

Title: Performance and Contemplation to Inspire Tourism Sustainability
Author: David Manuel-Navarrete, Jason Papenfuss, & Christine Buzinde
Affiliation: Arizona State University
Contact: davidmn@asu.edu
Session Type: Workshop

Abstract:

Tourism sustainability seeks to *transcend* sustainable tourism by suggesting that tourism can be a driving force for sustainability transitions beyond the sector (Manuel-Navarrete, 2016), or a “tool for sustainability” (Moscardo & Murphy, 2014). Tourism sustainability can draw on a number of complementary approaches, such as hopeful tourism (Pritchard, Morgan, & Ateljevic, 2011). These approaches regard tourism as playing a crucial “consciousness-raising role,” facilitating human virtue, as well as fostering commitment to environmental and cultural protection (Breakey & Breakey, 2015). In order to go beyond making the tourism industry sustainable and to move towards the fostering of transformative tourism related experiences, new forms of tourism engagement have to be considered, including contemplative practices. But how does this work in practice? This workshop is an invitation to collectively explore this question through innovative forms of academic discussion. Arizona State University’s School of Sustainability is experimenting with “transformation-labs” that include participatory performance arts as well as contemplative practices. In this workshop, we will experience a variety of these approaches and collectively design and prototype a “tourism experience” that stimulates creativity and promotes self-reflection. Participants will be guided through a variety of contemplative and experiential practices, such as mindfulness meditation, harmonizing movement, dyadic listening, and others (see below for a brief description). After each exercise, there will be some time to collectively and creatively discuss and redesign a mock tourist experience by emphasizing the role of personal and internal transformations needed to foster empowered agents of change in the face of global sustainability problems. We will explore the role of contemplative practices in promoting personal vulnerability, while fostering a sense of trust and belonging. The last part of the workshop will entail prototyping potentially emerging interactions between people beyond traditional roles of host-guest, worker-client, nationality, or North-South.