

論 文 審 査 の 要 旨

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論 文 題 目			
Shinto Shrine Visit: Expectations and Perceptions of Locals and Tourists in Japan			
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〔論文審査の要旨〕			
<p>This thesis discusses the role of Shinto shrines in tourism in Japan. It primarily aims to explore residents and tourists' expectations and perceptions towards sacred sites and is based on a comparative case study of two shrines that are World Heritage Sites: Itsukushima Jinja in Hiroshima Prefecture and Munakata Taisha in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan. This study uses an interdisciplinary approach that introduces geographical concepts like place attachment as well as methods from management research to establish a framework for the exploration of religious tourism.</p> <p>The thesis consists of nine chapters. Chapter 1 to 3 cover Introduction, Literature Review and Methodological Framework, including the outline of the case study areas. The literature review covered topics of religious tourism, Shinto, World Heritage sites in tourism, place attachment as well as expectations and perceptions of local stakeholders and tourists towards tourism sites. The study is based on four years of fieldwork and applies a mixed method research. In the first step, travel information sources are analyzed to understand the representation of Shinto and shrines. These findings informed the creation of a questionnaire survey with locals and tourists that explores locals' place attachment to their respective shrine, how they wish the shrine being represented for tourism, changes perceived after World Heritage Site inscription and expectations and perceptions towards the shrine visit. Finally, participating observation and interviews with stakeholders provided a deeper understanding of the two sites.</p> <p>In the text analysis of travel information sources (Chapter4 and 5) based on</p>			

academic definitions of Shinto, it was found that the themes of representation of Shinto and shrines varies between Japanese and international sources. Chapter 6 and 7 focused on the perspective of local residents towards the shrines. It was confirmed that three dimensions of place attachment can be applied to residents' connection with sacred sites and that most locals prefer a representation of "their" shrine as historical site, while there is also a strong group that emphasizes the sacred aspect. On the other hand, evaluation of World Heritage registration and recognized issues of tourism development widely differed between the two examined sites based on their different historical development. Chapter 8 envisioned to construct a framework to measure the expectations and perceptions of both locals and tourists through a tool introduced from management studies, starting with an exploratory factor analysis. As a result, Knowledge, Appeal and Manner were established as three dimensions for comparison between tourists and residents as well as between sites. While differences in tourists' perceptions and expectations at the two shrines mirrored the different role of tourism at both sites, gaps perceptions between tourists and locals could pose management issues.

Theoretically, this study provides a method to analyze the representation of Shinto shrines. It further bridges the conceptual link of expectations and perceptions towards sacred site visits through exploring a framework that measures both locals and tourists through one framework at the same time. Practically, it provides those in charge of the management and promotion of sacred sites for tourism a tool to gain a deeper understanding of locals and tourists expectations and perceptions.

Published papers connected to the thesis include two peer-reviewed journal articles and one peer-reviewed book chapter.

While it was pointed out that the thesis would benefit from a clearer outline of the suggested framework and of the academic and practical contributions of the research, research results and the interdisciplinary framework were highly evaluated by the examiners.

Based on the exam, the candidate was evaluated unanimously to have met the requirements of the Graduate School of Integrated Arts and Sciences for a PhD degree.