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NOTES ON TOURISMOPHOBIA / TOURISMPHOBIA / TOURISM-PHOBIA

MIRIANICI LILIANA¹, BALCU NARCISA LARISA¹, MARIN CORNELIA DIANA¹, IOSIM IASMINA¹

University of Life Sciences "Regele Mihai I" from Timisoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism¹

Abstract: *This paper focuses on a newly-coined term in tourism – **tourismophobia** / **tourismphobia** / **tourism-phobia**. The authors present the definitions of this term from 2008, when it first appeared, and 2021, when the last studies on this phenomenon appeared; make the necessary distinction between tourismphobia, overtourism, and touristification; analyse the causes of this phenomenon; mention the places where it has manifested so far; present Doxey's Irridex; and analyse the definitions of the concept **tourismophobia** / **tourismphobia** / **tourism-phobia** to better define the nature of the phenomenon.*

• Introduction

The term "tourismphobia" (or "tourismophobia") describes the growing hostility among residents toward tourists and the tourism industry, often due to overcrowding, resource depletion, and disruptions to local life. Introduced in 2007 by geography lecturer José Antonio Donaire, this concept has evolved to capture extreme aversion to tourism, including verbal and physical aggression against tourists and vandalism of tourism infrastructure. Linked to "overtourism" and "touristification," tourismphobia reflects the tension in destinations overwhelmed by tourism, contrasting with "tourism-philial," which emphasizes tourism's positive local impacts.

• Material and method

The material used in this paper consists in articles on tourismophobia / tourismphobia / tourism-phobia, a rather recent concept in the field of tourism. The research method used is content analysis.



• Results and discussions

Social discontent in tourism cities is driven by factors such as congestion, the growth of cruise tourism, rising housing prices, loss of purchasing power, and the privatization of public spaces. This phenomenon is observed globally in cities like Amsterdam, Barcelona, Dubrovnik, and New York. Doxey's "Irridex" model outlines four phases in the tourism life cycle: euphoria, apathy, irritation, and antagonism, with locals' attitudes shifting from welcoming to openly hostile as tourism pressures increase.

An analysis of terms like "Tourismophobia" and "tourismphobia" reveals two primary negative attitudes among locals: aversion and social discontent. These attitudes reflect strong disapproval of tourists and tourism, including feelings of contempt, hatred, and hostility. Locals also express aversion, fear, discontentment, rejection, and even violence in response to tourism's impact on their communities, which includes commercialization, overcrowding, and the tourism development model. Extreme forms of rejection, such as assault, damage, and vandalism, highlight the negative behaviors associated with growing tourism-related tensions.

• Conclusions

Despite the discouraging findings presented in this paper, we prefer to support a rather optimistic point of view. The best conclusion belongs, in our opinion, to a columnist quoted by Mantecón & Velasco: "Tourismphobia does not exist, and in fact it is an insulting term for societies that have lived and worked successfully with tourism for decades, and now do not deserve in any way be considered suspicious of anything because of a few idiots."