

# **Navigating Turbulence: Temporal and Spatial Insights into Destination** Resilience

The tourism sector is vulnerable to external disruptions. While various crises adversely affect tourism and destinations, they also provide an opportunity to assess how destinations adapt to real shocks that are difficult to simulate. To understand and manage a crisis more effectively, two critical issues should be addressed: the duration of the impact of the crisis (i.e., temporal perspective) and the affected geographical scale (i.e., spatial perspective), both of which have been overlooked in past research on destination resilience.

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To fill these gaps, this study by Dr Eden Jiao, Prof Gang Li and Dr Jason Li Chen introduces a comprehensive, multi-stage, dynamic spatiotemporal analytical framework to measure destination resilience in terms of resistance and recovery, and to analyse the factors influencing resilience. The framework is demonstrated using the context of international tourism in Europe in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the framework's general applicability and relevant policy implications.

# ACADEMIC WEEKLY DIGEST



## About the author

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# ANALYSING DESTINATION RESILIENCE FROM A SPATIOTEMPORAL PERSPECTIVE

### By Dr Eden Jiao, Prof Gang Li, Dr Richard Qiu, Dr Jason Li Chen

This research proposes a new and dynamic multistage framework to analyse destination resilience in response to crises. A spatiotemporal econometric model is employed to understand the influencing mechanisms for destination resilience at different stages. Spatial patterns can be seen from the descriptive evidence, where Northern European destinations show relatively stronger resistance and recovery levels. Regarding the influencing mechanism, findings show that more stringent destinations, regarding government response and containment policy, are less resilient, with a greater influence on resistance at the early stage.

The results also indicate that at the earlier stage of the pandemic shock with unexpected fluctuations and uncertainties, the intrinsic factors including the levels of tourism development, society development, and destination environmental quality, determine a destination's capacity to resist external disturbance. Moving towards the recovery stage, where situations become predictable to some extent, the recovery level is more dependent on the tourism market and relatively less dependent on the destinations' intrinsic factors shaped in the long run prior to the shock.

This study contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of resilience by developing a quantifiable and generalisable destination resilience framework, with the identification of key influencing factors. Meanwhile, the findings demonstrate important practical implications for destinations to monitor the instant response of highly resilient destinations and co-develop recovery plans that benefit multiple destinations more efficiently through transmission and loop effects from spatial interactions of resilience.

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