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Editorial Note

The GeoProgress Journal is becoming fully international. This second issue of volume 8 (2021), published during another pandemic year, includes three articles, two of which written by non-Italian researchers: the first, on populism, by Andrei Țăranu, a Romanian researcher; the second, on Digital Tourism, by Luisa Carbone and Tony Urbani, Italians; the third, on tourism management issues, by Peter Wiltshier, from the University of Derby, who brings the experience of the important New Zealand school of tourism.

Andrei Țăranu argues that, in the course of the destabilizing events that are currently changing society and the economy, populism does not lose ground, but, on the contrary, finds fertile ground and becomes more radical. He illustrates this idea by analyzing the electoral performance of various European populist and nationalist parties, while also studying their discourse, political agenda and ideology. This contribution is a good starting point for those who want to develop a comparative analysis of the different populisms and their geography.

Luisa Carbone and Tony Urbani, discussing scenarios and future trends of digital tourism, argue that two fundamental factors, which redesigned the tertiary sector - the industrial revolution 4.0 and the spread of the COVID pandemic - have transformed the traveler into an “adprosumer” of experiences: no longer the detached tourist or passive user of the attractions of a territory, but a producer and consumer of tourism, attentive to lifestyles and sustainability, able to establish an authentic and deep relationship with the "liquid" places. The change, forcing the supply to adapt to demand, gives rise to unexpected social and cultural digital practices.

Peter Wiltshier considers the destination development of the first and most visited National Park in the United Kingdom, the Peak District National Park, exploring and evaluating the participation by academic teams of Derby University, from both staff and student’s perspectives.

The actor-network theory used in this destination development study is coupled with a reflexive practitioner’s perspective and worldview. What is being explored in this approach is the capacity for the destination to use actor-network theory as a construct for identifying design aspects, which are indeed special and to some extent inimitable for future development. In this development, destination design elements are selected as central to the understanding of community. This contribution is important not only for tourist destination development but, more generally, for the systemic and participatory planning that Geoprogress strives to promote everywhere.

Francesco Adamo