

CAUTHE

Twice Yearly e-Newsletter



Vale Professor Philip L. Pearce



CAUTHE NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vale Prof Philip Pearce....	3
Fellows' update.....	5
Membership matters.....	5
2021 Conference.....	6
Journal Publications.....	7
Mid-year meeting.....	8
Assessment design.....	8
Iso-CHATS.....	9
PhD virtual workshops....	9
Fellows' footnotes.....	10
Chapter feature.....	11

Welcome from the Chair

Professor Kirsten Holmes - Chair CAUTHE

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2020. Looking back at our first newsletter of the year, I doubt any of us could envisage the current situation we are in, both in our institutions as they struggle without international student revenue, and in the tourism, hospitality and events sectors in which we all research, study and work. I hope you have all stayed well during this time and our thoughts are especially with our colleagues in Victoria.

During this time it was with heavy hearts that we learned of the tragic news that **Professor Philip Pearce**, Chair of CAUTHE Fellows, passed away suddenly in August. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family, friends and colleagues at this time. Philip was a pioneer tourism academic and has influenced the lives and careers of many in the CAUTHE community and beyond. He will be sadly missed by many but forgotten by none.

Chair's welcome

Continued from page 1

2020 is the year that everything moved online and CAUTHE is no exception. We held our first **Mid-Year Meeting** in June via zoom (more on page 8). Given the ongoing restrictions, we are hosting our first fully online **CAUTHE 2021 Conference** in February 2021. Professor Marianna Sigala and Dr Paul Whitelaw are driving the conference plans, which are very exciting. You can read more about this on page 6.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, many Executive members have stepped up to keep our community together and connected during these challenging times.

I particularly want to thank Dr Ina Reichenberger and Mahdis Madani for their work in running the **PhD Virtual Wednesday Workshops** (see report on page 9). Mahdis is a PhD student at Otago University and joined the Executive in March 2020 as our new PhD representative. She has been a whirlwind of activity both with the webinars, which she pioneered, as well as work on the upcoming **joint HDR event** with our kindred associations SMAANZ and ANZALS, which will take place during SMAANZ week on Wednesday 2 December 2020.

Finally, an issue that arose from debates at the conference about issues facing academics in our field is the need to be kind as reviewers; to be constructive and respectful in the feedback we offer at conference presentations, as journal reviewers, and as grant assessors. Now, more than ever, we need to show empathy to each other and CAUTHE will be launching our **Be Kind campaign** during 2020.

Launch of the CAUTHE Be Kind campaign

At our Mid-Year Meeting we also launched the 'CAUTHE Be Kind Campaign'. Our campaign is about increasing kindness and compassion towards each other while not reducing the rigour of our assessment of research. We call on colleagues to 'be kind' and reflect on how feedback is provided in paper reviews. Kind, helpful and positive reviews are more likely to be acted upon therefore improving the overall body of research in our field. A number of helpful resources are available at [Be Kind Campaign](#). #CAUTHEKindness



Kind, helpful and positive reviews are more likely to be acted upon therefore improving the overall body of research in our field.

Vale Professor Philip L. Pearce

Collated by Professor Erica Wilson, Southern Cross University

"Philip Pearce was the first Professor of Tourism in Australia in 1990 when he established the country's first national centre for tourism research and education. Philip came to JCU after degree studies in psychology at the University of Adelaide, and then the University of Oxford. Philip's many contributions to tourism research can be organized around several key themes but his greatest contribution has unequivocally been in understanding and conceptualizing tourist behaviour. Pearce's first tourism volume, published by Pergamon Press, Oxford, *The Social Psychology of Tourist Behaviour* (Pearce, 1982a) was an especially seminal piece of work.

Pearce's leadership contribution and achievements extend well beyond his varied senior roles at JCU. He was the founding editor of *The Journal of Tourism Studies*, and leaves a legacy of more than 40 PhD students around the globe whose lives have been forever enriched by his knowledge and passion for tourism. The outpouring of grief and accolades, not just from those students but also colleagues and peers from around the world are a testament to Philip's lasting legacy. His passing leaves a void not only in the tourism discipline at JCU, but in Australia and beyond."

Prof Laurie Murphy, JCU



Prof Pearce, Anne Sharpe & Robyn Yesberg outside the entrance to James Cook University circa 2008

"It is with heavy hearts that we convey the tragic news that Professor Philip Pearce, Chair of CAUTHE Fellows, passed away suddenly overnight. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family, friends and colleagues at this time. Philip was a pioneer tourism academic and has influenced the lives and careers of many in the CAUTHE community and beyond. He will be sadly missed by many but forgotten by none."

CAUTHE Executive

A statement from the CAUTHE Fellows

Philip is well-recognised as one of the founders of tourism research. This includes being a Foundation Member of the International Academy for the Study of Tourism, one of the founders of CAUTHE, a Foundation Fellow of CAUTHE and Chair of the Fellows at the time of his passing. From our perspective as Fellows, some of his key contributions have included:

- Original high quality tourism research that was firmly grounded in the core discipline of psychology
- Sustained passion for the development and support of PhD students
- Active mentoring of emerging academics including many in developing countries.

Philip was a Foundation Fellow of CAUTHE and Chair of the Fellows at the time of his passing



Investiture of the inaugural Fellows at CAUTHE 2009, Fremantle
Bob McKercher, Philip Pearce, Leo Jago,
Larry Dwyer, Tony Nankervis, Jenny Davies, Brian King

Vale Professor Philip L. Pearce

Continued from page 3

Thoughts from CAUTHE members & tourism colleagues from around the globe (via TRINET)

"We lost an academic giant and wonderful man... The global world of tourism academia is mourning a sharp mind, a soft heart and a great friend. RIP". (Prof Dimitrios Buhalis)

"Philip was a great scholar and one of the founders of the academic field of tourism studies. We all rode on his shoulders. We will miss him. Rest In Peace dear friend." (Prof Abraham Pizam)

"What a decent man, a pillar of good health. I truly value my times in working with him on student exchanges. Moreover, his scholarship spanning over four decades pioneered the field of social/psychology of tourism. Rest well Phillip. You will be missed." (Prof John C Crotts)

"We express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Philip Pearce. He was world class and internationally recognized for his intellectual excellence. ...I am a better person having had the chance to know him. Rest in Peace" (Prof Joseph T. O'Leary)

"As one of his last PhD students, I was closely involved in a great number of conversations about what he desired to signify his legacy in tourist behaviour and psychology until he decided to set out an edited volume entitled: *Tourist Behaviour, The Essential Companion* by Edward Elgar Publishing in 2019. ... In this truly essential companion book, Prof, as he was called by his students, with a panel of senior and young yet talented scholars take the readers ... through the tourist journey" (Dr Samira Zare, UQ)

"We, Professor Philip L. Pearce's Chinese students, are writing this email with tears. We all did PhDs with him and we usually call him Prof. He had supervised dozens of doctoral students, including nine of us from Mainland China. ... We lost our academic father. Without him, our life and career would be very different and much tougher. We would like to express our deepest love, respect and appreciation to our dear Prof. Prof has always been very encouraging and supportive to us. ... We will continue to do good things to make Prof proud. He will be missed by all of us and never be forgotten". (Tingzhen Chen, Qian Jin, Mao-Ying Wu, Huan Lu, Junjie Wen, Keji Huang, Jing Li, Ding Xu, Dan Lai. From Trinet, 12 August, 2020.)



Bruce Prideaux, Prof Pearce & Gianna Moscardo
at the APTA conference 2005

"I am very fortunate to have shared 14 years of my academic life at JCU with Professor Pearce. He has made an enormous contribution to the study of psychology and behaviour in tourism. Beyond his research contributions, he played an instrumental role in the development of tourism education in Australia and internationally as the country's first Professor of Tourism. Aside from these accolades and official titles, Prof Pearce liked to introduce himself as the 'Professor of Good Times' and perhaps this is how he will be remembered by his colleagues and many students around globe".

A/Prof Pierre Benckendorff, UQ

This link below to the 2015 portrait was contributed by Prof Pearce' colleagues and former PhD students, Sebastian Filep and Philip Benckendorff, and appeared in Anatolia.

For more about Prof Pearce's academic life and achievements please visit Sebastian Filep & Pierre Benckendorff (2016) [Philip L. Pearce: foundation professor of tourism](#), Anatolia, 27:2, 290-297, DOI: 10.1080/13032917.2015.1058572.



Ali Coghlan, Pierre Benckendorff, Connie Loi, Prof Pearce & Kaye Walker at the CAUTHE 2007 Conference, Sydney

CAUTHE Fellows

Announcement of New Co-Chairs

Following the sad and untimely passing of Professor Philip Pearce, the role of chair of the CAUTHE Fellows will now be shared by Professors Bob McKercher and Betty Weiler. Like Philip, both Betty and Bob are Foundation Fellows of CAUTHE, and look forward to serving as the conduit between the CAUTHE Fellows, the Executive and the general CAUTHE membership.

Correspondence with CAUTHE Fellows should be sent to both Bob and Betty:

E: bob.mckercher@connect.polyu.hk

E: betty.weiler@scu.edu.au



2020 Fellows Award

Call for Nominations

On behalf of the Fellows, we are delighted to call for nominations for the 2020 CAUTHE Fellow Award for Outstanding Contribution to Tourism, Hospitality and/or Events Education and/or Research.

This award is an important recognition of an individual's contribution to tourism and hospitality education and/or research, and can be an asset on a CV. Previous award winners are listed at CAUTHE Awards. The award will be presented at the Awards ceremony of the CAUTHE 2020 Conference online.

Nominations close on Friday 18 December 2020. A nomination form is available at [CAUTHE Fellows](#).

The Fellows' award is an important recognition of an individual's contribution to tourism & hospitality education or research

Membership matters

Dr Edmund Goh and Professor Karen Smith

In 2019, CAUTHE surveyed its members. Through this feedback, it was clear that while CAUTHE offers an array of membership benefits, that include but go beyond the annual conference, which need to be better communicated. Our newly-launched 'Membership Matters' campaign is highlighting CAUTHE's work and the benefits of membership, including encouraging people to renew their membership and continue their support of CAUTHE.

Over the next 12 months, CAUTHE will release a series of short testimonial videos featuring a range of CAUTHE members talking about how and why they became involved. Membership Matters will showcase the diversity of our membership, including HDR students, Early and Mid-Career Academics, as well as Senior Academics and CAUTHE Fellows.

Three videos are now available at [About Membership](#). The first of these features Professor Kirsten Holmes, Chair of CAUTHE, who talks about how getting involved in CAUTHE was an important part of getting to know the academic community when she moved to Australia. Kirsten shares advice for CAUTHE members and why people should get involved. More videos will be progressively uploaded.



View videos

- [Kirsten](#) (3 mins)
- [Mahdis](#) (4 mins)
- [Sara](#) (5 mins)

CAUTHE 2021 CONFERENCE ONLINE

TRANSFORMATIONS IN UNCERTAIN TIMES: FUTURE
PERFECT IN TOURISM, HOSPITALITY AND EVENTS

9-12 February | #cauthe2021

CAUTHE 2021 Conference Online

Professor Marianna Sigala and Dr Paul Whitelaw
(Conference Co-Chairs)

*Transformations in Uncertain times: Future perfect in tourism,
hospitality and events*

CAUTHE 2021 is going online! Responding to the challenges and travel restrictions presented by the current crisis, the annual conference will be a little bit different next year. The conference will still be held in its usual February slot, but will be convened by CAUTHE, who as an association has engaged the services of Forum Group Events and Marketing to manage the event. Forum Groups is a company that brings significant experience and expertise in delivering online conferences.

CAUTHE 2021 will be held over multiple days, between 13:00-16:00 (AEDT) from Tuesday 9 – Friday 12 February. The PhD/ECR workshop will be held in the week prior on Friday 5 February. The conference will be hosted online through the integrated EventsAIR OnAIR platform. This platform will provide a seamless and secure user access which will include virtual sessions, e-posters, networking, an exhibitor marketplace and a meeting hub for a full conference experience.

CAUTHE 2021 will be an enriched online experience combining the traditional CAUTHE conference events accompanied with interactive online sessions.

The CAUTHE 2021 Scientific Committee welcomes full research papers and working research papers on several different topics relating to this year's theme *Transformations in Uncertain Times: Future perfect in tourism, hospitality and events*. Given the diversity and multi-dimensional nature of transformation in our industries, papers can focus on a broad range of topics relating to (but not limited to) the broad range of conference research tracks.

See the conference website and paper submission at
[CAUTHE 2021 Conference Online](#)



Key dates

- Full papers due: 15 October 2020
- Working papers due: 31 October 2020
- Author feedback: 30 November 2020
- Submission of revised papers: 15 December 2020
- Online paper presentations: 9-11 February 2021

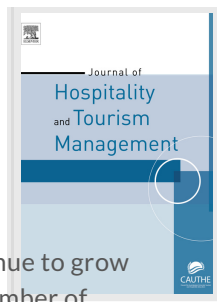
CAUTHE 2021 social media

Follow us #cauthe2021 | @cauthe2021

- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)

Journal update

Professor Marianna Sigala,
Editor-in-Chief, JHTM



The submission numbers for JHTM continue to grow steadily. The journal is still receiving a number of manuscripts related to COVID-19, and all papers are turned around in a timely manner. As Editor-in-chief, I would like to thank everyone again for supporting and contributing to the journal as reviewer, member of the board, author and reader. I would also like to assure you that we, as a JHTM team, are doing our best to ensure that the journal's operations and performance are not affected by the current crisis. In further news, JHTM recently advertised for a Social Media Engagement Officer to support the vital promotion of the journal through social media. Applications have now closed and are currently being reviewed.

On the up and up! JHTM's Impact Factors

Recently, JHTM achieved a new SSCI impact factor of 3.415 and a CiteScore of 4.7. JHTM is now 20th out of the 119 journals in the category of tourism, leisure and hospitality management. This is a significant achievement for the journal. Thank you to all members of the editorial board, the authors and the readers.

JHTM is now 20th out of 119 journals in tourism, leisure & hospitality management

CAUTHE Case Study publication

The Case Studies group is at the stage of the review of case study submissions. The extended submission deadline to allow submissions of cases related to COVID-19 resulted in the submission of three additional cases. This may delay the submission of the book to Springer by one month, but will hopefully not affect the publication date of the book.

The first CAUTHE case study book is due to be published by Springer early 2021.

Now open | ERA EI
Public Consultation



Revised ANZSRC codes now available

Kirsten Holmes, CAUTHE Chair

The final version of the revised Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC 2020) is available on the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Stats NZ websites. We are delighted to report that Tourism maintains its own FOR code. There are also additional Tourism and Hospitality FOR codes under other umbrella fields. This is an important outcome for Tourism, Hospitality and Events research in Australia and New Zealand and CAUTHE lobbied to retain the Tourism FOR code. We also thank colleagues who made submissions to the review in support of the Tourism FOR code.

All codes have been renumbered and the new codes for Tourism are as follows:

- 3508 Tourism
- 35801 Impacts of tourism
- 35802 Tourism forecasting
- 35803 Tourism management
- 35804 Tourism marketing
- 35805 Tourism resource appraisal
- 35806 Tourism behaviour and visitor experience
- 35807 Tourism not elsewhere classified

Additional related FOR codes of relevance

- 3504 Commercial services including
- 350402 Hospitality Management
- 350405 Sport and leisure management
- 380116 Tourism economics
- 430207 Heritage tourism, visitor and audience studies
- 440608 Recreation, leisure and tourism geography
- 440713 Tourism policy
- 450526 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism
- 451129 Te mahi tapoi Maori (Maori tourism)
- 451825 Pacific Peoples tourism

Please note for Australian colleagues that the ARC currently has a public consultation document about ERA and E&I, which is open for feedback. Colleagues can submit feedback individually through the [public consultation portal](#) or via their institutions. Submissions close **12 October 2020**.

CAUTHE 2020 Mid-Year Meeting online

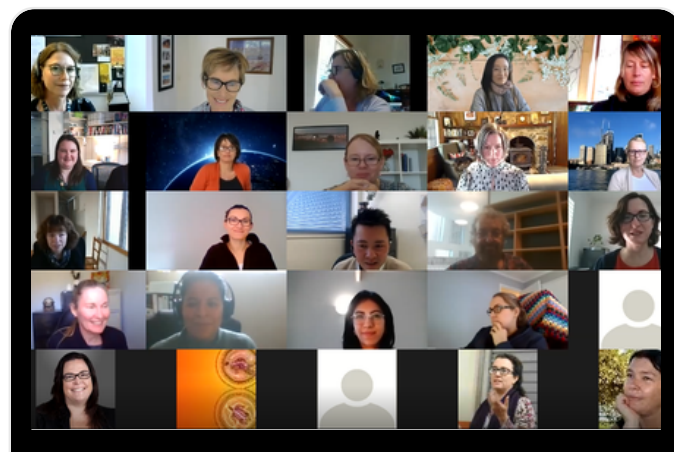
Penny Jose, CAUTHE Secretariat

Our first Zoom Mid-Year meeting was held on Friday 26 June and attended by 51 participants. Highlights included the Chair's launch of the 'Be Kind campaign' and 'Membership matters' and video campaign. The Chair's Advocacy report outlined the increasing number of advocacy activities, which have provided substantial benefits to our field of study despite having typically been ad hoc and in response to need.

In breakout rooms, participants were asked to 'be kind' to themselves and identify something that has worked for them or their colleagues, and to also share the challenges, pressures and things that haven't worked, during teaching in COVID times. The meeting minutes contain a summary of these lively discussions.

Sharon Hebdon, Holmesglen Institute, Melbourne lead a discussion on Academic Integrity which highlighted some concerns around how AI policies are implemented and how well academic staff are trained to identify and keep up with AI breach tactics within an increasingly complex and dynamic space. This discussion was picked up again during the Academic Standards Project meetings with a view to developing a working party to look at the issue and how it affects CAUTHE member institutions.

The first online Mid-year meeting generated lively discussion about teaching during COVID times.



Assessment Design Workshops

A/Prof Glen Croy and Dr Paul Whitelaw

The CAUTHE College of Peers Meeting the Standard for tourism, hospitality and events met four times in mid-2020. The outcome of the meetings was the development of a comprehensive rubric to measure students' achievement of the tourism, hospitality, and events threshold learning outcomes. The rubric includes measures of student demonstration across the five domains (Service and Experience Design, Interdisciplinary Inquiry, Collaboration, Problem Solving, and Professional Responsibility), from first year bachelor's through to final year master's level.

In the next set of meetings, at the end of 2020 and early 2021, the College of Peers will generate guidelines for specific assessment design as aligned with rubric, domains, and threshold learning outcomes.

A TH&E Standards workshop will be held at the upcoming CAUTHE 2021 conference online on Thursday 4 February.

Please contact the CAUTHE Secretariat if you are interested in being involved in future Standards workshops.

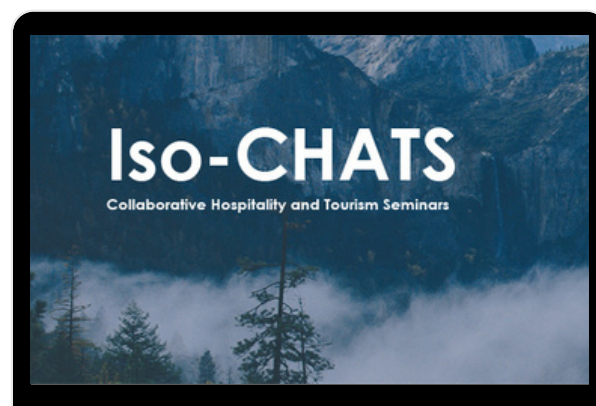
Iso-CHATS: Talking research during lockdown

Dr Tamara Young and A/Professor Anne Hardy

The concept for Iso-CHATS was conceived by Associate Professor Anne Hardy (University of Tasmania) and Dr Tamara Young (University of Newcastle), in May 2020 when the reality and isolation brought on by the COVID-19 lockdowns set in. Iso-CHATS was designed to be a collaborative, cross-disciplinary space where researchers, established, emerging or mid-career, could share their research ideas in a friendly and supportive forum. It was thought that perhaps 20 or 30 people may attend, but the concept quickly gained traction both in Australia, Asia, the Pacific and North America. **Series 1** hosted 9 speakers from Australia, Canada and Japan. Such was the momentum that **series 2** launched and another 9 speakers have been scheduled. A **3rd series** is now being designed to run until late November. Over 400 people have attended the series to date. In August Iso-CHATS was thrilled to be formally affiliated with CAUTHE.

There have been several outcomes of Iso-CHATS. The short format of speeches (30 minutes) has meant that rich discussion occurs after every seminar which has allowed researchers with work in development to enrich their ideas. The series has also assisted teaching as all Iso-CHATS are available on the CAUTHE website at [Iso-CHATS](#). It has also demonstrated that there is a strong, collaborative spirit amongst tourism researchers and a strong desire to connect. And most importantly a key outcome has been that iso-CHATS is a safe, collaborative space where respect and collegiality are dominant forces.

Iso-CHATS welcomes all participants. Seminars are held most Fridays on [Zoom](#). Please join us. All are welcome!



Iso-CHATS recordings are available at [Iso-CHATS](#). Please join us. All are welcome!

Virtual Wednesday Workshops

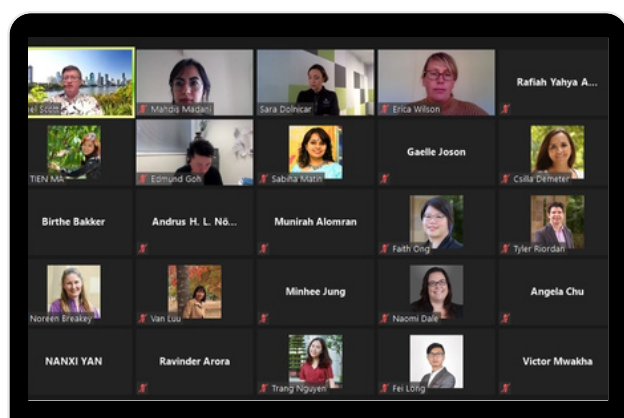
Mahdis Madani and Dr Ina Reichenberger

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected study progress for many postgraduate students. Accordingly, CAUTHE held a series of '[PhD Virtual Wednesday Workshops](#)' with the theme *The PhD in unprecedented times* to support current PhD scholars. Ina Reichenberger, a member of CAUTHE executive committee, together with Mahdis Madani, CAUTHE PhD representative, co-developed the workshop series to provide scholars with an opportunity to connect with their peers and senior academics in a friendly and welcoming virtual environment.

The workshops throughout July, August and September, attracted more than 250 attendees. The sessions allowed PhDs and other higher degree research students to present their research and receive constructive feedback from senior academics and fellow students.

Each workshop also featured a senior academic presentation which aimed to provide scholars with professional development support. These well received presentations focused on well-being and resilience, publishing, research methodology and employability; all with special attention to the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism industry and research landscape.

Past workshop session recordings are available at [PhD Virtual Wednesday Workshops](#)



Footnotes from the Fellows

Dr Jennie Small, Honorary Associate,
University of Technology Sydney

This short section provides brief commentaries from Fellows about topics of potential interest to tourism scholars at several levels. All Fellows are invited to make a contribution and share thoughts on general topics of interest to the wider CAUTHE membership.

What does 'Fear of Flying' mean in the age of COVID-19?

Fear of flying is a concept familiar to most of us from personal experience or hearsay. With an estimated 35% of the population developing such fear at some point in their lives (Foreman, & van Gerwen, 2018), it is not an uncommon experience. While fear of flying may have been seen as a rational fear in the early days of flying, the safety of air travel today has led mental health professionals to label fear of flying an irrational fear, a phobia (aviophobia or aerophobia), characterising it as a marked fear or anxiety that is out of proportion to the actual danger posed by flying which causes clinically significant distress or impairment to an individual's functioning (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). The fear is encompassed in the DSM-5, (American Psychiatric Association, 2013) under the broad category, Anxiety Disorders with some classified as a Specific Phobia: fear of aeroplanes (Specific Phobia-Situational) and fear of heights (Specific Phobia-Natural environment).

Central to the fear of flying is the passenger's fear of loss of control which may be external (no control or influence over what happens to the plane) or internal (shame of exposing their fear in front of others). Fear of flying is understood as a specific fear related to flying (such as the plane crashing) or encompassing a variety of fears (agoraphobia, claustrophobia, acrophobia, social or separation anxiety and panic attacks).

However, with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, our understanding of fear of flying may need revision. Beyond those fears typically associated with flying - plane crashing, closed space, height of plane etc - are pandemic-related fears. For example, we may need to consider those with mysophobia (fear of germs) for whom flying is now likely to be perceived a dangerous activity. We may also need to relook at passenger social anxiety as individuals may be more fearful of their co-passengers; their airborne transmissions and touched surfaces.



This is not to say that passengers have never been wary of others when flying (and especially during times of transmitted diseases) but the scale of risk now has led many individuals to fear flying, especially if they cannot socially distance. Passenger demands for the airline industry and government bodies to provide extra security are apparent. In the early days of the crisis, headlines, such as: "London coronavirus: Heathrow Airport passengers alarmed by lack of health checks at the terminals", reflected passenger fear when temperature checks were absent, masks not worn or social distancing not enforced. These concerns have remained for many current and future passengers.

What the pandemic has exposed are the inequalities associated with mobility. At other times we might relate inequality to those who are immobile, who cannot fly but, in the time of a pandemic, the disadvantaged person might be the one who is mobile but reluctantly so (this may include airline crew or Fly-in Fly-out workers). For those who previously suffered from fear of flying (and this can include air crew), there is now an added reason for anxiety. For the rest, the fear, even if not extreme, can be ever present. Whether this fear constitutes an irrational fear is debatable. What is clear is the need for passenger safety and perception of this safety if the public is to return to flying.

References

American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Washington, D.C.: Elsevier.

Foreman, E. and van Gerwen, L. (2018). *Fly away fear: Overcoming your fear of flying*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

****Postscript:** It is with a sad heart that I write this piece for the newsletter as the invitation to do so came from Philip Pearce just prior to his tragic passing. I would like to pay tribute to a true scholar, highly respected by so many both in Australia and overseas. For over 40 years I have admired his work – I just imagined he would always be here. We have lost one of the best. Rest in peace, Phil.

Feature: CAUTHE Chapter Director

Dr Joanna Fountain, Lincoln University, New Zealand



As is the case with institutions globally, 2020 has brought with it a range of challenges for the staff and students involved in the tourism programme at Lincoln University, but it has brought opportunities also. We've had new arrivals, and also said goodbye to a stalwart of tourism education and research globally.

At the beginning of 2020 we welcomed Dr Gebeyaw Degarege, a recent graduate from the University of Otago, to our small team of academics. It has been a strange first few months for Gebeyaw, who spent much of his first semester in Zoom and Teams meetings, but he has adjusted admirably and is a much-appreciated colleague and teacher.

This year has also seen an event many of us thought would never happen – the retirement of Professor David Simmons in June. Lincoln hosts the longest-established programme of tourism degrees in New Zealand, and David was there at the very beginning. We were pleased that COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in time for us to farewell him face to face. Of course, he hasn't gone far, and he comes back to visit us regularly when he is not skiing.

Tourism research has been strengthened considerably over the past year by the presence of four Postdoctoral Research Fellows, who were appointed in 2019 as part of the newly-launched Centre of Excellence, Sustainable Tourism for Regions, Landscapes and Communities. The Centre is dedicated to 'the conceptualisation, design and testing of innovations with the greatest potential to help grow the economic value of tourism and enrich the tourist experience, while simultaneously restoring, protecting and enhancing the integrity of landscapes and ecosystems, and the social and cultural values of destination communities'.

The Centre is drawing on expertise of colleagues from throughout the university to achieve this aim, including from landscape design, sustainability, environmental policy and planning, marketing and agribusiness. The first outputs from the Centre were seen in numerous presentations at CAUTHE 2020, and we look forward to contributing to the tourism industry and academic community through our research and engagement in a post-COVID-19 world.

This year has also seen an event many of us thought would never happen; the retirement of Professor David Simmons in June.

