RESEARCH ARTICLE

Sociology and Tourism: A Systematic Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

This study examines how tourism sociology research has evolved, provides a summary of the pertinent field, and potential directions of interest for future research. To identify key turning points in the history of tourism sociology, such as phases of development, theories, techniques, premises, and outcomes, a systematic literature review was conducted. Using several keywords, the Web of Science and Scopus databases were searched on February 16, 2024, yielding 799 articles. With consideration of the PRISMA methodology, the research analysis process involved 19 scientific papers. The results show that mass and authenticity were the primary concerns of the initial sociological approaches to tourism. Furthermore, the field has progressed significantly because of phenomena such as tourist typologies and the tourist gaze. However, most researchers appear to be preoccupied with debates over the evolution of tourism theory, whether tourism is a discipline, and the need for scientific methodologies. Therefore, to advance the field and set itself apart from other academic specialties, tourism academics must resolve a few common problems.

Keywords: Tourism Sociology, Tourism Theory, Tourist Typologies, Authenticity, Mobilities

Introduction

A number of global events that have happened at the end of the 20th century and the present have led to rapid changes in communities. Among the factors contributing to these social and cultural shifts are economic development (Oktik, 2002), globalisation (Urry, 1990), technology (Karataş and Babür, 2013), tourism, and travel. They appear to contribute to global prosperity, but they have commodified many aspects of human existence. In addition, it has increased cultural conflict, shattered lifestyles, accelerated the pace of life, and caused time and space to collapse (Cohen and Cohen, 2012). The travel and tourism sectors account for a large share of the resources that point out these differences.

Tourism is an industry in which historical and cultural resources are commodified, and mass consumption occurs (Atasoy, 2016). It commercialises the natural and cultural heritage, beauties, and features of a region and presents them to the consumer. It includes many sub-sectors, such as food and beverage, accommodation, transportation, and entertainment. It is a combination of different industries and business lines. Therefore, it exerts serious effects on the regions and countries where it occurs, causing disintegration of social and cultural structures. Similar national and international impacts on tourism make it inevitable to approach it from a sociological perspective as a discipline.

Sociology is generally regarded as a science that examines and evaluates society and its realities at a certain time and place (Taplamacıoğlu, 1969). Tourism sociology is a field of social science that focuses on a wide range of areas, such as personality, identity, culture, motivation, norms, social relations, and lifestyle, and its effects on tourists and local people. Tourism sociology deals with the quantity, quality, and aspects of relationships that people establish during their tourist travels. The pressure exerted by tourism on the structural functioning and carrying capacities of destinations is evaluated. The study investigates the main reasons and dimensions of resistance, conflict, or emulation arising from cultural differences. Therefore, it examines all the positive and negative changes caused by the tourism phenomenon.

Tourism sociology is considered one of the newest and youngest sub-branches of general sociology (Stifanic, 2002). However, research examining tourism from a sociological perspective is not new (Urry, 1990). When its origins are examined, tourism sociology is thought to have a history dating back to the 1930s, and the first theoretical approaches emerged in France and Germany (Lanfant, 2009). The first tours that emerged during the Industrial Revolution, mass tourism that grew with information and communication technologies, and visual consumption that developed with social media are phenomena that contribute to the cumulative progress of the field.

Goffman's self-presentation (1959), McCannel's authenticity (1973), Cohen's tourist typologies (1979), and Urry's tourist gaze (1990) are reflections of these phenomena in the tourism literature. According to Jevtović (2019), following these approaches by scientists, the prominence of sociological science has been felt more in the studies on the structure, functioning, and actors of tourism. In addition, with the realisation that sociology enriches tourism literature more than other branches of science, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of studies in the field (Dann and Parrinello, 2009).

Using a subject-specific classification system, Cohen and Cohen (2019) classified tourism sociology research into three categories. The first set of studies typically uses theories from other fields, like actor-network, gender, and consumer behaviour, to explain tourism. The emotions, senses, and physical attributes of tourism are the main subjects of the second group of studies. The final set of studies examines the tourism structure from ethical and philosophical perspectives. Although this initiative offers a perspective on the sociological transformation of tourism, it lacks a systematic review. Moreover, critical articles do not contain descriptive information about authors who are active in the field and their works. In this context, a holistic evaluation of the development and transformation of tourism sociology would be useful. Here, a systematic literature review that syntheses and evaluates scientific studies considering certain variables comes to the fore.

A systematic literature review on topics related to tourism was found when the tourism literature was examined in the following fields: food (Rachao et al., 2019), health (Letunovska, Kwilinski Kaminska, 2020), rural (Rosalina, Dupre & Wang, 2021), sustainable (Streimikiene et al., 2021), and halal (Rasul, 2019). However, no research has been found in both domestic and foreign literature that performs a systematic literature review (SLR) on tourism sociology. In this respect, this research eliminates this critical gap by conducting an SLR on tourism sociology literature. In addition, revealing perspectives and difficulties regarding the relationship between sociology and tourism can be a guide for researchers in the future. The main purpose of this scientific study is to evaluate the current perspectives, contexts, practises, and activities of tourism sociology studies using SLR.

Conceptual Framework

Tourism Sociology: An Overview of Historical Dynamics

Tourism sociology is a sub-branch of sociology that studies society and people in general. Because of its relatively recent growth, tourism sociology has been regarded as a new field compared to other sociological specialties. The period during which theoretical discussions in this field first intensified was during the 1960s. From that date until today, tourism sociology has made a cumulative progress and has played an important role in tourism research. Tuncay and Bayrakçı (2021) stated that tourism's transformation from localism and individualism to a comprehensive industry is crucial to this progress. Similar to this, Kaya (2021) believes that the events of the first half of the 20th century classified tourism and that this pluralism actively contributed to the sociological examination of tourism because social facts are the primary focus of the sociological discipline. Conversely, tourism is a social phenomenon characterised by predictable and stereotypical behavioural patterns (Yazgan, 2022).

Cohen (1984: 373) accepts L. von Wiese's (1930) German article as the first work to discuss tourism from a sociological perspective. He also considers himself a pioneer in the field in a sociological book discussed by H. J. Knebel (1960). Dann and Parrinello (2009: 25-26) do not consider these authors to have pioneered the field, arguing that many institutions and individuals have introduced a sociological approach to tourism since the 1920s. In this context, it would be appropriate to explain some scientists and their approaches (Knebel, 1960; Boorstin, 1964; Forster, 1964; Cohen, 1972; MacCannell, 1973; Graburn, 1977; Urry, 1990), which are thought to have contributed to the development of tourism sociology.

Focusing on traditional sociological themes, Knebel (1960) examined the relationships between local people and tourists arising from conspicuous consumption and comfort-seeking. One could argue that M. Weber had an influence on the author's evaluation and classification of tourists. Drawing on American social psychology culture, this comprehensive explanation of the role of tourists in modern life. It offers a perspective to understand the complexity of tourism and touristic travel. Knebel's research on the sociology of tourism has attracted much attention in countries such as Europe, Scandinavia, and Brazil (Dann and Parrinello, 2009).

Boorstin (1964) complained about mass tourism and treated modern tourists as passive spectators. He pointed out that tourists are disconnected from locals. Tourism is defined as a fake pleasure in which people participate without caring about reality. Forster (1964) developed a view of the impact of tourism on communities. Tourism is a social phenomenon in which fake cultures and traditions are presented to provide certain benefits (Cohen, 1984).

E. Cohen researched tourism as a sociological field of study for the first time (1972: 167-168). Cohen first divided tourists into four different typologies (organised mass, individual mass, explorer and drifter) based on individual motivations for novelty and familiarity. He then put forward the argument that people with different characteristics naturally seek different experiences. In this context, Cohen (1979: 22) evaluated people's touristic experiences in five different categories; recreational, diversionary,

experiential, experimental, and existential. Cohen's discussion of both tourists and their experiences from a sociological perspective revealed a pioneering approach for subsequent research (Atasoy, 2022).

MacCannel (1973: 562-600) considered tourism as an escape from the predicament that people find themselves in. As the search for the original drives people to travel, MacCannel likens touristic travel to sacred journeys. The author argues that Europeans sought the traditions, customs, culture, and nature that they thought they had lost in societies that they believed were intact. Tourism is a real phenomenon where people escape from routine life. In this regard, Boorstin criticised unrealistic artificial presentations. In addition, according to MacCannell, tourism centres, which Boorstin defines as fake areas where artificial presentations are made, are social symbols that attract tourists' attention.

Graburn, who was influenced by MacCanell's approach and stated that he supported his views, revealed one of the most important milestones in tourism sociology. Graburn defines (1977: 22) tourism as a regular ritual that people engage in to add meaning to their lives and a rite of passage performed at certain periods. He also describes tourism as a spiritual and sacred journey. Tourists' movement away from their home environment means going beyond the sacred, and their return to their place of residence means rebirth (Leite and Graburn, 2009: 37). A cornerstone of tourism sociology is J. Urry's (1990: 26-27) work called "Tourist Gaze." Urry has developed a tourism practise that explains tourist expectations and experiences. The author argues that the visuals provided by tourism organisations and media intermediaries construct individual perceptions of their tourist experiences. He stated that people choose tourism regions through representations that differ from traditional symbols. Non-tourist objects like television, film, magazines, and video content generate these representations. The expectations that arise from performance during people's touristic experiences contribute to a deep examination of tourism products. Since its emergence, Urry's tourist perspective approach has attracted intense attention in tourism sociology research. This work is the most frequently used source of tourism sociology research (Yazgan, 2020).

Methodology

In this research, SLR was conducted to reveal the historical development and current status of tourism sociology research. SLR is a scientific technique that examines and evaluates the literature on a specific field or topic using certain criteria (Staples & Niazi, 2007). SLR enables the information obtained from scientific research to be presented in a transparent and repeatable manner (Tranfield et al., 2003). SLR research consists of different stages, such as objectives and methods defined in light of a protocol, a comprehensive literature query on the subject under study, an evaluation of research quality, and analysis of findings (Pollock & Berge, 2018). In this context, clearly defining procedures and decisions during the research process minimises researcher bias (Tranfield et al., 2003). The most significant difference between other literature reviews is that they have transparently stated and followed procedures for questioning scientific studies and analysing their findings (Liberati et al., 2009). This sensitivity to the planning and methodology of research increases the value of SLR. However, this situation requires researchers to devote more effort to SLR studies than other studies (Staples & Niazi, 2007).

Literature Review Protocol

Considering the research objectives, an SLR was carried out in light of the PRISMA protocol. PRISMA is a protocol that helps researchers develop systematic reviews and meta-analyses (Moher et al., 2010). In this regard, a protocol including a database, search terms, selection criteria, and elimination criteria was designed. The Scopus and Web of Science databases were consulted for research on the historical and institutional infrastructure of tourism sociology. These two bibliographic databases are described as the most comprehensive data sources that offer various opportunities to researchers (Zhu & Liu, 2020). The terms used during the query in both databases were "tourism sociology" and "sociology of tourism" and "tourism theory" and "theory of tourism." The terms filtered in the databases were searched "in research titles, keywords, abstracts, and text".

Literature Screening

Preferred reporting elements for systematic reviews and meta-analyses were used for the literature review that formed the basis of the study (PRISMA, 2019a). The PRISMA 2020 statement provides updated guidance that indicates advances in the methods of identifying, selecting, evaluating, and synthesising studies (Page et al., 2021). The PRISMA 2020 checklist specifies strategies that can help researchers produce reliable data and conduct examinations that can be repeated by other scientists (PRISMA, 2019b). There are studies in the tourism literature that use the PRISMA methodology in different fields (Myers & Scarinci, 2022; Gricar, 2023; Solanki & Thomas, 2023). As a result of its comprehensiveness, use in different disciplines, and consistency between studies, the PRISMA protocol has been more widely adopted in scientific research than other protocols (Page et al., 2021).

As of February 16, 2024, Scanning two databases yielded 799 scientific studies. In the first stage, 205 overlapping and inaccessible articles were excluded from the analysis. The remaining 594 articles were examined according to scientific disciplines and categories, and studies outside the research field were excluded. In the second stage, 133 studies outside the social sciences that did not provide relevant information were eliminated. In the third stage, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, and editorial materials published in journals such as engineering, medicine, chemistry, and other sciences, as well as academic studies that did not contain information on the subject in the title, abstract, and article, were excluded. During the final reporting process, attention was given to focusing on more deeply on tourism sociology and theories. The remaining 19 research articles were recorded as full texts and sorted chronologically. In addition, the studies were evaluated in detail in terms of their purpose, method, and results. The documents were then transferred to Microsoft Excel, and a database was created. Based on bibliometric analysis, the studies were evaluated considering various parameters, such as publication year, number of publications, methodology, and number of scientific journals.
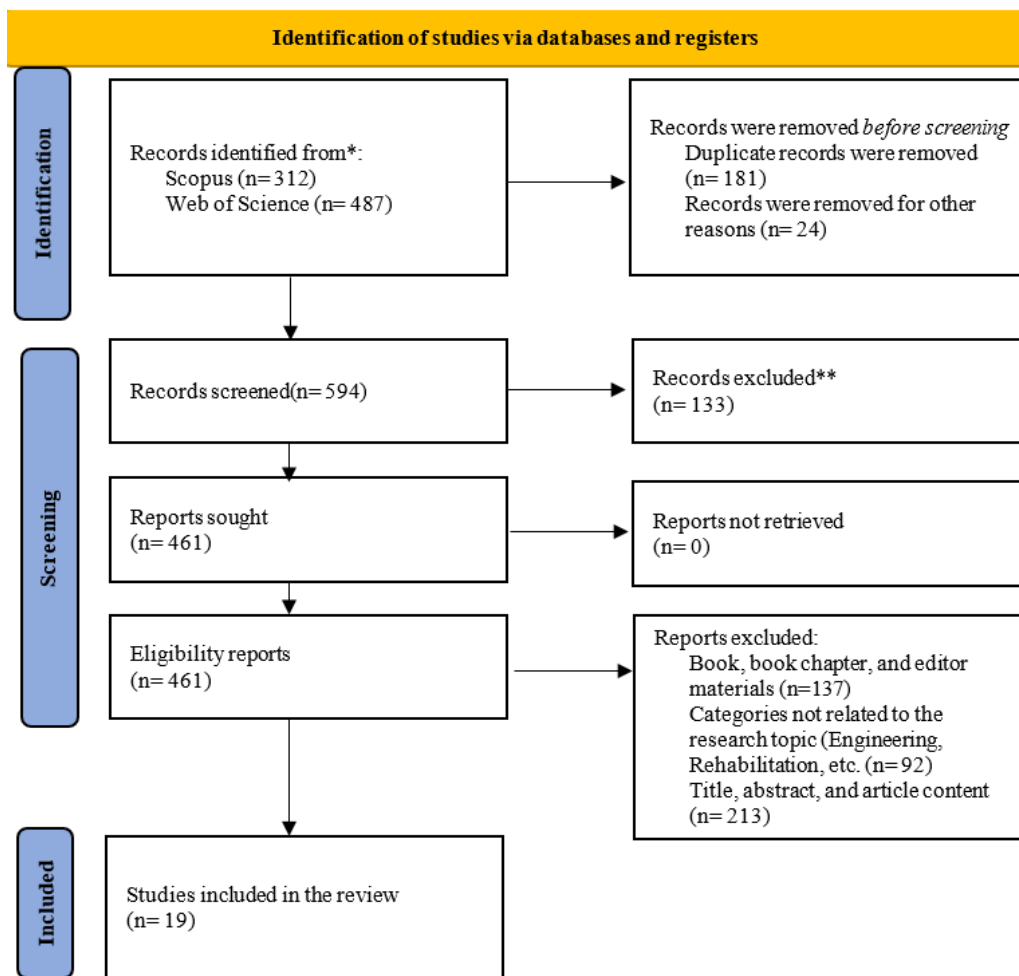

Figure 1. A PRISMA flowchart of the literature screening process (2019A).

Findings

In this section, the bibliometric properties of tourism sociology research identified through SLR are examined. In this context, first, the authors, years, titles, journals, citation numbers, methods, data collection techniques, general purposes, and results of the scientific publications were evaluated. Then, the studies in question were classified by content analysis in terms of the problems they addressed and the topics mentioned, and the inferences obtained were interpreted in an argumentative style below.

Descriptive Information

Because of the SLR, the scientific studies included in the analysis of the research and their bibliometric properties are shared in Table 1. All of these publications were published internationally and in top-ranking journals in the field. 12 of the articles were journals indexed in Scopus, and 7 of them are indexed in the Web of Science database.

Journals that publish research can be summarised as follows: Annals of Tourism Research (4); Tourist Studies (2); Anatolia (2); Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change (1); Current Issues in Tourism (1); Annual Review of Sociology (1); Tourismos (1); JSTOR (1); Tourism Analysis (1); Journal of Teaching in Travel & Tourism (1); Journal of the American Academy of Religion (1); Turismo y Sociedad (1); British Journal of Sociology (1); and Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology (1). The Annals of Tourism Research journal published the following studies: Rethinking the Sociology of Tourism; Traditions in the Qualitative Sociology of Tourism; Sociology and Tourism; and Current Sociological Theories and Issues in Tourism. In addition, among these studies, Rethinking the Sociology of Tourism (1979) was the most cited work, with 452 citations according to the Scopus database.

The publication years of the studies included in the research are as follows: 1972 (1); 1979 (1); 1984 (1); 1988 (1); 1991 (1); 1992 (1); 1996 (1); 2005 (1); 2007 (1); 2008 (1); 2010 (1); 2012 (1); 2013 (1); 2016 (2); 2017 (2); 2018 (1); and 2019 (1). The publication "Toward a Sociology of International Tourism," produced by E. Cohen in 1972 was found to have the oldest scientific work evaluated. During the examinations, E. Cohen is one of the authors who contributed the most to tourism sociology research. In his research, the author generally evaluates perspectives on tourism theory and the development stages of tourism sociology as a discipline in a critical manner.

When we look at the rates of authors in the studies, it is seen that the studies are 69% with one author, 26% with two authors, and 5% with four authors. Single-authored studies were conducted by B. Leyerle, B. Sawicki, B. West, E. Cohen, G. M. S. Dann, L. Butowski, M. E. Korstanje, M. Roche, R. Huete, and W. Alejziak. On the other hand, studies with two authors were conducted by G. Dann & E. Cohen; G. M. S. Dann & G. L. Parrinello; S. S. Cohen E. Cohen; W. J. Cynarski, K. Obodynski; E. Cohen, S.A. Cohen. Finally, four authors conducted the study: A. Canosa, B. D. Moyle, C. Moyle, and B. Weiler.

Most studies evaluated within the scope of the research (90%) were qualitative. The studies evaluated in the qualitative category as a method are as follows: Anthropology and sociology in tourism doctoral research; Landscape as cartography in early Christian pilgrimage narrative; Reflections on business tourism in the context of the monograph study—Science tourism from a visual sociology perspective; Dialogical memorialization, international travel, and the public sphere: A cultural sociology of commemoration and tourism at the First World War Gallipoli battlefields; Toward a sociology of international tourism; The sociology of tourism: approaches, issues, and findings; Traditions in the qualitative sociology of tourism; Current sociological theories and issues in tourism; Sociology and tourism; The theoretical state of the art in the sociology and anthropology of tourism; Marie-Françoise Lanfant and her contribution to the sociology of tourism: a French Portrait; The sociology of tourism in Jost Kripendorf; Mega-events and micro-modernization: on the sociology of the new urban tourism; Tourism studies in Spain: The role of sociology in degree programmes; New directions in the sociology of tourism; Krzysztof Przeclawski: sociology, philosophy and the ethics of tourism; Sociology of tourism in Poland). Within the scope of quantitative research, studies titled (Tourism as a discipline in light of the non-classical sociology of science) and (Rethinking The Sociology of Tourism) as a mixed method were obtained. In these listed studies, it was observed that scientists benefited from different scientific methods and data techniques, such as ethnography, critical review, literature review, compilation, narrative, and survey.

Table 1. *Characteristics of scientific research*

Author	Year	Title of the Research	Journal Name	Volume	Issue	Citation	Method Furthermore, Technique	General Scope	General Results
A. Canosa., B. D. Moyle., C. Moyle and B. Weiler	2017	Anthropology and sociology in tourism doctoral research	Tourist Studies	18	4	7*	Qualitative-Literature Review	Within the scope of this study, anthropology and sociology theories, concepts, and methods adopted and used in tourism doctoral theses are discussed.	Identity theory is the most frequently adopted phenomenon in anthropology and sociology-based tourism doctoral theses. Accordingly, tourism is conceptualised towards the transformation of identities and cultures rather than affecting host and guest communities.
B. Leyerle	1996	Landscape as cartography in early Christian pilgrimage narratives	Journal of the American Academy of Religions,	64	1	48**	Qualitative-Narrative	The pilgrimage journeys of Christians are evaluated in the context of tourism sociology, and information is given about the first travellers in history. It examines why and for what purposes these travels were shaped.	Many factors played a role in ancient pilgrimage. For example, water, mineral oil, natural products, and nature itself are elements that lead pilgrims to travel as sources of healing.
B. Sawicki	2016	Reflections on business tourism in the context of the monograph study "Science tourism from a visual sociology perspective"	Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology	16	4	9**	Qualitative-Monograph	In this research. A monograph on Dr. Cynarski is currently in progress. Business tourism has been classified within itself, using a work of the author.	Because of the monograph, business tourism is divided into seven categories. These are called congress, conference, fair-show, corporate, stakeholder, incentive, and exploration activities.
B. West	2010	Dialogical memorialization, international travel and the public sphere: A cultural sociology of commemoration and tourism at the First World War Gallipoli battlefields	Tourist Studies	20	3	29*	Qualitative-Ethnography	The sociological relationship of the historical events that occurred on the Gallipoli peninsula during the First World War with the tourism and travel industries is examined.	In the tourism literature, it is emphasised that sociological research is insufficient to explain the social outcomes of tourists visiting sacred places. It is believed that ethnography studies conducted using historical and epistemological approaches will contribute more to understanding the effects of cultural and religious regions on tourists. The cultural sociology paradigm is developed by rejecting the idea that tourism breaks the bond between modern belief systems and cultures.
E. Cohen	1972	Toward a sociology of	Jstor	39	1	7**	Qualitative-Conceptual	It focuses on a typology model based on tourist characteristics and	In this research, four different tourist types (organised mass, individual mass, explorer, drifter) are suggested,

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Table 1. Continued

		international tourism					relationships from a sociological perspective.	depending on the sense of familiarity and novelty that touristic travel evokes in the individual.
E. Cohen	1979	Rethinking the sociology of tourism	Annals of Tourism Research,	6	1	452*	Mixed-Field research and Literature Review	A critical review of the theories and concepts of current tourism sociology research is presented.	It is argued that tourism research cannot produce a social theory and that many aspects of tourism can be explained using general sociological theories. Due to the complexity of tourism, the border between tourism and other disciplines is not clear. Research drawn from other disciplines within a broad theoretical framework.
E. Cohen	1984	The sociology of tourism: approaches, issues, and findings	Annual review of sociology	10	1	325*	Qualitative-Literature Review	The sociological and anthropological literature on tourism research is discussed conceptually and theoretically.	Although scientific studies have developed infrastructure to examine tourism and tourist events, they have not been able to provide systematic integrity. While researchers are interested in field studies, it is emphasised that the desired success in creating theoretical infrastructure has not been achieved.
E. Cohen	1988	Traditions in the qualitative sociology of tourism	Annals of Tourism Research,	15	1	179*	Qualitative-Critical Review	This section discusses how Boorstin, MacCannell, and Turner developed the tourism sociology study and how the difficulties that emerged were overcome.	Tourism sociology research is centred around theoretically complex and sophisticated approaches. Therefore, comparative empirical research is recommended to ensure theoretical developments.
E. Cohen and S. A. Cohen	2012	Current sociological theories and issues in tourism	Annals of Tourism Research,	39	4	345*	Qualitative-Critical Review	The sociological developments and social trends affecting tourism itself and its research are examined. In addition, this paper discusses how tourism sociology research has experienced a transition from first theoretical approaches such as authenticity and tourist gaze to the modern sociology perspective.	Drawing attention to the rapid progress of East Asian tourism, the authors believe that the theories used in current tourism research limit the understanding of tourism and tourists. Tourism sociology theories have been shaped in the context of Western culture. For this reason, the study emphasises the re-evaluation of the comprehensiveness of sociological tourism theories.
G. Dann and Cohen, E.	1991	Sociology and tourism	Annals of Tourism Research,	18	1	107*	Qualitative-Literature Review	The applicability of sociological principles and theories in tourism	It is emphasised that tourism does not have a theory that explains all conditions. It is believed that conducting research considering different

Table 1. Continued

								research to tourism is discussed.	interrelated theories rather than adopting purely theoretical frameworks can lead to more radical success.
G. M. S. Dann,	2005	The theoretical state of the art in sociological and anthropological of tourism	Tourism Analysis	10	1	17**	Qualitative-Critical Review	The approaches of sociologists and anthropologists when discussing tourism theory are examined.	Tourism sociology research is limited by taxonomy and typologization approaches.
G. M. S. Dann and G. L. Parrinello,	2016	Marie-Françoise Lanfant and her contribution to the sociology of tourism: a French Portrait	Anatolia	27	1	3*	Qualitative-Monograph	In this study, Marie-Françoise Lanfant's contributions to the development of tourism sociology and literature are examined in depth.	It is noted that Marie-Françoise supported the theoretical progress of the field by adapting the paradigms of sociologist E. Durkheim and anthropologist M. Mauss to tourism. It is stated that Marie-Françoise's philosophical foundation played a key role in the acceptance of tourism as a social phenomenon.
L. Butowski	2018	Tourism as a discipline in light of the non-classical sociology of science	Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change	16	4	4*	Quantitative-Survey	This research examines whether tourism is a separate discipline or not. In addition, unlike other disciplines, the theoretical infrastructure that will reveal tourism is being questioned.	The author rejects Kuhn's scientific paradigm and Hirst's approaches to the recognition criteria of disciplines and argues that these approaches were developed based on natural science. It is thought that disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, and ethnology are recognised without finding sufficient justification against these methodological criteria. In this context, for it to be accepted as a new discipline, it is recommended that studies focusing on the original and founding aspects of tourism be conducted to ensure systematic integrity.
M. E. Korstanje,	2013	The sociology of tourism in Jost Krıpendorf	Turismo y Sociedad	14	-	2**	Qualitative-Monograph	In this research, Jost Krippendorf's sociological contributions, approaches and contradictions towards tourism are subjected to critical examination.	It is criticised that Krippendorf sees tourism as a movement arising only from the need to escape. Although it makes a significant contribution to explaining tourist behaviour, it is thought to develop a limited motivation approach. He is considered one of the first scientists to examine tourism interdisciplinaryly and epistemologically.
M. Roche	1992	Mega-events and micro-modernization: on the sociology of the new urban tourism	British Journal of Sociology	43	4	81**	Qualitative-Conceptual Review	This article examines mega events in the context of urban tourism from the perspective of tourism sociology. The	Urban tourism is described as a complex system that produces very different effects. It is recommended that tourism policies be implemented by determining the social and economic effects of

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Table 1. Continued

								economic and sociological effects of these activities are discussed.	organised mega events on society at the macro and micro scales.
R. Huete	2007	Tourism studies in Spain: The role of sociology in degree programmes	Journal of Teaching in Travel and Tourism	7	2	8**	Qualitative-Conceptual	The content of tourism programmes taught in Spanish universities is compared. The contribution of sociology to tourism studies and tourism programmes is questioned.	It is stated that tourism education in Spain is generally given in colleges, and research is mostly focused on business and management themes.
S. A. Cohen and Cohen, E.	2019	New directions in the sociology of tourism	Current Issues in Tourism	22	2	99*	Qualitative-Literature Review and Narrative Discussion	Important discourses and differing aspects from the 1960s, when tourism sociology research turned into a theoretical discussion area, are evaluated.	Although tourism sociology research has clarified some theories and issues, its contribution to the discipline of sociology is not considered sufficient. Considering the scientific importance of this field and its contribution to other disciplines, researchers should further explain the sociological aspects of tourism on population ageing, the impact of information and communication, sustainability, and participation in tourism.
W. Alejziak	2017	Krzysztof Przeclawski: sociology, philosophy, and the ethics of tourism	Anatolia	28	4	0*	Qualitative-Monograph	Krzysztof Przecławski's approaches and contributions to the tourism sociology literature and the researchers who followed her are examined.	A broad perspective is presented on Krysztof Przeclawski's life as an academician who travelled for many years and played an important role in Polish education and tourism. Information is given about the author's works, which are considered important in tourism sociology and literature.
W. J. Cynarski and Obodynski, K.	2008	Sociology of tourism in Poland	Tourismos	3	1	1*	Qualitative-Literature Review	Humanist theories and methodologies evaluated by Polish scholars in tourism and travel research are discussed. After evaluating studies and approaches in the literature, the book called "Socjologia turystyki" is criticised.	It is stated that Polish scientists have not been able to develop a systematic paradigm for tourism research. In addition, it is believed that the book, which has been subjected to critical review, does not provide sufficient terminological information on the interpretation of tourism sociology.

*Scopus
**Web of Science

Contextual Findings and Discussion

In this study, word clouds of scientific articles accessed through SLR were revealed. Using MAXQDA software, we included 270 or more words that were most frequently mentioned in the studies in the word cloud (Figure 2). Based on the most frequently repeated words, the research deals with issues such as the theoretical development, historical progress, sociological impact, and anthropological characteristics of tourism literature.

Figure 2. Word cloud

Within the scope of the research, content analysis was conducted to examine the topics mentioned in the studies. Accordingly, tourism sociology research is generally centred around the themes of a) mass tourism, b) authenticity, c) typology of tourists, d) tourist gaze, and e) mobilities (Figure 3).

Mass Tourism

Sociological perspectives on tourism were first carried out to address issues arising from the mass nature of tourism on the European continent (Cohen, 1984). In this context, it was determined that the first comprehensive approach to mass tourism was brought about by Boorstin (1961). Boorstin, who criticised the rapid and uncontrolled growth of tourism in the 20th century, played an important role in the development of tourism studies. The author perceives tourism as a fake event and argues that tourists pursue unnatural, commodified, and unnatural values. With a similar attitude, Cohen (1979) believes that touristic products are manipulated to increase tourism attractiveness and that tourists are not aware of this. In another study, Cohen and Cohen (2012) associate the quantity of touristic travel with environmental problems. Therefore, mass tourism has played a key role in tourism research, providing a sociological perspective. In the reviewed studies, scientists' sociological perspectives on the social, cultural, and environmental effects of mass tourism have directly contributed to the development of tourism literature. For example, Cohen (1972) designed typologies of mass tourists based on individual social characteristics, such as strangeness and novelty.
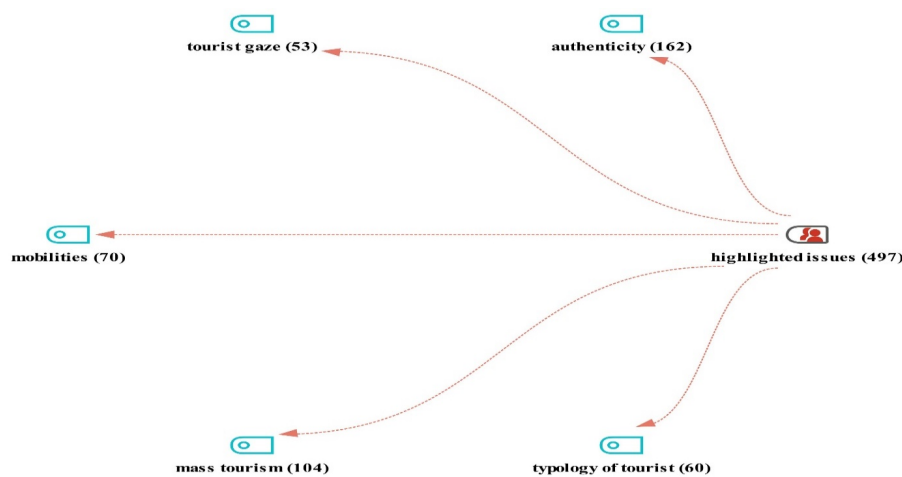

Figure 3. Topics highlighted in the research

Authenticity

Sociologist MacCannell, who created a different field of discussion through his contribution to tourism sociology research, has developed an important perspective on tourism criticism. MacCannell (1973: 597) defines tourism, which Boorstin describes as a fake phenomena, as a search for originality in which individuals sets out to get rid of the everyday. For Boorstin, a tourist is unreality; on the contrary, for MacCannell, he is someone who seeks authenticity. Modern humans turn into tourists to escape the difficulties they face. He argued that alienated tourists are motivated by a search for authenticity in order to explore other times and places. Cohen (1988) supported this approach and argued that authenticity is a modern value, but modern societies are not authentic. It has been determined that MacCannell's sociological perspective on authenticity made a significant contribution to the theoretical progress of tourism research (Dann & Cohen, 1991), but the rise of tourism outside the West caused tourism researchers to move away from the problem of authenticity (Cohen & Cohen, 2012).

Tourists' typology

One milestone in sociological perspectives on tourism was the definition of tourist typologies by E. Cohen. Cohen criticised Boorstin (1961) and MacCanell (1976) and stated that the authors' approaches were not comprehensive. According to Cohen (1979: 21), individuals with different characteristics do not have similar touristic experiences and motivations. That is why he rejected the definition of a single tourist. Based on the sociology of tourism, the author proposes five typologies of tourist experiences: recreational, diversionary, experiential, experimental, and existential. First, a recreational experience is an entertainment-oriented approach that mediates the physical and mental renewal of tourists. The second dimension of experience is diversionary, which refers to the physical healing of the body and the mental escape of the soul. Experiential experience represents people's search for originality in other regions based on the environment from which they are alienated. Experimental experiences describe tourists searching for alternative lifestyles and religions. Finally, existential experience refers to tourists who travel to cultures and societies with which they feel spiritual closeness and integrate themselves with the destination. Dann and Parrinello (2016) pointed out the influence of Schutz and Simmel on Cohen's typological approach and stated that it has received a great response in the literature.

Tourist Gaze

Although Boorstin, MacCannell, and even Cohen's attempts to understand modern mass tourists made significant contributions to the tourism literature, different paradigms were needed to explain postmodern tourists. The book "The Tourist Gaze," published by J. Urry in 1990 can be thought to have met this need by focusing on the diversification of people from different societies and classes into touristic experiences. Urry associates people's search for tourism experiences with a break from their daily lives. He argued that people are influenced by touristic objects and tend to travel because their interactions with these objects differ from their routines. In this approach, which he calls the tourist gaze, Urry argues that people make tourism decisions by looking at various virtual and physical objects (Urry, 2003: 13). According to Cohen and Cohen (2019), Urry's sociological approach has led to a better understanding of the importance of human senses, which are neglected in tourism studies.

Mobilities

The mobility paradigm, first expressed in the context of tourism by Hannam, Sheller, and Urry (2006), develops a perspective on how communication and transportation transform the global world. Essentially, this approach advocates developing a new and holistic paradigm for understanding the world in motion. It accepts that people, objects, and information are in motion throughout the world (Sheller & Urry, 2006). Urry (2002: 65), one of the scientists who most strongly defend this claim, tried to explain new forms of travel by adding tourism to the increasing human mobility in the global world (goods, services, technology, travel, etc.). Within the scope of tourism mobility, developing a systematic paradigm for tourism research by examining different travel styles and tourist experiences is desired.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In this study, academic articles are used to identify the developmental stages and important issues in tourism sociology research. An SLR was conducted to identify tourism theories, paradigms, authors, and approaches, and areas for future research. This study aims to eliminate the gap in the tourism literature by revealing issues that are mentioned or ignored in tourism sociology research. In addition, the article contributes to a better understanding of the antecedents and consequences of sociological perspectives on tourism by applying the conceptual framework. In this regard, the research will provide a supportive guide for future researchers and academics interested in tourism sociology while identifying conceptual and theoretical gaps.

19 scientific articles published between 1972 and 2019 were accessed using the PRISMA diagram from the Scopus and Web of Science databases. 12 of the scientific works are scanned in Scopus, and 7 are in the Web of Science database. Among these studies, "Rethinking The Sociology of Tourism" is the most cited work. The Annals of Tourism Research is the scientific journal with the most publications (four articles. When the methods and data collection techniques used in the research are examined, qualitative methods are found to be used more than quantitative methods. This is because the research adopts document review and compilation techniques to reveal theoretical and methodological progress.

Research results show that tourism sociology research varies, and there is no systematic and consistent methodological approach. This is associated with the limited conceptualisation and theoretical progress of tourism literature. For tourism to be accepted as a discipline, these studies must adopt consistent paradigms and holistic approaches. Therefore, Cohen and Cohen's (2012) criticism that tourism-related theories are culturally produced in the Western context and that their comprehensiveness will be limited when East Asian tourism is considered seems justified. In this regard, it seems necessary for tourism academics to adopt a common system and approach. It's easy to concentrate on Urry's (2002) mobility paradigm, which contends that rather than providing a singular and exceptional experience, tourism is entwined with other forms of mobility. If tourism research clarifies various issues with a common and consistent paradigm, it can stand out from the shadow of disciplines such as sociology and anthropology. Cohen & Cohen's (2019) called for clarification of the sociological aspects of issues such as global population, climate change, and sustainability that may contribute to filling this gap. Furthermore, given the projected global population surpassing 10 billion by the 2080s (UN, 2024), the field of tourism sociology is poised to take on an expanded set of challenges. Issues such as poverty, inadequate agricultural practises, nutrition, water scarcity, hunting, migration, and urbanisation have emerged as compelling research topics in tourism sociology. This perspective broadens our understanding of the complexity and diversity of tourism. This will likely contribute to a better understanding of tourism's social and cultural implications.

Within the scope of SLR, historical developments, milestones, and theoretical approaches to sociological studies on tourism were also evaluated. In this context, the five themes revealed are considered important. Accordingly, the first sociological studies have focused on the massive impact of tourism and its effects. Boorstin's and MacCannell's approaches sparked the first discussions on the sociology of tourism. Moreover, Cohen's tourist typology and Urry's tourist gaze have been identified as important landmarks in tourism sociology research. In this regard, Cohen and Cohen's (2012) approach that tourism research has shifted from authenticity and tourist gaze to issues such as mobility, performance and actor-network theory is a reasonable observation but is not fully supported. Similarly, Zhu et al. (2024) argued that as the intellectual depth of tourism sociology grows and topics become more diverse, discussions about theories like authenticity and the tourist gaze become less important. However, the infrastructure of these innovative theoretical approaches is not independent of factors such as originality, tourist typologies, and the tourist gaze. Considering that science is cumulative, it may not be appropriate to separate contemporary sociological approaches from past discussions of tourism literature. In fact, Butowski (2018) seems right to argue that no one can make their own views generally valid regarding the social sciences.

Limitations and Future Studies

As with many studies, this study has some limitations. The first thing to mention is that the research was conducted by considering two databases and many criteria. The inclusion of different databases can enrich research inferences. However, it may extend the review time and increase the overlapping content. Another limitation is the source of the documents examined. This research only addressed scientific articles on the sociology of tourism. Future research may examine other written documents such as books, chapter chapters, proceedings, and theses. Information is available on the development of tourism sociology, particularly in books and book chapters. Finally, the research includes works in English. Studies on works in German and French, given their contributions to the field, will be particularly beneficial.

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