



## 2019 ANZALS Conference Themed Session

### Leisure Management

This session will explore how leisure management practices differ from country to country and region to region. The overall purpose is to draw together complementary scholars and practitioners to share and discuss research and best practice programs that address key issues faced in their country or region. The session will address the Conference's diversity theme by raising complementary and diverse leisure management issues from different political, social, economic and community perspectives. The session will provide opportunity for formal presentations, (both live and virtual) and discussions to address how leisure services address issues related to diversity, accessibility and inclusion in unique and/or interesting ways.

Research about leisure management is relatively limited. There is a need for more publication of research and practices about community leisure programs, services and facility management. Leisure services often aim to support local participation but there is limited research about how leisure services are delivered and managed (Tower & Zimmermann, 2016). There is even less focus on how leisure services are adapted to focus on issues of diversity, accessibility and inclusion. One of the goals of the LM SIG is to document and disseminate research about how leisure programs, facilities and services are contributing to communities' quality of life as well as efforts towards achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

This session provides an opportunity for leisure scholars and practitioners to share current research and best practice program delivery. Leisure management topics that address issues related to diversity, accessibility and inclusion would be most welcome in the Leisure Management session. There will also be the opportunity for the session participants to engage in discussion to explore opportunities for collaborative work and develop strategies to better meet the needs of all their communities.

#### **Format:**

We are hoping to attract scholars from multiple countries and/or regions in the world. Depending on the number of applicants to the session we will propose to host one or more traditional sessions which will each feature 3-4 presentations. Ultimately, we hope to run it a bit like a panel with integrated discussions across the time frames allocated to us.

#### **Context:**

This session is being proposed by members of the Leisure Management Special Interest Group (LM SIG) of the World Leisure Organization. As a point of context, the following is from the Rationale for the LM SIG:

Leisure management is the means by which organisations manipulate their resources to deliver leisure programs, facilities and services to stakeholders and the general community (Veal, 2003). The programs, facilities and services fall within the range of leisure, recreation, sport, tourism and events industry (Tower & Zimmermann, 2016) within the mixed economy of leisure provided by government, non-profit, commercial organisations and households (Veal, Darcy & Lynch, 2013). A particular characteristic of the mixed economy of leisure is

the capacity for government, non-profit and commercial organisations to collaborate in program, facility and service delivery. Leisure management was recently explained as a focus on the 'what' and the 'who'. The 'what' relates to the leisure organisation's understanding of the key leisure concepts, how organisations function and manipulate their resources to deliver programs, facilities and services. The 'who' is about the understanding of leisure service consumers and key stakeholders (Zimmermann & Tower, 2017).

However, leisure management is more than working to achieve effective and efficient programs, facilities and services. Often leisure projects are designed to address issues of inequality and access to help make the world a better place based on leisure's contribution to a community's quality of life. It is this focus on leisure impacts that provides a context for the LM SIG. There is a need to clearly articulate and document the 'why' of leisure services.

References and any questions about the session should be directed to Dr Jo An Zimmermann (session chair) – [jz15@txstate.edu](mailto:jz15@txstate.edu)

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