). Studies on residents' attitude towards tourism have proliferated over recent decades, on the basis that an attitude towards an object is an indicator of future behaviour regarding that object (Sparks, 2007). Subsequently, residents' attitudes toward tourism and its development have received extensive attention of academics and industry practitioners (Xu and Fox, 2014), and a number of literature reviews on this area has been published (Deery et al., 2012; Nunkoo et al., 2013; Sharpley, 2014).

Although current review papers provide an excellent understanding of theories and approaches used in existing studies on residents' attitudes, arguably there has been a lack of cogent monitoring by scholars to discern if there has been a shift in the frameworks and methods applied on this topic. A review of the existing literature in the area is required, specifically designed to assess the theoretical and methodological trends and shifts since previous systematic studies.

Previous reviews have concluded that the majority of studies have explored residents' attitudes using Social Exchange Theory (SET) (Sharpley, 2014). This is despite, a lack of consensus among tourism scholars over the ability of SET to adequately explain attitudes (Andriotis and Vaughan, 2003). SET has been criticized for assuming human decision-making process a rational and systematic way and neglecting cognitive aspects of this procedure (Nunkoo and Ramkissoon, 2009). A number of tourism researchers have noted that the application of current theories of attitude in future research might not be helpful (Gao et al., 2016; Wang, 2016).

In addition, previous reviews of residents' attitudes indicate that the majority of studies utilised quantitative methods, with few articles applying qualitative and/or mixed-methods approaches (Nunkoo et al., 2013). Deery et al. (2012) argues that this quantitative focus on resident attitudes has led to a narrow understanding of local community perceptions. Instead, scholars should engage in new approaches such as ethnography to provide rich and in-depth insights that can move the field beyond current dominance of reductionist approaches (Campo and Turbay, 2015).

Undertaking a systematic review will update scholars on the potential application of new theories or methods that warrant further investigation. Accordingly, this study provides commentary on the theoretical and methodological development of residents' attitudes studies in the last few years. To achieve this objective the current manuscript reviews articles on residents' attitudes published in *Annals of Tourism Research* (ATR), *Journal of Travel Research* (JTR), *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* (JOST), and *Tourism Management* (TM) from 2011 to 2017. While acknowledging the quality of other journals which are also highly ranked in the field (Frechtling, 2004), for the purpose of the current review, the selection of the four highest ranked journals as measured by quality and impact factor (Baum et al., 2016; McKercher, 2005; Ryan, 2005) is appropriate and consistent with other review articles in tourism. The content of the selected articles was analysed to identify the study's theory, method, and geographical setting. This review will benefit tourism scholars by providing a systematic overview of research on residents' attitudes, noting potential avenues for conceptual clarification and theoretical and methodological refinement.

Methods

The present study adapts the method initially applied by Nunkoo et al. (2013) to identify articles on residents' attitudes in ATR, JOST, TM, and JTR from 2011 to 2017. Utilising the approach by Nunkoo et al. (2013), searches were limited to peer-reviewed journal articles (full-

length) and book reviews, research notes, editors' notes, and commentaries were eliminated. The keyword search process resulted in 270 articles across the four journals in the 2011-2017 timespan. Terms used for selection included resident*, host*, communit*, tourism*, leisure*, hospitality*, travel*, attitude*, percep*, understanding*, view*, support*, perspective*, reaction* in the four selected journals. The authors then reviewed the title, keywords and abstract to identify if the article discussed residents' attitudes. In the majority of selected papers, the titles were suggestive that the paper dealt with residents' attitudes. In case of any uncertainty, the entire text was read to make sure the core focus of the paper was on residents' attitudes.

After applying screening criteria, 270 articles were identified as relevant. This dataset (270 articles) included papers that did not specifically focus only on residents' attitudes; some included the local community in an assessment of broader stakeholders' attitudes (e.g. Paraskevaidis and Andriotis, 2017). There were 10 articles that studied residents' attitudes when visiting a destination (residents as visitors) (e.g. Gao et al., 2014) that have been excluded. At this stage, 146 papers were found relevant to the current study. All publications were downloaded and exported to Endnote software for data management. After an initial screening of all publications, 90 records were identified as relevant. Figure 1 below illustrates the process of article selection.

Figure 1. Identification, retrieval, and inclusion of relevant studies.

The relevant articles were then analysed using content analysis. Content analysis provides a systematic and objective analysis of data to describe a phenomenon of interest (Downe-Wamboldt, 1992) and is applied widely in tourism studies (e.g. Baum et al., 2016; Choi et al., 2007; Fennell, 2001; Malloy and Fennell, 1998). The authors first identified the number of selected papers published in each journal per year. Next the theories, methodological approaches and geographical setting applied in the papers were determined. In instances where articles applied more than one theory, papers were dual coded (Ruhanen et al., 2015). A paper's theory was coded as theoretical (papers which applied a particular theory), or atheoretical (method papers or papers without a specific theory) (Nunkoo et al., 2013), and the methodology coded into quantitative approach, qualitative method, mixed-method approach, and reviews, while geographical location of the study was coded by country (Ruhanen et al., 2015).

Results

Around two-fifth of papers on residents' attitudes were published in TM. While ATR and JTR have a similar number of articles published, JOST had the minimum contribution to the topic. A comparison on the number of publications in each journal is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of publications in four journals (N=90)

Journal	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total number	%
ATR	3	5	0	2	6	1	2	19	21.1
JTR	6	5	1	2	1	4	4	23	25.6
TM	4	3	5	3	7	8	7	37	41.1
JOST	0	3	2	1	1	1	3	11	12.2
Total	13	16	8	8	15	14	16	90	100

Although Table 1 indicates a growth in the number of studies on residents' attitudes overall, the number of papers published decreased in 2013 and 2014. The authors combined present data with current review papers on residents' attitudes (Nunkoo et al., 2013) to demonstrate the growth of publications since 1984 (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Growth in studies on residents' attitudes 1984-2017 (Current study findings combined with Nunkoo et al.'s study, (2013))

Theories applied to study residents' attitudes

Analysis of the theoretical frameworks in attitudinal studies provides tourism scholars with the opportunity to gain insight into the progress in the field. As Table 2 indicates, nearly 44% of the studies did not provide explicit reference to the theoretical base used to investigate residents' attitudes. The findings of Table 2 indicate that almost half of the studies utilized SET as the theoretical basis, which illustrates the continued popularity of this theory among scholars. SET was the most preferred framework to investigate residents' attitudes in all four journals. Table 2 also shows that Social Representation Theory, Institutional Theory, and Bottom-up Spillover Theory have been applied on the topic.

Table 2. Theoretical framework in four journals (N=90)

	All Journals (n=90) Number of papers (%)	ATR (n=19) Number of papers (%)	JTR (n=23) Number of papers (%)	TM (n=37) Number of papers (%)	JOST (n=11) Number of papers (%)
Theoretical	50 (55.5%)	11 (57.9%)	12 (52.1%)	21 (56.8%)	6 (54.5%)
Atheoretical	40 (44.5%)	8 (42.1%)	11 (47.9%)	16 (43.2%)	5 (45.5%)
	(n=65)*	(n=15)*	(n=13)*	(n=28)*	(n=9)*
Social exchange theory	29 (44.6%)	7	6	11	5
Social representation theory	4 (6.2%)		1	2	1
Institutional theory	3 (4.6%)	2		1	
Bottom-up spillover theory	3 (4.6%)	1		2	

Place attachment theory	2 (3.1%)			1	1
Theory of emotional solidarity	2 (3.1%)		2		
Cultural theory	2 (3.1%)	1		1	
Weber's theory of formal and substantive rationality	2 (3.1%)	1			1
Stakeholder theory	2 (3.1%)		1	1	
Place identity theory	2 (3.1%)	1		1	
Other	14 (21.4%)	2	3	8	1

**Percentages calculated on number are greater than 90 as some papers applied more than one theory*

Table 2 indicates that each of the four journals features theoretical papers more frequently than atheoretical ones. This finding is further elucidated in Figure 3, where a clear trend towards the increased application of theory is evident. In the first two years of the timeframe, atheoretical papers outweighed theoretical ones. Then in 2013, the majority of papers were theoretical and in 2015 and 2017, theoretical papers dominated.

Figure 3. Theoretical vs. atheoretical framework in each year (N=90)

This study also investigated the range of theories applied to explore residents' attitudes towards tourism which is illustrated in Table 3. There were 14 theories applied by only one study out

of 90 papers such as Community Attachment Theory, Social Dilemma Theory, and Identity Theory (refer to Appendix 1 for a full listing of theories). The findings of Table 3 also confirm an increase in the application of SET between 2011 and 2017.

Table 3. Theoretical framework in each year (N=90)

	2011 (n=5)* Number of papers (%)	2012 (n=11)* Number of papers (%)	2013 (n=10)* Number of papers (%)	2014 (n=5)* Number of papers (%)	2015 (n=13)* Number of papers (%)	2016 (n=7)* Number of papers (%)	2017 (n=14)* Number of papers (%)
Social exchange theory	2 (40%)	4 (36.3%)	4 (40%)	4 (80%)	5 (38.4%)	1 (14.3%)	9 (64.3%)
Social representation theory		1 (9.1%)	1 (10%)		1 (7.7%)	1 (14.3%)	
Institutional theory		1 (9.1%)	1 (10%)		1 (7.7%)		
Bottom-up spillover theory			1 (10%)		1 (7.7%)	1 (14.3%)	
Place attachment theory	1 (20%)	1 (9.1%)					
Theory of emotional solidarity	1 (20%)	1 (9.1%)					
Cultural theory		1 (9.1%)	1 (10%)				
Weber's theory of formal and substantive rationality				1 (20%)			1 (7.1%)
Stakeholder theory					1 (7.7%)	1 (14.3%)	
Place identity theory					2 (15.4%)		
Other	1 (20%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (20%)		2 (15.4%)	3 (42.8%)	4 (28.6%)

* Percentages calculated on number are greater than 90 as some papers applied more than one theory

Methodological approaches

The current study also reviewed the methodological approaches in articles on residents' attitudes, specifically the use of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods. Since data collection approaches are different from data analysis methods in some publications (e.g. Cui and Ryan, 2011; Hunt and Stronza, 2014), this study analysed residents' attitudes articles from these two perspectives. The number of articles with qualitative, quantitative, and mixed data

collection approaches published by each journal is discussed in Figure 4. Figure 4 indicates that 83% of articles utilized a quantitative approach for data collection.

Less than 10% of all articles made use of mixed-methods to collect data. The mixed-methods articles (e.g. Dillette et al., 2017; Hao et al., 2011; Lawton and Weaver, 2015) tended to apply a sequential research design rather than a concurrent one where quantitative data collection followed qualitative one or vice versa. Results in Figure 4 suggest that review articles are uncommon, with only two publications in TM and one article in JOST.

Figure 4. Data collection approaches in four journals (N=90)

For quantitative articles, popular statistical techniques including confirmatory factor analysis (e.g. Olya and Gavilyan, 2016; Strzelecka et al., 2017); regression analysis (e.g. Andereck and

Nyaupane, 2011; Maruyama and Woosnam, 2015; Nunkoo and Gursoy, 2012); t-test (Li et al., 2015); and structural equation modelling (e.g. Suess and Mody, 2016; Nunkoo and Ramkissoon, 2009; Nunkoo and Ramkissoon, 2011; Nunkoo and Smith, 2013; Prayag et al., 2013; Woo et al., 2015;) were used. Qualitative studies made use of a range of techniques to analyse data such as Q method (a population of beliefs) (e.g. Hunter, 2011); appreciative inquiry process (e.g. Nyaupane and Poudel, 2011); archival research (e.g. Hwang et al., 2012); social media analysis (e.g. Shakeela and Weaver, 2012); and interview (e.g. Monterrubio, 2016). However, there was evidence of studies which used descriptive analysis combined with qualitative data such as in depth quotations generated from a thematic analysis of coded interview transcripts (e.g. Hunt and Stronza, 2014; Monterrubio, 2016).

Table 4. Data analysis approaches in four journals (N=90)

	All Journals (n=90) Freq. (%)	ATR (n=19)	JTR (n=23)	TM (n=37)	JOST (n=11)
Review	3 (3.3%)	0	0	2	1
Quantitative	75 (83.3%)	14	20	32	9
Qualitative	8 (8.9%)	5	3	0	0
Mixed-methods	4 (4.5%)	0	0	3	1

Geographical setting

This review also provided an analysis of the geographical setting of articles on residents' attitudes. As Table 5 shows, the largest proportion of publications was conducted in the United States. The findings also indicate that China is emerging in prominence in extant literature. As Table 5 indicates, JOST had a tendency to publish papers from non-dominant geographical regions, for example Bahamas, Nicaragua and Dominica (refer to Appendix 2 to see a list of countries).

Table 5. Geographical setting in four journals (N=90)

All Journals (n=90) Number of papers (%)	ATR (n=19)	JTR (n=23)	TM (n=37) Number of papers	JOST (n=11)
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		Number of papers	Number of papers	Number of papers	
US	19 (21.1%)	4	9	6	
China	9 (9.9%)	2	1	6	
Japan	5 (5.5%)		1	3	1
Spain	5 (5.5%)	1	2	2	
Malaysia	5 (5.5%)		1	3	1
Mauritius	4 (4.4%)	4			
Iran	3 (3.3%)		1	2	
Taiwan	3 (3.3%)			3	
Canada	3 (3.3%)		1	2	
Greece	3 (3.3%)	1	1	1	
South Korea	2 (2.1%)		1	1	
South Africa	2 (2.1%)		1		1
Australia	2 (2.1%)			1	1
Brazil	2 (2.1%)		1	1	
Poland	2 (2.1%)	1			1
Other	19 (21.1%)	5	3	5	6
Unknown	3 (3.3%)	1		2	

**Some papers collected data in more than one country*

The results are also presented in the map below, which categorizes publications in each continent. As Figure 5 indicates, the majority of publications were conducted in Asian countries. All the same, North America is the second most studied part in which residents' attitudes towards tourism have been investigated. The findings also indicate that nearly one-fourth of articles studied residents' attitudes in European countries. Africa, Middle East and Oceania are the least studied parts of the world to explore residents' attitudes towards tourism.

Figure 5. Number of publications in each continent: Asia-26, North America-23, Europe-15, South America-7, Africa-7, Middle East-6, Oceania-3

Analysis and Critique

The core aim of this study was to explore the theoretical and methodological frameworks applied in studies on residents' attitudes towards tourism, particularly since previous systematic reviews. The findings of this review identified 90 articles on residents' attitudes published in ATR, JTR, TM, and JOST between 2011 and 2017. While 140 articles were published in ATR, JTR, and TM over 26 years, 90 papers published in the four leading journals over the last 7 years, representing a potential resurgence of the area as a subject of scholarly inquiry (refer to Figure 2). These findings support the dramatic growth of publications on this topic, as the number of papers per year is 5 on average between 1984 and 2010, while there was a 120% increase in the number of articles each year (JOST was removed for comparative purposes). The substantial growth of publications on residents' attitudes towards tourism development indicates the increasing importance of sustainable tourism as viewed from the social-cultural perspective. The findings of this study confirm that the tourism planning process is more engaged with sustainability principles, in particular accommodating social-cultural

perspectives of sustainability, such as ensuring the local community is involved in tourism development (Mihalič et al., 2016).

While the majority of articles on residents' attitudes were published in ATR prior to 2010 (Nunkoo et al., 2013), this review suggests that a growing number of papers on residents' attitudes is emerging, particularly in TM. This trend might be due to a change of focus of each journal or a shift in the editorial direction to publish papers on this topic. As suggested by this review, JOST had the least contribution to the topic.

Theoretical directions

This review also found that the majority of articles applied a theoretical framework to study residents' attitudes. In contrast to the findings suggested by Nunkoo et al. (2013), the number of theoretical articles exceeded atheoretical research. Subsequently, the findings of this review suggest studies on residents' attitudes are potentially becoming more theoretical in nature (Sharpley, 2014). This trend suggests that there is a decrease in the number of atheoretical articles, indicating that scholars have taken on board the recommendations of previous systematic reviews and utilised new and existing theories in innovative ways to assess residents' attitudes. This trend is likely to continue into the future, especially if tourism scholars draw on theoretical advancements in foundation disciplines of relevance to residents' attitudes, such as psychology, sociology and anthropology.

Future scholars should consider a deeper engagement with current theoretical discourse in other disciplines, such as psychology. All the same, tourism scholars can make use of social psychology theories such as Elaboration Likelihood Model (ELM) or Heuristic-Systematic Model (HSM) to investigate residents' attitudes (Tormala et al., 2006). Future scholars can also make use of ELM or HSM if the purpose of research is to change residents' attitudes towards tourism development. It is also useful to take advantage of applying emerging theories in

cognitive psychology such as Self Validation Hypothesis (SVH) to explore residents' attitudes towards tourism (Clarkson et al., 2016).

As identified in the results, SET is the most common framework applied in residents' attitudes research. The application of SET is due to the explanatory power of the theory, specifically the form of the exchange relation and the consequences of the exchange, to differentiate individuals' perceived benefits and costs as a precursor for future tourism development. SET has been extensively used to evaluate locals' support for tourism depending on the economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits and costs of the industry (Lee, 2013). The popularity of SET to investigate residents' attitudes in previous literature (Boley and McGehee, 2014; Nunkoo and Smith, 2013; Styliadis et al., 2014) confirms the findings of this study.

Although SET is still the predominant theoretical framework, due to criticism surrounding an inability to adequately predict attitudes, prior studies on residents' attitudes have identified a clear and urgent need for the application of new theories and frameworks to investigate the topic. The findings of this review confirm the emergence of a number of new theories in tourism research on residents' attitudes, such as Institutional Theory (e.g. Sinclair-Maragh and Gursoy, 2015) and Bottom-up Spillover Theory (e.g. Bimonte and Faralla, 2016). Institutional Theory was used to assess residents' support for tourism in developing island countries and contributed to the literature on residents' attitudes by exploring imperialism to foreign tourism investment (Sinclair-Maragh and Gursoy, 2015). Bottom-up Spillover Theory was applied to explore the effect of tourism on residents' well-being which has been ignored in the relevant literature on residents' attitudes (e.g. Bimonte and Faralla, 2016). These frameworks show that researchers are increasingly adopting new theories from other disciplines to add alternate theoretical perspectives to research on residents' attitudes.

Future tourism researchers can broaden the understanding of tourism development and improve planning and practices in residents' attitudes research by applying new frameworks such as Institutional Theory and Bottom-up Spillover Theory. For instance, future researchers could utilize the Institutional Theory to explore citizens' trust in regional institutions for the purpose of tourism development. In addition, future studies applying Institutional Theory have the potential to explore the effect of interpersonal trust on political trust using a mixed method (Nunkoo et al., 2012). Future researchers can also contribute to research on residents' attitudes by applying Bottom-up Spillover Theory through investigating local community's quality of life and their support for tourism. In particular future scholarship should focus on the dynamic interactions among tourism impacts (economic, social, cultural and environmental) and different aspects of well-being (material, community, emotional and safety well-being) through the application of Bottom-up Spillover Theory (Kim et al., 2013). In addition, future scholars can utilize alternative theoretical perspectives at different stages in the tourism development cycle (introduction, growth, early maturity, late maturity, and decline) (Bimonte and Faralla, 2016).

Current literature on residents' attitudes tends to consider support for tourism development as a rational procedure and neglecting the affective dimensions. The existing body of knowledge on residents' attitudes predominantly considers costs and benefits of developing tourism, while the affective judgment of residents plays an important role. Future scholars need to engage with the affective assessment of residents' attitudes towards tourism development. Connected to this, tourism scholars can make use of Cognitive Appraisal Theory combined with existing attitude theories to assess residents' perceptions of tourism development and impacts (Ouyang et al., 2017; Woosnam, 2012).

Methodological directions

This review found that quantitative approaches to data collection still dominate studies on residents' attitudes towards tourism. A dominance of quantitative positivist approach was also reported in a prior review (Sharpley, 2014). However, the 90 papers reviewed applied a wider range of methods to collect data compared to results of previous review papers on residents' attitudes (Nunkoo et al., 2013). These methods included qualitative approaches designed to provide in-depth insights into residents' attitudes, such as Q method, appreciative inquiry process, and archival research. The work of Campo and Turbay (2015) and Xue and Kerstetter (2017) applied ethnography to study residents' attitudes hence addressing issues raised by Deery et al. (2012) concerning the use of quantitative method. There remains a need for further use of alternative methods. In particular, resident attitudes towards tourism development may be expected to be affected by a community's culture and using qualitative methods will help scholars to understand these cultural differences (Baran and Jones, 2016). There is also a lack of use of mixed methods to collect and analyse data on residents' attitudes literature based on a pragmatic approach (Teddlie and Tashakkori, 2003). As mentioned earlier, future scholars need to study feelings and emotions in residents' attitudes research. This could utilise mixed methods to provide both subjective and objective analyses of residents' perceptions. For example, future research can use psycho-physiological tools such as electro-dermal analysis (EDA) or facial electromyography (EMG) (Li et al., 2017) to measure emotional responses coupled with self-report surveys.

Contextual directions

This review found that the majority of publications on residents' attitudes towards tourism were conducted in the US and China. These findings confirm the American bias in residents' attitudes literature as 19 of 90 published studies were conducted in this country. China stands as second in which studies of residents' attitudes towards tourism development were conducted. This review also revealed that European countries, Africa, Middle East and Oceania

are the least studied regions to assess residents' attitudes towards tourism. However, there is need to analyse residents' attitudes in the less studied geographical settings, as cultural differences define how people react to tourism development.

According to UNWTO (2017), Europe with more than 50% share of tourist arrivals, is the top tourism destination in the world. However, Figure 5 indicates there is a huge gap between scholarly research and real-world practice in terms of assessing residents' perceptions about tourism in countries where they are affected by this industry the most. For example, France receives more than 80 million tourists annually; however, there is limited research on this country in the four leading journals assessing its residents' perceptions of tourism. In UNWTO classification, Turkey is also considered in Europe. Similar to France, Turkey remains underrepresented in terms of evaluating residents' attitudes towards tourism development and impacts. Subsequently, future scholars can address this gap by exploring residents' attitudes towards tourism development and impacts in less studied geographical setting such as France, Turkey, the Middle East and Africa.

Concluding remarks

This review contributes to the literature in tourism by assessing the shift in the application of theory and methodological approaches in residents' attitudes studies from previous systematic reviews. This study adds to the body of knowledge by providing an overview of the existing status of research on residents' attitudes towards tourism, providing direction for future scholarly inquiry. A further contribution of this review is an indication of not only the data collection methods but also data analysis techniques which have not been done in previous review articles on residents' attitudes towards tourism. As opposed to other systematic reviews, this article assessed the geographical setting of studies on residents' attitudes towards tourism.

A potential limitation of this review is that articles published only in four leading tourism journals, namely ATR, JTR, TM, and JOST were analysed. Similar studies can also be found

in other journals and subsequent future research would discern if additional theory, methods or geographical settings are also the subject of scholarly discourse. Further research is needed to address this issue. It may also be useful for future researchers to analyse the relative utility of assessing residents' attitudes using different paradigmatic approaches to positivism. However, this review provides tourism researchers with an insight into the current nature and structure of studies on residents' attitudes towards tourism.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

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Appendix 1. Theoretical framework in four journals (N=90)

	All Journals (n=90) Freq. (%)	ATR (n=19) Freq. (%)	JTR (n=23) Freq. (%)	TM (n=37) Freq. (%)	JOST (n=11) Freq. (%)
Theoretical	50 (55.5%)	11 (57.9%)	12 (52.1%)	21 (56.8%)	6 (54.5%)
Atheoretical	40 (44.5%)	8 (42.1%)	11 (47.9%)	16 (43.2%)	5 (45.5%)
	(n=65)*	(n=15)*	(n=13)*	(n=28)*	(n=9)*
Social exchange theory	29 (44.7%)	7	6	11	5
Social representation theory	4 (6.3%)		1	2	1
Institutional theory	3 (4.7%)	2		1	
Bottom-up spillover theory	3 (4.7%)	1		2	
Place attachment theory	2 (3.1%)			1	1
Theory of emotional solidarity	2 (3.1%)		2		
Cultural theory	2 (3.1%)	1		1	
Weber's theory of formal and substantive rationality	2 (3.1%)	1			1
Stakeholder theory	2 (3.1%)		1	1	
Place identity theory	2 (3.1%)	1		1	
Community attachment theory	1 (1.5%)	1			
Social dilemma theory	1 (1.5%)		1		
Identity theory	1 (1.5%)	1			
Resilience theory	1 (1.5%)				1
Social identity theory	1 (1.5%)			1	
Ethnic competition theory	1 (1.5%)			1	
Intergroup contact theory	1 (1.5%)			1	
Critical theory	1 (1.5%)		1		
Integrated threat theory	1 (1.5%)			1	
Complexity theory	1 (1.5%)		1		
Broaden-and-build theory	1 (1.5%)			1	
Cognitive appraisal theory	1 (1.5%)			1	
Theory of reasoned action	1 (1.5%)			1	
Theory of social capital	1 (1.5%)			1	

Appendix 2. Geographical setting in four journals (N=90)

	All Journals (n=90) Number of papers (%)	ATR (n=19) Number of papers	JTR (n=23) Number of papers	TM (n=37) Number of papers	JOST (n=11) Number of papers
US	19 (21%)	4	9	6	
China	9 (9.7%)	2	1	6	
Japan	5 (5.5%)		1	3	1
Spain	5 (5.5%)	1	2	2	
Malaysia	5 (5.5%)		1	3	1
Mauritius	4 (4.4%)	4			
Iran	3 (3.3%)		1	2	
Taiwan	3 (3.3%)			3	
Canada	3 (3.3%)		1	2	
Greece	3 (3.3%)	1	1	1	
South Korea	2 (2.2%)		1	1	
South Africa	2 (2.2%)		1		1
Australia	2 (2.2%)			1	1
Brazil	2 (2.2%)		1	1	
Poland	2 (2.2%)	1			1
New Zealand	1 (1.1%)		1		
Slovenia	1 (1.1%)				1
Nepal	1 (1.1%)	1			
UK	1 (1.1%)		1		
Turkey	1 (1.1%)				1
Maldives	1 (1.1%)	1			
Israel	1 (1.1%)	1			
Dominica	1 (1.1%)				1
Wales	1 (1.1%)			1	
Nicaragua	1 (1.1%)				1
Columbia	1 (1.1%)	1			
Jamaica	1 (1.1%)	1			
Portugal	1 (1.1%)			1	
Italy	1 (1.1%)			1	
Mexico	1 (1.1%)			1	
Qatar	1 (1.1%)		1		
Bahamas	1 (1.1%)				1
islands of Boa Vista and Sal	1 (1.1%)			1	
Unknown	4 (4.4%)	1		2	1