

Recreational Transition and management of protected areas. The Cultural turn ?

Philippe Bourdeau, Institute of Alpine Geography, Grenoble University, philippe.bourdeau@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr

Jean Corneloup, UFR STAPS - Clermont-Ferrand university and PACTE research group on territories - Grenoble University, j.corneloup@libertysurf.fr

Cultural dilemmas in transition pathways of recreational areas: looking for recreational laboratories

Confronted with multiple injunctions for change in the face of climate and energy crises and changes in lifestyles and recreational practices, tourism in recreational and protected areas is required to adapt and even to "reinvent itself". At the scale of the places, sectors and trades, various processes of transition and transformation are already active. At the same time, inertia and (mis)adaptation seem to take precedence in a logic of simple updating of the development model inherited from the epic of sports tourism in the 20th century.

This duality, which bears functional contradictions and strategic conflicts, can be partly described as an undecidable dilemma between dynamics of acceleration and deceleration, of opening and locking in, which are illustrated in the cultural, ideological, economic and sociotechnical aspects of recreation.

Based on various illustrations drawn from observations and research programs conducted in different tourist configurations in the French Alps, the key-note will define recreational transition as a set of processes, approaches and actions by which tourism practices and policies are transformed into becoming coherent and resilient with change in fields such as climate, energy, culture, and the economy. We'll examine the contradictory processes, ambivalences and conditions in which the sustainable recreational transition is and is not being operated.

This perspective will draw attention to factors and actors of transformative practices that can be analysed as signals of change and indicators of transition. These include many practices, experiments and in particular experiments undertaken by professional operators, stake holders and places that play the role of "recreational laboratories" at the crossing of a variety of potential development initiatives.