Path Dependency, Resilience and the Development of Mature European Tourism Regions

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1. Regions and destinations: Path dependency and resilience
2. Reconceptualising tourism regions
3. Maturity and resilience? The case of North Jutland, Denmark
4. Conclusions and perspectives

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PATH DEPENDENCY AND CHANGE
Regions and destinations

From path dependency as (negative) lock-in...
- System of institutions maintaining direction (Martin/Sunley 2006, Howlett/Rayner 2006)
  - Firms, regulation, actor behaviour, discourse
- Sudden change, from outside system (Martin/Sunley 2014, Martin 2010, Mahoney 2000)
  - Changes in demand and competition

... towards less rigid paths
- Co-existence of institutions in regions (Martin/Sunley 2014, Hassink 2010)
- Plasticity of institutions (Strambach 2010, Strambach/Halkier 2013)
- Path creation as contextualised strategic action (Karnøe/Garud 2012)
- Resilience “as a dynamic, evolutionary capacity to adapt in response to stresses and strains” (Bristow and Healey 2014a: 94)
PATH DEPENDENCY AND CHANGE
Regions and destinations

Importance of accounting for:

- Development of individual institutions (drift/conversion) (Mahoney/Thelen 2010, Martin 2010, Hassink 2010)
- Complex interaction of institutions (layering/displacement) (Schneiberg 2007, Karnøe/Garud 2012)
- Role of agency/actors in continuity and change (Martin 2010, James & Halkier 2015/in print)
- Medium-term aggregate outcomes (Ma/Hassink 2013, based on Martin 2010)
RECONCEPTUALISING TOURISM REGIONS

Actor groups and institutions in destination development

Tourists
- preferences
- profile

Providers
- organisation
- resources

Regulators
- organisation
- politics
- policies

Regulation
- market behaviour
- planning, training
- innovation

Markets
- experience
- offer
- competition

Source: Halkier & Therkelsen 2013
Seaside maturity and resilience in North Jutland

TIES THAT BIND?

Families with kids, nature-based, seasonal, neighbouring markets

Civil ownership/co-use, life-style entrepreneurs, monopolitistic bureaus

National ownership, planning restrictions

Automobile, self-catering, week-based

Marketing, multi-level sectoral policy network, uneven local priority

Commercial overnight stays in holiday homes in North Jutland

Domestic
International
Seaside maturity and resilience in North Jutland
TOWARDS A NEW PATH?

No-kid high-spenders, +culture, short breaks

Cross-sectoral networks, new transport links?

1. CONVERSION: Flexible planning
2. DRIFT: Innovation and coordination

LAYERING: Flying in?

LAYERING: Re-branding

1: More dull, reinforcing
2: Uneven local change

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Seaside maturity and resilience in North Jutland

**COASTAL RESILIENCE?**

**Number of commercial overnight stays**

*Source: Statistics Denmark 2014 (indexed)*

**Economic impact of commercial overnight stays**

*Source: VisitDenmark 2008ff (indexed)*
CONCLUSION
Maturity, thinness and economic change

Case study conclusions
- Continued dominance of existing institutions
  - Civil ownership of accommodation
  - Visitor perceptions of ‘a summer place’
- ‘Thinness’ of innovative initiatives
- Resilience depends on indicators
  - Different roles in policy process in regions/destinations

Wider perspectives
- Usefulness of evolutionary perspective for study of tourism destinations
- Underlines role of cultural values/institutions in regional development
- Still need for conceptual debates about resilience and less rigid paths
More on tourism, paths and resilience...

Henrik Halkier & Anette Therkelsen (2013)
Breaking out of Tourism Destination Path Dependency? Exploring the Case of Coastal Tourism in North Jutland, Denmark
German Journal of Economic Geography, 57, 1-2

Laura James & Henrik Halkier (2015, in print)
Destination Dynamics, Path Dependency and Resilience: Regaining momentum in Danish Coastal Tourism Destinations?
Chapter 2 in P. Brouder et al. (eds.) Dynamic Destinations: Evolutionary Change in Tourism Areas, Farnham: Ashgate.