PREFACE

The origins of this book lie in a project of the International Geographical Union Study Group on the Geography of Sustainable Tourism. The theme, ‘Tourism and migration’, reflects the growing interests of tourism geographers – in common with other geographers and social scientists – to reach across traditional cleavages in the way research is undertaken and knowledge is formed. In this instance, the aim was to connect the largely discrete research domains of tourism studies and migration. This was informed not only by awareness of the limitations of disciplinary barriers, but also by the growing need to respond to the emergence of new forms of mobility and circulation, which fitted uncomfortably into many of the analytical categories of tourism and migration studies. The extension of property rights across boundaries (e.g. second homes, vacation homes and time shares), space-time convergence, changing approaches to work and leisure, and structural changes in economies and the demographic profiles of societies are only some of the factors which have generated these new forms of mobility. These serve to bind places and individuals in new and challenging ways with implication for both movers and stayers.

The various chapters of this volume bring together a range of dimensions and locations within which to study the relationships between tourism and migration. Appropriately, given the scale of the project, we have an international set of contributors, including several who are themselves migrants in both an international and a domestic sense. Following an extended introductory chapter by the editors, the book can be broadly divided into three main sections along the lines of the framework established in Chapter One: Chapters Two to Five examine issues of labour migration; Chapters Six to Ten examine consumption-related migration; and Chapters Eleven to Fourteen look at issues arising from Visiting Friends and Relations Tourism (VFR). Chapter Fifteen by the editors seeks to reinforce some of the main themes and issues highlighted in the book as well as posit some future challenges in understanding the tourism-migration relationship.

Undoubtedly, given the scope of the book’s subject, not all dimensions of tourism and migration can be fully examined. Nevertheless, we believe the book represents an exciting step in identifying linkages between tourism and migration within the context of debates on contemporary circulation, identity and mobility.

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C. Michael Hall and Allan M. Williams
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