

# Abstract

Existing literature examining the impacts of safety and security on tourism has paid considerable attention to the role of the psychological responses of tourism participants. It has also confirmed the centrality of these responses in the process of how security threats influence tourist behaviour. However, no attempt has been made to clarify whether the psychological responses are also geographical in nature. The dissertation primarily intends to address this shortcoming by examining the influence of political-security threats. Therefore, its main aim is to identify and clarify the geographical conditionality and manifestations of tourism participants' psychological responses to terrorism and related security threats.

The empirical part of the dissertation is the result of several conducted studies published in four journal articles. Therefore, multiple methods of data collection and analysis were used to achieve the main aim of the thesis. The work required a certain pragmatic approach to engage both positivist and more interpretivist methods. Still, consistency between the philosophical starting points and the adopted methods was not neglected, as it prevailed in the treatment of the sub-aims and in the resultant publication outputs. Specifically, the methods employed include a systematic literature review, a statistical analysis of secondary data and data collected through two different questionnaire surveys, and finally a framework analysis of the so-called fear-arousing walking interviews.

The research undertaken for this dissertation has shown that tourism participants' psychological responses to terrorism and related security threats vary across space. Perceived and felt differences between places regarding security were found at several scale levels. Moreover, the negative psychological effects of political-security threats may spread further between places or, conversely, some destinations may benefit from the situation. The outlined manifestations of the psychological effects of political-security threats also have consequences for the spatial behaviour of tourism participants. The consequences are, however, more evident at higher scale levels than at lower ones, i.e., they concern potential rather than actual tourism participants. It was also confirmed that tourism participants' psychological responses to political-security threats are conditioned by many aspects of space and places. These conditional factors were identified particularly in the space of destinations, but are also evident, e.g., in the space of source markets. Individual geographical conditional factors do not act in isolation. They always interact with each other. Moreover, they have different meanings in different contexts.

The thesis concludes by summarizing and discussing the results and findings. It also suggests possible future research directions. One of the proposed ways forward is a more thorough and critical engagement with the geography of fear. This dissertation outlines it as one of the key concepts for the geographical framing of research on tourism participants' psychological responses to (political-)security threats.

**KEY WORDS:** security, tourist behaviour, risk perception, fear, terrorism