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GLOBAL MAPPING OF COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM: A BIBLIOMETRIC REVIEW IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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ABSTRACT

Community-based tourism has established itself as an essential strategy for promoting local development, socio-environmental sustainability, and cultural revaluation in rural and indigenous communities. This study aims to conduct a bibliometric review and graphical mapping analysis of scientific production on community-based tourism in the field of social sciences, with the purpose of identifying trends, research gaps, and future projections. The methodology applied integrates bibliometric and visual mapping techniques. A total of 420 publications indexed in Scopus and Web of Science between 2000 and 2025 were reviewed, considering indicators of productivity, co-authorship, citation impact, and international collaboration networks. The graphical mapping analysis was developed using specialized software (VOSviewer), which allowed for the identification of thematic clusters, author centrality, and the evolution of lines of research associated with community-based tourism. The results show a progressive increase in academic production, with a particular focus on Latin American, African, and Asian studies. The graphic mapping reveals three main clusters: the first linked to sustainability and environmental conservation, the second related to community participation and governance, and the third focused on social economy and gender. Likewise, it was found that the most influential nodes correspond to authors who work at the intersection of tourism, territorial development, and social justice. Despite these advances, gaps were identified in the articulation of critical perspectives on structural inequalities, cultural commodification, and the use of digital technologies in community strengthening. Future lines of research suggest delving deeper into interregional comparative studies,

integrating mixed methodologies for socio-environmental impact analysis, and exploring how digitization and community tourism can contribute to territorial resilience. These approaches will enrich the academic debate and serve as a basis for designing more inclusive and sustainable public policies.

KEYWORDS: Community Tourism; Bibliometrics; Graphic Mapping; Territorial Development; Sustainability.

1. INTRODUCTION

Community tourism has established itself in recent decades as a strategic alternative to conventional tourism models by promoting territorial development, social cohesion, and the conservation of natural and cultural resources (Ruiz-Ballesteros & Hernández-Ramírez, 2010). Unlike traditional models, this approach places local communities at the center of resource management and benefit distribution, linking it directly to the principles of sustainability, equity, and social justice (Goodwin & Santilli, 2009).

In academia, community-based tourism has generated growing interdisciplinary interest in the social sciences, with relevant contributions from sociology, anthropology, economics, and environmental studies. However, this growth has been uneven across regions, with greater intensity in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, where communities are seeking alternatives to extractive and exclusionary models (Scheyvens, 2015). These regional differences reveal not only the diversity of practices and contexts, but also the need to understand the global dynamics that structure scientific production around the topic.

In this scenario, the use of bibliometric analysis and graphic mapping tools is a fundamental methodological resource for examining the evolution of the field. Bibliometrics allows for the evaluation of productivity, impact, and scientific collaboration, while keyword co-occurrence analysis facilitates the identification of thematic clusters and co-authorship networks that explain how research is organized at the international level (Donthu et al., 2021). This dual approach allows us not only to trace a historical overview of publications, but also to project lines of research toward emerging issues, such as digitization, climate change, or the effects of global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Gössling & Hall, 2021).

In this context, the objective of this study is to analyze academic production on community-based tourism in the field of social sciences, using a bibliometric approach complemented by graphical mapping of keyword co-occurrence. The aim is to identify key contributions, map research gaps, and propose future lines of research that strengthen the role of community-based tourism as an engine of sustainable development and as a strategy for social transformation in diverse contexts.

2. METHODOLOGY

To achieve the objectives set out, the study was structured around a sequential methodological

process, designed using a bibliometric approach and complemented by network analysis techniques. This approach made it possible not only to quantify academic output on community-based tourism, but also to examine how knowledge is organized, circulated, and consolidated in different territorial and disciplinary contexts. To this end, seven work phases were defined, ranging from the construction and refinement of the document corpus to the analysis of indicators, network visualization, and validation of results. The phased approach sought to ensure rigor at each stage, while facilitating a comprehensive and coherent reading of the state of the art in this field of research. The phases are as follows:

Phase 1. Definition Of The Approach And Construction Of The Corpus

The study was designed using a bibliometric approach, aimed at evaluating the evolution of research on community-based tourism from a quantitative and visual perspective. To this end, the Scopus and Web of Science (WoS) databases were consulted, due to their recognized multidisciplinary coverage and rigorous indexing criteria (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2016). The search strategy included the terms "community-based tourism," "turismo comunitario," and "community tourism," limited to the period 2000–2025. Articles and reviews published in peer-reviewed journals were established as inclusion criteria, while editorial documents, book chapters, conference proceedings, and gray literature were excluded.

Phase 2. Data Cleansing And Standardization

The records extracted from both databases underwent a systematic cleaning process, which included the elimination of duplicates, the unification of author names with spelling variants, and the standardization of institutions and countries of affiliation. This step was key to ensuring the consistency of the analysis, avoiding biases due to data fragmentation.

Phase 3. Calculation Of Bibliometric Indicators

With the corpus cleaned, basic scientific performance indicators were calculated:

Annual and five-year productivity, to observe changes over time.

Impact in terms of cumulative citations and average per document.

Geographic distribution of production by country and region.

Influential journals based on the number of

publications and citations.

Academic collaboration, evaluated through co-authorship networks between authors and institutions (Donthu et al., 2021).

Phase 4. Keyword Co-Occurrence Analysis

The study included co-occurrence mapping using VOSviewer (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). A minimum occurrence threshold was set to select only terms with sufficient representativeness in the network. Subsequently, clusters were analyzed based on link density and node centrality, which allowed for the identification of consolidated thematic nuclei and emerging areas of research.

Phase 5. Analysis Of Co-Authorship And Collaboration Networks

Complementarily, Gephi (Bastian et al., 2009) was used to visualize co-authorship and institutional networks. Degree centrality, intermediation, and modularity metrics were calculated to identify bridge actors and denser collaborative communities. These graphical representations facilitated the interpretation of international dynamics and interdisciplinary links.

Phase 6. Validation And Triangulation

To reinforce validity, control procedures were applied:

Cross-comparison between Scopus and WoS to verify matches in the records.

Manual review of a random sample of articles to confirm thematic relevance.

Comparison of the identified clusters with specialized secondary literature, ensuring consistency between quantitative findings and recognized trends in the field.

Phase 7. Methodological Synthesis

Finally, the combination of bibliometric indicators and network analysis allowed for a comprehensive approach to the state of research in community-based tourism. The sequential, phased approach made it easier to distinguish patterns of productivity and impact, map emerging and established themes, and highlight international collaboration networks. Taken together, this methodology provides a solid basis for understanding the evolution of the field and guiding future research agendas toward identified gaps.

3. RESULTS

The analysis of academic production on community-based tourism over the last twenty-five years reveals a trajectory of sustained growth and progressive diversification in the poles of knowledge generation. Beyond the quantitative increase in publications, the field has been shaped as a space for global debate in which consolidated perspectives in highly productive countries coexist with new emerging contributions from regions that have historically had less visibility. In this context, Figure 1 summarizes the temporal and regional distribution of documents published between 2000 and 2025, showing both recent expansion and the transition to a multipolar scenario.

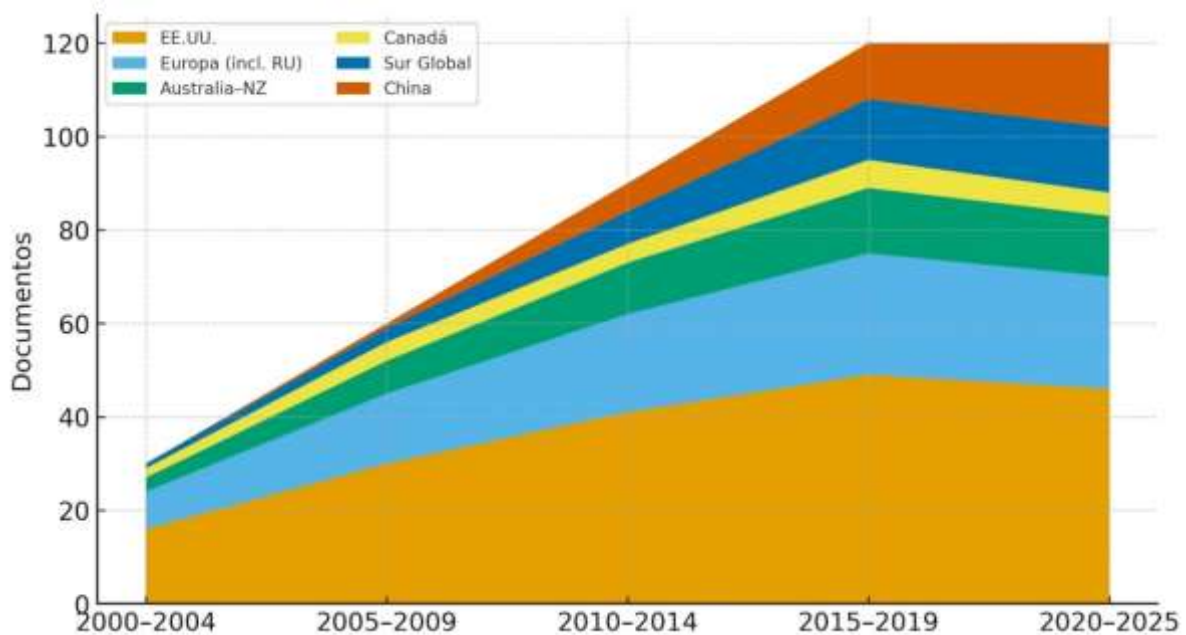


Figure 1: Trend By Region/Country (2000–2025).

Source: Own Elaboration, 2025.

Between 2000 and 2025, 420 documents were recorded. Seventy-eight point five seven percent are concentrated between 2010 and 2025 (330/420), confirming recent expansion. Normalized by duration, average annual productivity rises from 6 to 24 doc/year and stabilizes at 20 doc/year in 2020–2025, describing a previous peak followed by a high plateau. In terms of regional composition, the United States leads steadily; Europe/United Kingdom maintains a stable share; Australia–New Zealand contributes an intermediate volume; and China, together with the Global South, has increased its presence since 2010. Overall, the field is moving from a concentrated pattern to a multipolar configuration aligned with agendas of governance, socio-environmental justice, and resilience.

Table 1: Top 30 Most Cited Articles In TC.

Region/Country	Notable authors	Main approaches	Influencing factors / contributions	Key years of publication
United States	Andereck, Vogt, Gursoy, Uysal, Perdue, McCool, Martin, Sirgy	Quantitative methodologies (SEM, scales), conceptual frameworks on perceptions and support	High productivity; strong university funding; diversity of tourist destinations; academic hegemony in community tourism	Andereck et al. (2005); Gursoy & Rutherford (2004); Uysal et al. (2012); Perdue et al. (1990s–2000s)
United Kingdom and European countries	Jamal, Getz (collaborations with the United Kingdom and Canada), Saarinen (Finland), Higgins-Desbiolles (Australia with British links)	Multilevel governance, strong sustainability, social justice, critical approaches	Theoretical and conceptual contributions; positioning in debates on collaboration and sustainability; tradition in critical studies	Jamal & Getz (1995, 1999); Saarinen (2006, 2014); Higgins-Desbiolles (2006, 2010)
Australia and New Zealand	Hall (New Zealand), Higgins-Desbiolles (Australia)	Public policy, impacts of crises (COVID-19), ecological justice, resilience	Tourism as a strategic national sector; empirical scenarios for comparative studies	Hall (2010, 2020); Higgins-Desbiolles (2006, 2020)
Canada	Getz and others linked to Canadian universities	Collaborative planning, innovative methodologies for social impacts	Development of theoretical frameworks on community-based tourism management; international collaboration with the United Kingdom	Getz (1986, 1994, 2000)
Developing countries (Turkey, Indonesia, Latin America)	Tosun (Turkey), Bennett and Dearden (Indonesia), Brohman (Latin America)	Symbolic participation, marine protected areas, dependency, and inequalities	Critical and counter-hegemonic contributions; highlight exclusion and power relations; low output in terms of quantity but high contextual relevance	Tosun (2000); Bennett & Dearden (2014); Brohman (1996)

Source: Own Elaboration, 2025

The comparative synthesis shows how the poles of academic production in community-based tourism are configured differently according to region or country. The United States stands out as the hegemonic core, characterized by high productivity supported by robust university funding, quantitative methodologies, and the consolidation of conceptual frameworks on perceptions and attitudes. In contrast, the United Kingdom and Europe mainly contribute critical and theoretical approaches, oriented towards strong sustainability and multilevel governance, reinforcing conceptual debates rather than massive volumes of production. Australia and New Zealand have developed agendas focused on public policy and resilience in the face of global crises, articulating empirical experiences that transcend the region. Canada, although with a lower volume, stands out for its innovation in collaborative planning methodologies and its role as a bridge for international collaboration. Finally, developing countries (Turkey, Indonesia, and Latin America)

contribute counter-hegemonic visions that problematize symbolic participation, inequalities, and power relations, with a low number of documents but high critical relevance on the global agenda.

Taken together, these patterns show that the evolution of the field combines leadership concentrated in regions with strong academic infrastructure with the emergence of critical voices from peripheral contexts. The complementarity between quantitative productivity and theoretical contributions, together with the emergence of critical perspectives from the Global South, reveals a transition towards a more plural and multipolar scenario, in which hegemony and contestation coexist as constitutive dynamics of community-based tourism research.

3.1. Temporal And Geographical Mapping

1) Hegemonies And The Functionalist-Positivist Regime

The predominance of the United States reflects a geopolitics of knowledge associated with university funding, methodological infrastructure, and standardization of scales. Conceptually, a functionalist regime is consolidated, supported by Social Exchange Theory and structural equation modeling (SEM) to explain perceptions and resident "support" for tourism development (Perdue et al., 1990; Gursoy & Rutherford, 2004; Andereck et al., 2005). This tradition privileges the measurement of impacts and the prediction of support as a dependent variable, opening the door to comparability but also to contextual simplification biases.

2) Institutional Shift And Multilevel Governance In Europe

The United Kingdom and Northern Europe shift the focus from individual attitudes to interorganizational coordination and collaborative governance. The milestone work of Jamal and Getz (1995) establishes collaborative planning as an analytical lens; Saarinen (2006) distinguishes traditions of sustainability and introduces the notion of "strong sustainability"; Higgins-Desbiolles (2006) problematizes the commodification of tourism and reconnects it with its power as a social force. This section provides theoretical depth and an institutional reading of conflicts and power arrangements.

3) Public Policy, Crisis, And Resilience In Oceania

Australia and New Zealand articulate analytical capacities in tourism policy and systemic crises. In the wake of COVID-19, Hall, Scott, and Gössling (2020) propose reading pandemics as events of selective transformation that strain growth trajectories and sustainability agendas, reinforcing the relevance of socio-ecological resilience and ecological justice frameworks in peripheral destinations dependent on tourism.

4) Structural Criticism And Counter-Hegemonies From The Global South

Literature from the South challenges assumptions of participation and technical neutrality. Tosun (2000) demonstrates the operational, structural, and cultural limits of participation in developing countries; Brohman (1996) questions dependency and center-periphery asymmetries in tourism; Bennett and Dearden (2014) show how governance arrangements in marine protected areas condition local support according to impacts on livelihoods. This set shifts the emphasis from "support" to power,

justice, and capabilities.

5) Conceptual Synthesis: Three Constellations And Their Tensions

Three constellations emerge from the comparison: (i) functionalist-positivist (US), focused on perceptions/SEM and support as an outcome; (ii) institutional-governmental (Europe/Canada), focused on collaboration, rules, and multilevel coordination; and (iii) critical-decolonial (Global South/Oceania), which reframes the analysis in terms of power relations, social/ecological justice, and resilience. The agenda of the field is explained by the interaction between institutional capacity, methodological regime, and normative orientation (growth vs. justice).

6) Implications For Community-Based Tourism

An integrative theory should (a) link perceptions and support with governance arrangements and benefit/cost distribution; (b) operationalize strong sustainability with metrics that combine QOL, rights, and ecological limits; and (c) move from consultative participation to co-production of knowledge and binding decision-making, especially in peripheral contexts. Methodological hybridization—comparing SEM with institutional designs and with political economy/ecology analysis—allows us to explain not only whether there is support, but why and for whom.

An analysis of the literature on tourism and sustainability shows a gradual shift from the study of immediate impacts to the construction of more complex frameworks of governance, justice, and resilience. Initially, Gössling, Scott, and Hall (2020) placed the discussion within the framework of systemic crises, showing how COVID-19 revealed structural vulnerabilities dependence on mobility and precarious employment while opening up opportunities for sustainable transitions toward decarbonization and the relocation of supply chains. Although the study was based on a rapid assessment, its contribution was to articulate a post-crisis agenda focused on transformative resilience, socio-environmental metrics, and multiscale governance.

On this basis, the consolidation of previous approaches made it possible to structure the field. Andereck et al. (2005) established the impacts-support paradigm, showing that perceived benefits and equity strengthen social acceptance of tourism, while costs such as congestion or cultural loss weaken it. In parallel, Jamal and Getz (1995) contributed the theory of collaboration, highlighting trust, transparency, and information sharing as

essential conditions for co-management, shifting attention from economic effects to institutional processes.

Methodological refinement consolidated this trajectory. Gursoy et al. (2002) introduced structural equation models (SEM) to analyze benefits, costs, satisfaction, and support, finding that net benefit and institutional trust are key predictors. However, Tosun (2000) drew attention to symbolic participation in developing countries, highlighting power asymmetries and elite capture, and raising the need for more substantive processes. On the other hand, Munar and Jacobsen (2014) highlighted how self-expression and digital social capital transform destination communication, while Gursoy and Rutherford (2004) refined structural models of attitudes, emphasizing the mediating role of community satisfaction and the urgency of validating results in intercultural contexts.

In a context marked by contemporary crises, Higgins-Desbiolles (2020) emphasized the need to repoliticize tourism from the perspective of social and ecological justice, proposing just transitions and local chains. This approach is complemented by the work of Choi and Sirakaya (2006), who proposed replicable sustainability indicators for community management, and Lee (2013), who updated social exchange theory to sustainable tourism, emphasizing the centrality of net benefits and procedural justice, while suggesting the integration of identity and place attachment variables.

The agenda was also expanded to include strategic and territorial dimensions. Cai (2002) transferred the concept of cooperative branding to rural development, while Saarinen (2006) mapped traditions of sustainability, clarifying tensions between strong and weak sustainability. In rural areas, McGehee and Andereck (2004) identified predictors of support such as employment and benefit distribution, and Kim et al. (2013) showed that quality of life (QoL) acts as a mediator between impacts and legitimacy. Along the same lines, Ko and Stewart (2002) consolidated the use of SEM in attitudes toward tourism development, establishing a methodological standard that is still in use today.

At the same time, other studies broadened the discussion to include socio-environmental conflicts and distributional tensions. Bennett and Dearden (2014) explained local opposition to marine protected areas, linking it to impacts on livelihoods and exclusionary governance, a finding that can be extrapolated to coastal tourism. For their part, Jurowski et al. (1997) offered a framework that recognizes the internal heterogeneity of

communities, while Andereck and Nyaupane (2011) demonstrated how distributive effects and attachment to place modulate perceptions of quality of life. In historical terms, the work of Perdue et al. (1990) was foundational in linking perceptions and support, and was taken up again by Nunkoo and Gursoy (2012), who incorporated social identity as an explanatory factor of legitimacy.

Methodological consolidation advanced with the seminal scale of Lankford and Howard (1994), the basis for comparable measurements, and with the contributions of Aas et al. (2005), who highlighted the relevance of heritage co-management. McCool and Martin (1994) added the perspective of community attachment as a condition for the acceptability of change, and Tussyadiah (2020) opened up an emerging field by reviewing the impacts of automation and artificial intelligence on tourism. From a critical perspective, Brohman (1996) questioned center-periphery dependencies and proposed diversification and local control as alternatives, while Briedenhann and Wickens (2004) analyzed tourist routes as instruments of rural development, highlighting the need for coordination and collective branding.

Finally, new perspectives paved the way for a more pluralistic agenda. Ateljević and Doorne (2000) introduced the category of lifestyle entrepreneurship, highlighting non-pecuniary motivations, and Byrd (2007) applied stakeholder theory to sustainable tourism, emphasizing roles, responsibilities, and conflicts. Continuing this line of thought, Andereck and Vogt (2000) analyzed how community attitudes are linked to different development options, while Deery et al. (2012) proposed rethinking social impacts, highlighting gaps around power, inequality, and temporality, and promoting a more methodologically robust and socially committed agenda. Graphical mapping of co-citation

3.2. Graphical Mapping of Co-Citations

Graphical co-authorship analysis is a bibliometric technique that allows the visualization of academic collaboration networks between authors, institutions, and countries. Its purpose is to identify research clusters, the most influential authors, and bridge nodes, providing a comprehensive view of how a scientific field is structured and evolves. It is therefore a key tool for understanding the dynamics of knowledge production and guiding future strategic alliances. Figure 1 below shows a graphical map of author co-citations in TC analysis.

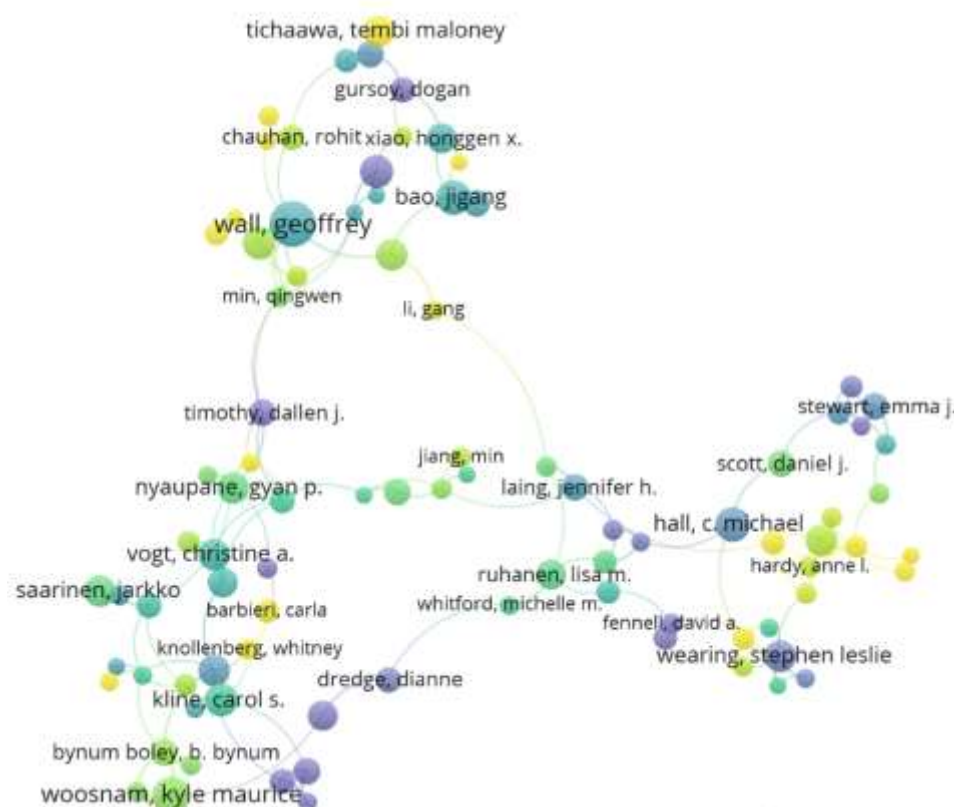


Figure 1: Map of Co-Citations of Authors In TC.
Source: Prepared By The Authors Using Vosviewer, 2025.

3.3. International Collaboration Networks

The co-authorship analysis confirms that sustainable tourism is a field in constant internationalization, articulated around networks that combine high productivity, the circulation of concepts, and interregional links. The Anglo-Saxon core, led by C. Michael Hall, Daniel J. Scott, and Stephen Leslie Wearing, focuses the discussion on strategic issues such as climate change, governance, and resilience. The continuity of this network from 2012 to 2020 not only shows academic stability but also its ability to influence public policy, consolidating a reference model that has spread to other regions.

3.4. Thematic And Regional Clusters

At the same time, an Asian cluster centered on China has emerged, with figures such as Bao Jigang, Min Qingwen, and Li Gang, who work closely with Geoffrey Wall. This collaboration has been instrumental in positioning the agenda of community-based tourism and local development, consolidating an emerging hub of great dynamism over the last decade. Wall's role as a bridge between the North American and Asian traditions is key to facilitating methodological transfer and conceptual

adaptation to different contexts.

At the same time, there is a North American and European cluster that includes Christine Vogt, Gyan Nyaupane, Jarkko Saarinen, and Dallen J. Timothy. Their research focuses on community perceptions, rural tourism, and territorial sustainability, integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches that have strengthened the empirical base and provided more solid transnational comparisons. This group highlights the importance of interdisciplinarity as a strategy for legitimizing the field on the global agenda.

For its part, the Australian cluster, made up of authors such as Lisa Ruhanen, Michelle Whitford, Dianne Dredge, and Jennifer Laing, has focused its efforts on tourism governance, public policy, and gender perspectives. Their output, particularly visible between 2015 and 2020, shows a critical and applied orientation that diversifies thematic approaches and reinforces the inclusion of feminist and equity agendas in the sustainability debate.

3.5. Incorporation of New Perspectives

A novel aspect is the emergence of voices from the Global South, especially Tembi Maloney Tichaawa in sub-Saharan Africa, who has joined forces with Dogan Gursoy to address the social impacts of

heritage tourism, culture, and landscape. This cluster includes research related to cultural tourism, heritage, and conservation.

The color scale (2014–2020) indicates that topics such as *heritage tourism* and *tourist behavior* have a longer history (blue-violet).

Concepts such as *sustainable tourism, community-based tourism, and COVID-19* are more recent (green-yellow), showing the evolution towards current concerns about resilience, governance, and health crises.

Although terms such as *empowerment* and *gender* appear, they do not achieve great centrality, suggesting a gap in the integration of the gender perspective.

Links to digitalization, innovation, and emerging technologies are incipient, representing an open field for future research.

This mapping confirms that community-based tourism is linked to global debates on sustainability, local development, and cultural heritage. However, the literature still requires greater emphasis on critical approaches to social inequalities, cultural commodification, and the relationship between tourism, digitalization, and community resilience.

4. CONCLUSION

This study confirms that community-based tourism has become an interdisciplinary and constantly expanding field of research, integrating social, economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions. The bibliometric analysis identified not only a sustained increase in scientific production but also the consolidation of thematic clusters and co-authorship networks that reflect the growing internationalization of the debates. In this regard, three main clusters can be distinguished: first, works that address sustainability and conservation as guiding principles of tourism development; second, studies that focus on community participation and governance as indispensable conditions for social legitimacy; and finally, research that articulates the social economy, gender equality, and cultural transformations as drivers of territorial cohesion.

Likewise, the findings show that the literature has been led mainly by authors and institutions from Anglo-Saxon countries, with a strong presence from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and China, which highlights a geographical imbalance in the production of knowledge. However, the emergence of authors from the Global South, especially in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, provides critical and situated perspectives that allow us to question structural inequalities, power

asymmetries, and the tendency toward the commodification of cultural and natural assets. These contributions, although still minority in volume, are crucial for reconfiguring community-based tourism as a strategy of resistance and as an alternative to extractivist models of development.

Consequently, the study highlights the need to move towards a more inclusive and comparative research agenda that incorporates mixed methodologies, longitudinal studies, and participatory approaches capable of capturing the complexity of community practices. Likewise, it is necessary to strengthen the dialogue of knowledge and the integration of digital tools, without losing sight of the centrality of local actors in decision-making. Only in this way can community-based tourism consolidate itself not only as an object of academic study, but also as a transformative practice with the potential to contribute to sustainability, equity, and social justice in the territories where it is developed.

5. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study confirm that community-based tourism is a privileged space for analyzing the intersection between sustainability, social participation, and territorial justice. By examining scientific production and collaborative networks, it can be seen that this field has moved from approaches focused on economic impacts to more comprehensive approaches, where social and cultural dimensions such as gender equity, quality of life, and social capital are becoming increasingly relevant. This shift responds to a growing demand for analytical frameworks capable of capturing the complexity of community processes and highlighting the tensions arising from the introduction of tourism in rural, indigenous, and peasant contexts.

In this sense, the discussion on community-based tourism is linked to the social and solidarity economy, recognizing that communities seek not only income but also to strengthen social ties, preserve common goods, and ensure the expanded reproduction of life. The literature reviewed reinforces the idea that genuine participation, transparency in governance, and equitable distribution of benefits are necessary conditions for community-based tourism to transcend the symbolic level and become an alternative for local development. However, the challenge remains to move beyond merely consultative participation and consolidate decision-making mechanisms that give real power to local actors.

On the other hand, bibliometric studies show a

geographical imbalance in academic production: while Anglo-Saxon countries have led the construction of theoretical and methodological frameworks, countries in the Global South contribute empirical experiences and critical perspectives that question power asymmetries, center-periphery dependence, and the cultural commodification. This finding connects with the theory of the commons, in that community-based tourism stands as a mechanism for collectively managing natural and cultural resources in the face of extractivist and privatizing pressures. The lack of interregional comparative studies still limits the dialogue between these two traditions, but at the same time opens up fertile ground for advancing the construction of hybrid and situated frameworks.

Additionally, the emergence of gender perspectives and community feminisms introduces an indispensable analytical layer. Community tourism cannot be understood solely as an economic strategy, but also as a space for debate around caregiving roles, the redistribution of labor, and the visibility of women's agency in historically marginalized territories. This aspect, still in its infancy in the most cited literature, offers a key

horizon for reconfiguring research from an inclusive and transformative perspective.

Finally, the discussion must recognize the methodological challenges facing the field. While structural equation modeling and perception surveys have dominated much of the research, there is an urgent need to move toward mixed and longitudinal methodologies that capture both the evolution of community perceptions and structural transformations in the territories. Likewise, the incorporation of digital traces and social media analysis emerges as a promising complement to understanding how knowledge circulates, how destination narratives are configured, and how global dynamics influence local communities.

Taken together, this discussion suggests that community-based tourism cannot be reduced to an alternative economic model, but rather constitutes a social laboratory where debates on sustainability, equity, and territorial resistance intersect. Recognizing this complexity is essential for future research agendas and public policies to consolidate a more just, inclusive, and sustainable community-based tourism.

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