

TOURISM SEMINAR

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“Tourism sustainability and neo-liberalism: likely bedfellows? A Dutch case study with warnings for other ‘neo-liberalism lovers’ ”

What are the roles and responsibilities of public authorities in the governance of tourism for sustainable development? This question was addressed by numerous organizations such as UNEP and WTO, resulting in rich guidelines and handbooks that sketch some ‘ideal governance structures for sustainable tourism’. But how likely is it to see them adopted across countries? Over the past three decades, neo-liberal political ideologies have been embraced by numerous countries, mostly in response to globalization pressures. As a result, governments have implemented various forms of neo-liberal ‘governance innovations’. These have affected the conceptualization of public authorities’ roles in the tourism sector as well. Dr. Dinica explores how the Dutch interpretations of neo-liberalism make the implementation of some key international recommendations for sustainable tourism governance unlikely in the Netherlands. However, there is hope. The interpretations of neo-liberalism vary across countries. Besides, one may also hope in the human ability to learn through communication, not only evidence.

Dr. Valentina Dinica is Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at the School of Government since October 2009, teaching Policy Analysis. Prior to taking up this position she worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Twente (The Netherlands), where she also held a four year postdoctoral fellowship on the implementation of sustainable tourism policies. She published extensively and worked in externally funded projects on a number of ‘sustainability areas’ such as: governance structures for sustainable tourism development, sustainable energy production and consumption, water management, nature conservation, and climate change mitigation. Dr. Dinica is in the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Policy Studies*, and *Policy Quarterly*.