

# CITIES AND VISITORS

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**REGULATING PEOPLE, MARKETS,  
AND CITY SPACE**

Edited by  
Lily M. Hoffman,  
Susan S. Fainstein, and  
Dennis R. Judd

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# **CITIES AND VISITORS**

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## Series Editors' Preface

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The Blackwell *Studies in Urban and Social Change* series aims to advance theoretical debates and empirical analyses stimulated by changes in the fortunes of cities and regions across the world. Among topics taken up in past volumes and welcomed for future submissions are:

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Proposals may be submitted to members of the series Editorial Committee:

Harvey Molotch  
Linda McDowell  
Margit Mayer  
Chris Pickvance

# Preface

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This book had its genesis in a research collective, the International Tourism Research Group (ITRG), funded by the Council for European Studies. Although tourism had become an increasingly important sector of the global economy and shaper of cities, scholarship had yet to treat it with the seriousness accorded to other urban topics. Our aim was to place tourism within a theoretical perspective so as to enable comparative research. Our group, made up of eminent urban scholars from a number of countries, met three times. Our first meeting was held in Amsterdam in April 1998; we subsequently met in Montreal and in Barcelona. The meetings were considerably enhanced by the tourism opportunities presented by the three cities in which we conferred and the stimulating company of our conferees.

At our last meeting we decided to place tourism and travel within the framework of regulation theory. We struggled together to fit empirical data within a theoretical framework that would allow the complexities of scale and the multidimensionality of factors with which we were engaged to remain intact. The individual chapters of this book, which originated as papers presented at this conference, reflect our ongoing effort toward analytic clarity.

We wish to thank the Council for European Studies for its initial grant, and City College of the City University of New York, the University of Missouri at Saint Louis, the University of Amsterdam, and the University

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Lily M. Hoffman  
Susan S. Fainstein  
Dennis R. Judd

# Introduction

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*Susan S. Fainstein, Lily M. Hoffman, and Dennis R. Judd*

In recent decades cities have fought hard to insert themselves into the “space of flows” of global tourism (Castells 2000). The scale of investment has been significant: In only two or three decades, the infrastructure of travel has transformed cityscapes, prompted the construction of airports, mass transportation systems, and urban amenities, and even forced governments to address long-standing environmental problems (Judd et al. 2002). Urban regimes have especially focused on the competition for tourists because, unlike other economic sectors where central cities lose out to peripheral areas, in the case of tourism, the urban core dominates the metropolitan area. Their history, architectural heritage, inimitable cultural assets and qualities, and clusters of amenities give older central cities built-in advantages as tourist destinations. Even within resort areas where travelers may be seeking beauty and solitude, major agglomerations boasting multiple sites for shopping and dining typically spring up. Though some aspects of urban tourism may be suburbanizing, the advantages that favor cities are not likely to disappear.

Cities have attempted to attract tourists by persuading national governments to finance large tourism-related infrastructure projects and by promoting such projects on their own. Many of the bitterest political issues in recent decades have revolved around the question of whether disproportionate resources should be devoted to the promotion of middle-class leisure when poverty and its attendant social problems are neglected