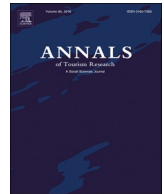


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BOOK REVIEW

Industrial heritage tourism, P.F. Xie. Channel View Publication (2015). www.channelviewpublications.com (13 Roman numeral pages + 254 Arabic numeral ages (figures, tables, bibliography, index) £99.95 HB. ISBN 9781845415136)

ARTICLE INFO

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This book is part of the Tourism and Cultural Change series which is a series of volumes that explores the complex and ever-changing relationship between tourism and culture(s). As a subtheme in the palace of heritage, industrial heritage is rarely highly ranked. Although industrial heritage tourism (or industrial tourism) is not a new phenomenon (Vargas-Sánchez, 2015), it has acquired increasing attentions as part of the cultural offering presented by a growing number of destinations, even on the World Heritage List. The remains of the industrial past are being recognised for their significance in shaping the landscape but also a global culture of industrialism. The value of industrial heritage varies considerably across cultures, political systems, economic conditions and resonates with wider patterns of social change. In terms of industrial heritage tourism, Philip Xie put the concept in a wider context of valuing the legacies of industrial past, either the industry being in operation or in abandon. Industrial heritage tourism is a multidisciplinary complex which interacts with different stakeholders and provides opportunities for visiting individuals. Therefore, industrial heritage is influenced by the increasing convergence between cultural tourism, museumification (i.e. the process by which a particular heritage is recognised to the extent that it is turned into a museum) and commercialisation. Philip Xie has made great efforts to fit industrial heritage into the context of tourism studies by proposing a development and management model of industrial heritage tourism.

This book consists of seven chapters. Following the systematic literature review and theoretical discussion in the first two chapters, the book provides the reader with a wide variety of examples that demonstrate how these practices are applied. In chapter 3 to 6, the collecting data from five international case studies (i.e. Jeep manufacturing, salt-making, harbour, cloth factory, gasworks) are primarily but individually conducted between 2005 and 2014 in different countries. Each chapter provides a critical literature review and empirical research practice. In general, these case study chapters show the different tourism phenomena that stage the changing attitudes toward industrial heritage by going through the approaches of museumification, tourist gaze, urban renewal, and creative industries. The above reveals that the legacies of industrial past are valued with a shifting continuity. Accordingly, there are following issues being discussed: the debate of authenticity, various (conflicting) views of stakeholders, cultural and (creative) economic motives, community perceptions, the dilemma of nostalgia and trendy, and the top-down and community-led governance. In the final chapter, it concludes with an overview that summarises the previous arguments about the development and management of heritage industrial tourism by offering an observation of the valorisation of industrial heritage. As Philip Xie argues, industrial heritage could be viewed as a living heritage that breathes the past, present, and future at once; moreover, industrial heritage is an agile heritage which being constructed in contemporary processes in ways that utilize the past for purposes in the present, and the future (Birkeland, 2015; Smith, 2006). From the reviewer's perspective, this interpretation would be further extended to incorporate the immaterial aspects of past industrial activity and so includes the crafts and skills and wider practices associated with industrial activity. Besides the physical remains of the history of technology and industry, the intangible aspects of industrialisation are of course, problematic to preserve but nonetheless they are essential to recognise as part of the wider socio-economic contexts that framed industrial life.

The book is reader-friendly, which is demonstrated in its writing style and language. There is no doubt that a single book cannot paint the full picture of industrial heritage tourism but undoubtedly this book achieves what it is set out to accomplish and provide an

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overview of industrial heritage tourism, and examines the theoretical framework via conducting practical case studies. Ambitiously, as a reader, the reviewer is looking forward to the advancing understanding on the representativeness of case studies but also longing for more international examples though this book has offered the selected sites in four continents and five industrial categories during a decade.

Obviously, *Industrial Heritage Tourism* makes a contribution to the study of the valorisation and shifting-value of industrial heritage by tourism through providing the clearly structured and easy-to-read contents in seven chapters. Each case study chapter effectively reflects back to Philip Xie's original framework demonstrated in chapter 2. In addition, the book presents the diverse methodologies which are useful for the reference of research practice. Overall, this book can be recommended for all students and early career academics who are interested in the relevant heritage issues (e.g. reuse, conservation, sustainable management, interpretation etc.) but also urban regeneration, community engagement, and cultural tourism fields. Also, it is a useful set of contributions for practitioners and policy-makers involved and interested in industrial heritage tourism.

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