

# Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management

## 2022 Annual Report

**Submitted by**  
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### PAPER SUBMISSIONS – PUBLICATIONS

A detailed report including statistics about JHTM submissions is provided by Elsevier. Numbers reflect a continuous increase of submissions to JHTM, which in some way reflect its increasing recognition and importance in the field. The submission rate and numbers in 2022 show an increasing trend in comparison to similar numbers in 2021. Submissions come from all over the globe, reflecting an increasing international appeal of the JHTM. China, India, USA and Europe continue to be the major sources of papers. Submissions from Australia/NZ also represent a significant and stable percentage of submissions.

JHTM has received a significantly greater number of book review submissions and publications in relation to past years, which reflects the commitment and the work of our ‘relatively’ new books’ review editor (thank you!).

We have seen a reduced number of submissions representing “research notes’ in 2022 compared with 2021, but the acceptance rate in 2022 is similar to 2021. This is a metric to be watched to see if this pattern is temporary or whether it will be sustained into the future.

JHTM received a great number of paper submissions related to COVID-9 even during the 2022. It is expected that COVID-19 related research will diminish in importance during the next year.

The increasing impact factor and recognition of JHTM means more submissions but also higher rejection rates. As research quality has been impacted during COVID-19, there has been a ‘more’ considerable policy during the desk-review process to allow a slightly more papers go through the review process and give the opportunity for more

papers to get improved through the review process, if that was the case. However, based on statistics provided by Elsevier, it is evident that the desk-rejection rates went down but the rejection rates during the review process went up in 2022 in relation to 2021. This means that probably the previous 'policy' would need to be revised so that we do not penalise our review system and reviewers too much.

On the other hand, I do receive several comments from authors stating their satisfaction from the constructive comments they receive from our review process, which reflects and provide evidence of the good peer review and mentorship services that JHTM provides to its authors.

The commentary published by the Editor-in-Chief in 2021 about publication standards and expectations of JHTM and suggestions on how to conduct quality research has attracted the most attention / downloads based on social media metrics. This is very encouraging showing that the commentary has probably been found useful and valuable by numerous readers.

JHTM accepted 193 papers in 2022 compared with 206 papers in 2021. This might reflect the overall reduced quality of papers that we see being submitted in general. However, the continuous increase of the number of submissions to JHTM and the relatively stable number of accepted papers demonstrate that the journal is in a good health and strength.

In 2022, all three major activities of the JHTM were implemented: 1) 2022 JHTM Online Research Symposium; 2) JHTM Best PhD Award; and 3) JHTM Paper Hackathon. For more details about these activities, please see sections below. All activities have managed to enrich the promotion of JHTM and attract more and higher quality submissions. We appreciate the continuous support of CAUTHE for the above mentioned JHTM activities.

The suggested plans of JHTM activities in 2023 include the re-implementation of the three major JHTM activities and so, approval from the CAUTHE committee is sought for their sponsorship and support by CAUTHE (similar to previous years).

## CITATION STRATEGY

The JHTM continues to show a continuous increase in its impact factor and rankings for a continuous 5<sup>th</sup> year. The SSCI IF of JHTM has increased to 7.629 from 5.959. This is an amazing result as some other competing top journals (e.g. JTR and JHTR) have shown a decrease in the impact factor while for other journals (e.g. TM and Annals) impact factors have also increased. JHTM is now ranked 12<sup>th</sup> (from previous 17<sup>th</sup> ranking) of journals in hospitality, leisure, sports & tourism and 45<sup>th</sup> (from previous 60<sup>th</sup>) of journals in management (SSCI Journal Impact Factor rankings).

The above performance brings JHTM very close to the same index of top ranked A\* journals. Also, based on citations, JHTM ranks: 7<sup>th</sup> (from 9<sup>th</sup> position in 2021) in the [top 20 tourism journals](#) and 1<sup>st</sup> (maintenance of 1<sup>st</sup> position in 2021) in the [top 20 hospitality journals](#).

Paper downloads continued to increase during 2022, specifically from Asian countries, while we now collect statistics from USA as well. Papers related to

COVID-19 as well as open access published papers have seen the greatest numbers of downloads.

Papers in Special Issues have also attracted a lot of downloads and publications, which confirms the need to continue attracting and publishing good Special Issues in terms of topics and leading scholars.

The social media channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram) and strategies of JHTM have also attracted visibility and downloads for published papers (more under the social media marketing report of JHTM). This shows the importance of continuing and even strengthening the social media strategy of the JHTM. The JHTM social media channels have attracted several 'friends', but support from everyone is required to expand the JHTM social media network and impact/reach.

### REVIEW PROCESS PERFORMANCE

Metrics reflecting the management of the review process of papers reflect an even better and faster review and management process of submissions. Detailed statistics about the review process are provided in the Elsevier report.

All metrics (time for desk review, for first decision, for final decision and for publication since the time of submission) show a slight improvement in 2022 in relation to 2021. This is a great achievement when considering that submission numbers continually increase from year to year. There seems to be a very small increase in the time from acceptance to first online and publication, but this is only minor and we need to monitor it in case it persists.

There have been some unforeseen events for JHTM in May 2022; one associate editor had to step down and another one to take urgent leave. The editor in chief and the remaining one additional associate editor had been undertaken increased workload to ensure that the journal is managed as best as possible and without disruptions. I highly appreciate everyone's support during this period, as it seems that JHTM has performed as nothing has happened.

Because of the above issues and the continuous growth of the journal, a decision has been taken to expand the High Editorial Board of JHTM and recruit a fourth Associate Editor. The additional associate editor enables JHTM to reduce the existing workload across all editors, address the increasing submission rate as well as to have a 'buffer' capacity to address any urgent and/or planned leave of existing editors.

The promotion, recruitment and induction of two new Associate Editors (one for replacing the lost position and one additional associate editor) was implemented during May-July 2022. The two new Associate Editors bring new perspective, strong research profile and regional representation for JHTM.

With the addition of the two associate editors, the JHTM review process reverted to business as usual and with a greatly strengthened editorial board. The new composition of the High Editorial Board runs very well, and all members are very supportive, committed and focused on serving JHTM very well.

I would like to thank all my Associate Editors ('old' and new) for their continuous support, work and dedication to the journal, on top of all the other difficulties, workloads and the increased rate of submissions that need to be managed.

## SPECIAL ISSUES

JTHM continues its Special Issue (SI) Strategy.

The SI based on CAUTHE 2022 has been progressing slowly, but it is running.

The following SI are currently in progress:

1. VSI: Tourism Industry 4.0
2. Special Issue: CAUTHE 2022 – this reflects the continues support of JHTM to the CAUTHE conference
3. SI on *'Experimentation for New Knowledge in Hospitality & Tourism'*

The SI on *"Disruption and resilience in post-pandemic volunteer tourism: rethinking theory, contents and methods"* had received a low number of submissions – accepted papers were published as a special section in a normal issue

The JHTM continues to attract quite few proposals for SI. However, we are very prudent in selecting and prioritizing SI given that JHTM should publish only 2 SI per year; more than 2 SI would be a bad strategy and sign for the ranking and reputation of the journal.

The JHTM is always open to discuss other good ideas for special issues. Please contact the editor-in-chief for more information and/or discussion.

## JOURNAL AWARDS

The 2022 JHTM best PhD awards has received a record number of 30 submissions this year coming from all over the globe. The greatest increase of submissions came from USA, and I would like to thank CeCe (associate Editor) for her support on this.

From the 30 submissions, one paper is already accepted for publication, while another 11 are still under first or second review. These results critically highlight the importance to continue the JHTM Best PhD paper awards for the next year(s).

## JOURNAL MARKETING ACTIVITIES

As conferences increasingly return to in person events, JHTM has been active in being represented in such conferences. For example, during the first half of 2022, JHTM has been represented, as well as promoted, during and through the following conferences and events:

The 5th International Conference on Tourism Research (ICTR2022) organised by the School of Hospitality and Tourism, the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (ESHT/P.PORTO), 19 – 20 May 2022, Vila do Conde, district of Porto, Portugal

*Managing Tourism Across Continents – Tourism for a Better World* (MTCON'22) International Conference co-organised by Oxford Brookes University and Eastern Mediterranean University, 24-26 March 2022, Antalya, Turkey

*3<sup>rd</sup> International Hospitality Research Symposium 2022* organised by the Hotel School The Hague, Amsterdam Campus, 9 – 10 June 2022, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The first International Conference on Tourism and Social Research titled "*Rethinking Tourism, Hospitality and Events for a Better Future*" co-organised by Clique College (Maldives) with Curtin University (Australia) and Nottingham Trent University (UK), 2 - 5 August 2022, Ukhulhas, the republic of Maldives

International Conference *TMS ALGARVE 2022 – Sustainability Challenges in Tourism, Hospitality and Management* organised by the University of Algarve, Portugal, 16 – 19 November 2022, Algarve, Faro, Portugal  
The latter is one of the most important 'latin' tourism conference attracting more than 400+ delegates from Latin America and the tourism academic circles in the Iberian Peninsula.

IV CETT Smart Tourism Congress Barcelona, November 23- 24, 2022.  
Organised by CETT, University of Barcelona

LTMAS Conference, 7-9 December 2022, Hasselt, Belgium organised by the University of Hasselt

The JHTM has also been promoted through various online conferences and webinars (e.g. an Emerald webinar and the CRiT Summer School).

Two major events of JHTM took place in 2022.

1. The 2022 JHTM Paper Hackathon took place during the EuroCHRIE 2022, in October 2022. The latter represents one of the major tourism/hospitality conferences worldwide attracting around 200+ delegates per year (last year due to COVID-19 it had about 100 international on site participants). The Hackathon attracted about 36 participants and 2 papers submissions have been recruited both under review.
2. The 2022 JHTM Online Research Symposium took place online. Initially, it was planned to organise the former back-to-back with the CBTS conference in University in Breda, in order to create synergies between the two events and capitalise on each other audience and promotion. CBTS was postponed for May 2023, and so, it was decided to conduct the 2022 JHTM Research Symposium Online.

The 2022 JHTM Online Research Symposium took place 6-7 December 2022 through zoom. It was co-managed by the editor in chief and the associate editors, as well as with a team of volunteers.

The symposium's theme was "*Rethinking Tourism & Hospitality Research: Refreshing agendas and approaches*", and the programme of the 2022 JHTM Research Symposium featured:

- Two eminent keynote speakers, one well-established scholar and one worldwide tourism professional expert, sharing their knowledge on their specific area of expertise.
- Two discussion panels elaborating on contemporary issues in research and publications:
  - o A discussion panel bringing together editors of top ranked journals to discuss “*How can we conduct research with real world impacts? What journal editors are looking for when judging about the practical implications of a study?*”
  - o A discussion panel on “*Sustainability in tourism, hospitality and events: a refreshed research agenda*” featuring distinguished researchers and industry professionals
- Eight interactive workshops delivered by internationally known scholars. Each workshop focuses on a specific aspect of research. Holistically, these workshops present and explain to participants how to design, implement and publish research studies from conceptualisation, research design, to data analysis, paper writing, submission and revisions. These workshops are great professional development opportunities to both early career and mature researchers.

There were more than 300+ registrations for the online sessions, and the event created a lot of online publicity and promotion for the JHTM. All the online sessions have been video-recorded and posted on the [CAUTHE YouTube channel](#). The videos have enriched the online material of JHTM and CAUTHE. I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the success of this event.

Planning of future events (2023 and beyond) to promote JHTM:

- A paper hackathon is organised in collaboration with the organisers of the following conference: International conference DSOTT 2023 *Diversity & Sustainability – Opportunities and Threats*, University of Coimbra, 31 May – 2 June 2023, Coimbra, Portugal
- Continuing involvement with CAUTHE 2023 conference
- Sourcing Ideas /venues for the 2023 JHTM Research Symposium and Paper Hackathon – please contact the Editor-In-Chief if you are interested in supporting these events
- JHTM welcomes collaboration ideas with major conferences. Please contact the Editor-In-Chief, should there exists such an interest

#### Social Media Marketing

The Editor-In-Chief has been working with Hassan Salehi, social media engagement officer of JHTM, for developing a social media strategy and plan for JHTM in 2022. A plan has been developed and agreed and Hasan has been now more active and engaged in its implementation since the last month.

After reviewing the social media strategies of other journals, a decision has been taken to create a profile and promote JHTM through WeChat (the dominant social media platform for Chinese people). An expert volunteer has been identified and approached to discuss this opportunity (thank you CeCe for the connection). The

JHTM profile development and promotion strategy are in process and more news will be revealed soon.

## EDITORIAL TEAM

After the recruitment of the two new Associate Editors, the current composition of the editorial team is:

- Professor Marianna Sigala, Editor-in-Chief, University of Piraeus
- Dr Edmund Goh, Associate Editor, Bond University
- Dr Seyyed Mostafa Rasoolimanesh, Taylor's University
- Dr Xi Y. Leung, University of North Texas
- Dr Ching-Hui (Joan) Su, Iowa State University
- Dr Aaron Tham, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Hassan Salehi, Social media engagement officer

The JHTM would like to welcome the two new associate editors in its editorial team. We are very pleased to work with them both, and they have added a new disciplinary perspective to the journal.

I would also like to take the opportunity to heartfully thank Dr Emily Ma (University of Massachusetts System, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America) who has just completed her term of office as associate editor of JHTM. Dr Ma has been very supportive to JHTM during all the period of her term of office and played a key role in promoting JHTM in USA. There has been very good cooperation amongst all the members of the editorial team of the journal as well as the publisher's representative from Elsevier. The team has regular virtual meetings and online discussions for taking decisions, actions and developing a strategy for the journal.

The international editorial review board of the journal is due to be revised and updated in February 2023. We are currently in the stage of starting this update. In the meantime, we are monitoring and evaluating the performance of existing board members, as well as identifying other scholars to help with paper review. The quality and commitment of the reviewers and editorial board are considered as one of the key success factors of the journal.

## ELSEVIER JHTM Manager

It is my pleasure to announce that Elsevier has now appointed a permanent manager to look after JHTM and the wider portfolio of tourism/hospitality journals (as well as Information Science) of Elsevier. Laura Birrell is our new contact with Elsevier. Online meetings were scheduled to welcome Laura, introduce her to the JHTM and start working with her. JHTM continuous to grow and we as the editorial board of JHTM are committed to work hard to continue having JHTM as one of the top ranked journals in our field.

I would like to personally thank everyone that has and is contributing to the JHTM directly and / or indirectly, anonymously and/or eponymously. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Prof Marianna Sigala  
Editor-in-Chief JHTM