

**Special Session (SS06) on**

*Creative tourism in small cities and rural areas*

**Organizers:**

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**Aim and scope of the session:**

Tourism is a fast-growing activity worldwide encompassing diverse types of activities, territories, communities and tourists. The creative dynamics of tourism destinations is crucial to feed the tourism offer that increasingly needs to be different and to valorize the local communities' culture (Cruz, Costa & Marques, 2016). Creative tourism has been defined as the visitors' opportunity to develop their creative potential through active participation in courses and learning experiences, which are characteristic of the destination they are visiting (Richards & Raymond, 2000). Many small cities and rural areas hold a very rich collective memory on cultural traditions and local crafting. Thus, territorial scale may be an important factor to consider in the connection of the tourist with the destination and, at the same time, an important enabler of development in small cities and rural areas (Duxbury, 2016). This special session aims to look over to the new grounds of creative tourism theory and practice, and simultaneously to contribute to the reflection on the economic and community benefits of developing and implementing creative tourism projects in small cities and rural areas.

The organizers of this Special Session invite all authors to submit their papers to a thematic dossier on the subject "Creative Tourism in Small Cities and Rural Areas" of [CIDADES, Comunidades e Territórios](#) journal.

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