



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND  
FACULTY OF LIFE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Haskólinn  
á Akureyri  
University  
of Akureyri



RANNSÓKNAMIÐSTÖÐ  
FERÐAMÁLA  
ICELANDIC TOURISM  
RESEARCH CENTRE

## Call for session proposals

The 29<sup>th</sup> Nordic Symposium on Tourism and Hospitality Research  
21-23 September 2021 – University of Akureyri, Iceland

### *Symposium theme: Shaping mobile futures: Challenges and possibilities in precarious times*

We live in a precarious time. Global climate change is increasingly disturbing species and habitats of which the COVID-19 pandemic perhaps is a speaking and disturbing example. Awareness is growing that the usual order of things does not hold for the future. Everyday discourse directs attention towards global risks and crisis, such as climate change, pandemics and mass migration. At the same time hopes regarding economic growth and competitiveness hinge on technological innovations and smart solutions. - This raises questions about the competences and skills necessary for building decent conditions for life.

The concept of the Anthropocene underlines that humans have become geo-social force, which eliminates the traditional divide between nature and culture as usually defined forcing us to recognize ourselves as humble inhabitants of the Earth. The Earth can no longer be framed as a passive resource for human exploitation. Rather it needs to be acknowledged as an agent in its own right that we live *with*, not on or above. This demands new political and organisational configurations.

In this context, tourism mobilities hold a somewhat contradictory position. They can be seen as iconic for ever more intensified and unsustainable consumption while at the same time proclaimed to be a driver for sustainable growth. Tourism is blamed for depletion of resources, environmental degradation, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, cultural commodification, and labour and social inequality. Furthermore, in the light of recent events the COVID 19 has highlighted their vulnerability. However, tourism mobilities are seen as a tool for replacing resource-depleting economies and re-establishing force for post-COVID future.

- Is there a way out of the vicious circle of irresponsible production and consumption towards more sustainable futures for tourism?
- Can tourism live up to its expectations and become something other than part of the problem and, if so, how?
- What sort of tools and methods are needed to plan for and manage tourism sustainably in a changing world?

*Shaping mobile futures* provides opportunities to engage with these and other related questions. We especially invite proposals for sessions and papers that critically deal with the challenges and possibilities for responsible tourism mobilities from diverse disciplinary approaches.

The symposium organisers invite proposals for organising sessions during the symposium programme. Sessions could be organised in a traditional manner with paper presentations or as interactive workshops.

**Please submit session proposals as abstracts**, make sure to include the following information:

- Name and contact details of session organiser and any co-organisers
- Type of session being proposed (session, workshop, etc.)
- Proposed session title
- Session description of 250-300 words

Session proposers will be in charge of their sessions as chairs. The chair's primary responsibility is to solicit high quality abstracts for the session, oversee abstract review/organizing workshop, collaborate with the symposium organizers in determining which paper abstracts are to be accepted and structure the final program for the session.

*Deadline for proposing sessions is 9 March 2021.*

Please submit abstracts for sessions and workshops proposals to Eyrún Jenný Bjarnadóttir, [ejb@rmf.is](mailto:ejb@rmf.is)

On behalf of the organizing committee,

Guðrún Þóra Gunnarsdóttir, Icelandic Tourism Research Centre

Symposium's website: <http://www.rmf.is/en/29th-nordic-symposium>