# REVISION



# Gentrification of tourism: a bibliometric study in the Scopus database

# Gentrificación del turismo: un estudio bibliométrico en la base de datos Scopus

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**Cite as:** Aristizábal Valbuena CN. Gentrification of tourism: a bibliometric study in the Scopus database. Gentrification. 2024; 2:52. https://doi.org/10.62486/gen202452

Submitted: 19-01-2023

Revised: 19-01-2023

Accepted: 19-01-2023

Published: 19-01-2023

Editor: Estela Hernández-Runque 回

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# ABSTRACT

The study provides a comprehensive analysis of how gentrification and tourism intertwine and affect urban environments. Using a bibliometric methodology to review publications between 2018 and 2023, the study identifies the main trends and dynamics in the literature on this topic. The results reveal a growing academic interest in the interaction between gentrification and tourism, with a geographic concentration of studies in Europe and North America, although research is also emerging in Asia and Latin America. Key words highlighted in the literature include sustainability and social impact, highlighting concerns about equity and access to tourism benefits for local residents. This bibliometric analysis offers valuable insights into the consequences of tourism gentrification and suggests the need for more inclusive policies that balance economic development and social justice in urban contexts transformed by tourism.

Keywords: Gentrification; Tourism; Sustainability; Social Impact; Urban Policies.

## RESUMEN

El estudio proporciona un análisis exhaustivo sobre cómo la gentrificación y el turismo se entrelazan y afectan a los entornos urbanos. Utilizando una metodología bibliométrica para revisar publicaciones entre 2018 y 2023, el estudio identifica las principales tendencias y dinámicas en la literatura sobre este tema. Los resultados revelan un creciente interés académico en la interacción entre la gentrificación y el turismo, con una concentración geográfica de estudios en Europa y América del Norte, aunque también emergen investigaciones en Asia y América Latina. Las palabras clave destacadas en la literatura incluyen la sostenibilidad y el impacto social, subrayando preocupaciones sobre la equidad y el acceso a beneficios turísticos para residentes locales. Este análisis bibliométrico ofrece perspectivas valiosas sobre las consecuencias de la gentrificación turística y sugiere la necesidad de políticas más inclusivas que equilibren desarrollo económico y justicia social en contextos urbanos transformados por el turismo.

Palabras clave: Gentrificación; Turismo; Sostenibilidad; Impacto Social; Políticas Urbanas.

# INTRODUCTION

Gentrification is an urban phenomenon predominantly observed in neighbourhood revitalization contexts. It has become intertwined with the tourism industry in recent years and has attracted the attention of academics, activists, and local governments.<sup>(1)</sup> Traditionally associated with the displacement of low-income residents and the transformation of districts into high-demand visitor centers, gentrification has emerged as a crucial field

© 2024; Los autores. Este es un artículo en acceso abierto, distribuido bajo los términos de una licencia Creative Commons (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0) que permite el uso, distribución y reproducción en cualquier medio siempre que la obra original sea correctamente citada of study for urban planners and sociologists.<sup>(2,3,4)</sup> However, its relationship with tourism has yet to be explored despite the evident connections between the two processes in changing the urban and social landscape.<sup>(5,6,7)</sup>

This study used a bibliometric methodology to analyze publications in Scopus from 2018 to 2023, identifying research patterns, publication trends, and key thematic areas. Through the literature review, the article seeks to elucidate how scholars and practitioners have addressed the intersection of gentrification and tourism. In addition, it explores how tourism can act as a catalyst for different phenomena due to gentrification in different geographical contexts.<sup>(8,9,10)</sup>

It should be taken into consideration that research on tourism gentrification is essential to understand not only the economic and social consequences for the residents of the affected areas but also to plan more effectively for sustainable tourism management and development.<sup>(11,12,13)</sup> While gentrification can improve infrastructure and services, including tourism, it poses significant challenges, such as losing cultural identity and excluding residents from economic benefits.<sup>(14,15,16,17,18)</sup> This research contributes to the global discussion on balancing these effects, proposing a more inclusive and sustainable approach to urban and tourism development. The latter is one of the main needs given an adequate gentrification process.<sup>(19)</sup>

# METHOD

The study used a bibliometric methodology to analyze the volume and trends of scientific literature on the interaction between gentrification and tourism. A comprehensive review of the Scopus database was conducted, selecting publications between 2018 and 2023, using the keywords "gentrification AND tourism". This search strategy was designed to capture the widest possible range of relevant studies addressing gentrification and tourism in diverse urban and geographic contexts.<sup>(20,21,22,23)</sup>

# Data selection

Articles were filtered to include only those that were directly related to the topics of gentrification and tourism. Publications that explicitly addressed both concepts were excluded. Data extracted included article title, papers by year of publication, abstract, number of citations, and keywords.

### **Bibliometric analysis**

The analysis was performed using VOSviewer bibliometric software, which allowed a quantitative and visual analysis of the data. Key metrics were calculated, such as:

- Total publications to understand the trend of scientific production on the subject.
- Citation trends to assess the impact and influence of publications.

• Geographic distribution to identify where studies were concentrated and how gentrification and tourism topics varied by region.

- Co-occurrence of keywords to detect the main research topics and how these were interrelated.
- Evolution of thematic lines to observe how researchers' approaches and concerns have changed over time.

### **Ethical considerations**

Rigorous adherence to the ethical principles of research was maintained, ensuring correct attribution to the original authors of the works analyzed and respecting intellectual property rights.

### Limitations

The methodology employed also considered the limitations inherent to any bibliometric study. These include the dependence on the keywords used for the search, which could limit the scope of the articles retrieved.<sup>(24,25)</sup> In addition, the analysis was restricted to data available in Scopus, which may not capture all relevant publications, especially those in less accessible databases or languages other than English.<sup>(26)</sup> Still, this methodological approach provided an in-depth and structured understanding of the existing literature on gentrification and tourism, offering valuable insights into the evolution of this field of study and its future directions.<sup>(27)</sup>

### RESULTS

The bibliometric study on tourism gentrification based on the Scopus database from 2018 to 2023 revealed several important trends in this emerging field:

### Increase in publications

There was an increase in the total number of publications on gentrification and tourism through 2021, followed by a decline in publications in 2022 and a further increase in 2023, although not reaching the 2021 total (figure 1). This indicates a growing academic interest in the intersection of these two topics since the

end of the last decade and a relative trend towards stability. However, these findings need to be interpreted in terms of the impact of the pandemic on the tourism sector.

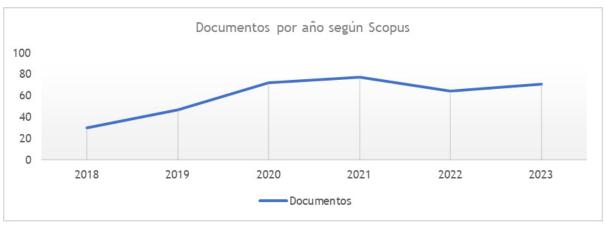


Figure 1. Documents per year according to the Scopus database

# **Citation trends**

Publications related to gentrification and tourism showed an upward trend in citations, reflecting their relevance and growing impact on the research community (figure 2). In specific terms, 287 documents received a total of 5272 citations, which, from the perspective of the Hirch index for measuring the impact and relevance of scientific production, yielded an h-index of 39.

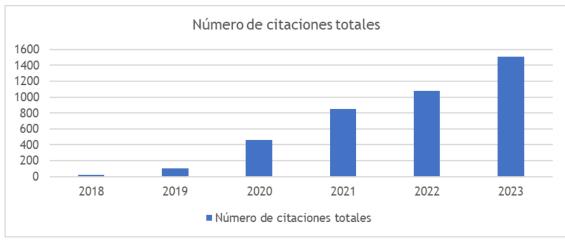
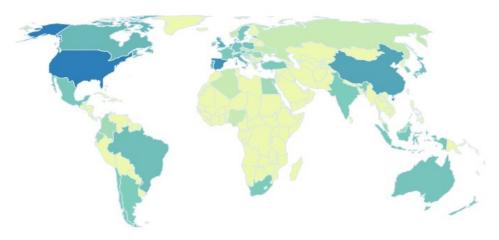


Figure 2. Papers per year according to the Scopus database

# Geographical distribution





Research on gentrification and tourism was mainly concentrated in Europe and North America. However, significant studies were also identified in Asia and Latin America, showing a global interest in the effects of gentrification on the tourism sector (figure 3). The countries with at least ten publications, according to the Lens database, were the United States (94), Spain (73), China (48), United Kingdom (39), Portugal (26), Canada (25), Italy (22); Brazil (19); Netherlands (18); Japan (14); Australia (13); Germany (12), which confirmed the analysis performed.

### Keyword co-occurrence

The keyword co-occurrence analysis highlighted terms such as "mobility", "sustainable development", "regional development", "social impact", and "public policies" (figures 4 and 5). This underscored the focus on the social and economic consequences of gentrification on tourist communities.

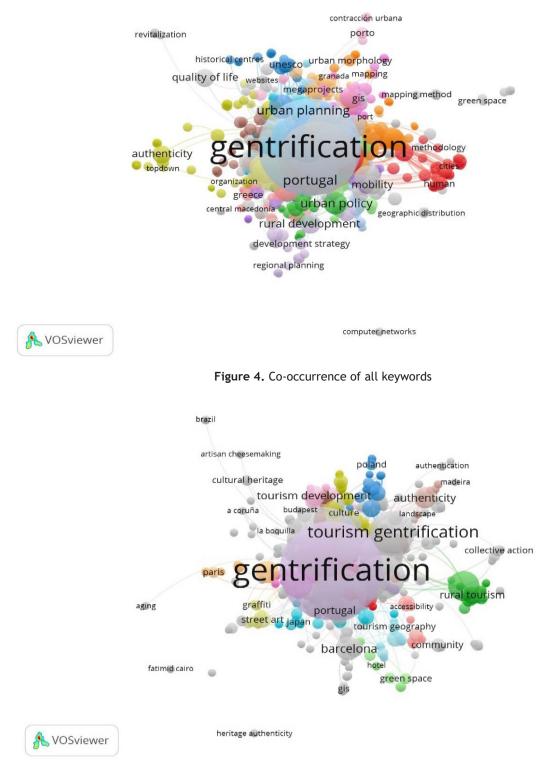


Figure 5. Co-occurrence of keywords designated by authors

Through this procedure, the main trends were clarified and contrasted with the areas most focused on studying the relationship between gentrification and tourism. This analysis showed that the most prominent fields are Social Sciences (n=292), Business (n=108) and Environmental Sciences (103). These fields were followed by some 14 disciplines that contributed between 48 and one publication (figure 6).



Figure 6. Main areas of expertise

# Evolution of the thematic lines

The analysis conducted in VOSviewer showed that the thematic lines evolved from focusing on economic impacts to a more holistic analysis that also considers the social and environmental aspects of gentrification in tourism destinations (figures 7 and 8). This review revealed the importance of addressing the multidimensional aspects of gentrification in the tourism context and highlighted the need for more inclusive policies that balance development and social equity.

	contracción urbana
revitalization	porto
	historical centres unesco urban morphology ity of life websites granada mapping megaprojects gis mapping method urban planning port <b>gentrification</b> methodology cities organization portugal mobility human greece urban policy
	rural development development strategy regional planning
Koriewer Rossiewer	computer networks

Figure 7. Density visualization of all keywords

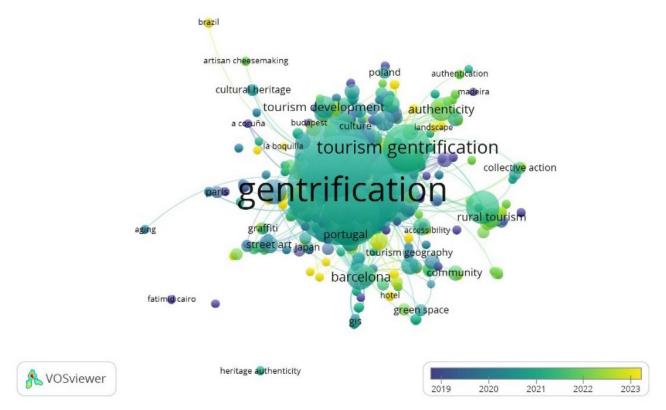


Figure 8. Thematic evolution based on the co-occurrence of keywords

### Triangulation

To enrich the bibliometric analysis on tourism gentrification in the Scopus database between 2018 and 2023, new sources addressing complementary dimensions were integrated, and information was triangulated to provide a more comprehensive picture.

Additional studies indicated a growing focus on tourism sustainability within gentrification.<sup>(28,29,30)</sup> The literature showed that while some cities have used tourism to revitalize declining urban areas, this often resulted in the exclusion of residents and increased housing prices and services. These trends pose significant challenges in terms of social equity and access.<sup>(31,32)</sup>

One incorporated reference highlighted the relevance of urban and rural planning policies integrating gentrification and tourism considerations.<sup>(33,34)</sup> It was found that, in some cases, the implementation of responsible and participatory tourism strategies helped to mitigate the adverse effects of gentrification, promoting a more inclusive and sustainable development.<sup>(35,36,37)</sup>

The co-occurrence of keywords in the analyzed studies revealed an emerging interest in topics such as "health", <sup>(38,39)</sup> "community participation", <sup>(40,41,42)</sup> "cultural impact" <sup>(43,44)</sup> and "displacement". <sup>(45,46,47)</sup> This finding suggests an evolution in the thematic line towards a more holistic approach that considers the economic impact of tourism and its social and cultural consequences. <sup>(48,49,50)</sup>

Regarding geographic distribution, the analysis reinforced that although research on gentrification and tourism is prominent in the Western world, there is a growing interest in exploring these phenomena in the context of developing countries. Therefore, it should be emphasized that the dynamics of gentrification differ significantly in these settings.<sup>(51,52,53,54)</sup>

Finally, triangulation of these results with previous studies and new references allowed the identification of critical areas for future research, such as the need to develop tourism models that equitably benefit all stakeholders involved, especially local communities more susceptible to gentrification's negative impacts.<sup>(55,56,57,58)</sup> This extended analysis highlighted the importance of addressing the complex links between gentrification, tourism and sustainability to foster practices that promote fair and sustainable urban development.

### DISCUSSION

The study identified several opportunities, challenges and barriers associated with the interaction between gentrification and tourism, addressing how these factors reshape urban and tourism dynamics.

Tourism gentrification presented significant opportunities for the revitalization of previously declining urban areas. Investment in tourism infrastructure, such as hotels, restaurants and cultural attractions, fostered increased economic activity and improved the image of previously marginalized destinations. These

transformations often attracted a new profile of visitors and promoted more diverse and culturally enriching tourism. In addition, the urban renewal associated with tourism gentrification opened up new possibilities for local business development and job creation, contributing to the economic growth of local communities.

However, these processes were challenging. Tourism-driven gentrification also led to the displacement of low-income residents, who were often forced to leave their homes due to rising living and rental costs. This phenomenon exacerbated urban inequalities and generated tensions between new visitors and long-time residents. In addition, the rapid growth of the tourism sector in certain areas sometimes exceeds the capacity of existing infrastructure, leading to problems of utility overload and environmental degradation.

Among the main barriers identified was the lack of inclusive policies that balanced the benefits of tourism development with the protection of local communities. Insufficient regulation of real estate and tourism development allowed practices prioritizing economic gain over community well-being to flourish. In addition, the limited involvement of local communities in tourism planning and management often resulted in projects that needed to reflect their needs or interests.

To address these challenges and overcome barriers, future tourism gentrification policies and projects are suggested to adopt a more holistic and participatory approach. Integrating local communities in the initial planning and decision-making stages can foster developments that benefit all stakeholders. In addition, it is crucial to implement protective measures for vulnerable residents to prevent their displacement and ensure that gentrification does not lead to further social segregation.

The study highlighted the need for a stronger regulatory framework to guide tourism development sustainably and equitably, ensuring that tourism gentrification contributes positively to both the economy and social fabric of destinations. This would improve the sustainability of tourism destinations and enhance the quality of life for all city dwellers.

### CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the bibliometric study highlighted several key aspects related to the intersection of gentrification and tourism between 2018 and 2023. First, an increase in the number of publications and citations addressing gentrification in the tourism context was identified, reflecting a growing academic interest in this phenomenon. This interest indicated the relevance and urgency of understanding the dynamics that shape urban spaces and their implications for the tourism sector.

Secondly, the geographical distribution of the studies showed a significant concentration in European and North American regions, although there was also an emerging focus on Asia and Latin America. This trend underscored the need to expand research to more varied contexts to gain a more global and diversified perspective on how gentrification affects different tourism destinations worldwide.

In addition, keyword co-occurrence analysis focused on sustainability, social impact, and public policy. These themes highlighted contemporary concerns about ensuring that tourism development's benefits are distributed equitably and mitigating negative effects such as displacement of local residents.

Finally, there was an evolution in the thematic strands from a predominantly economic approach to a more integrated analysis that includes social and environmental considerations. This shift suggests recognizing the complexity of tourism and gentrification and the need to address these phenomena with multidisciplinary approaches and informed policies.

These findings emphasize the importance of further research and debate on tourism gentrification to understand its multiple dimensions and effects better and develop strategies to promote more inclusive and sustainable tourism.

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# FINANCING

None.

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

# **AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

Conceptualization: Chris Nathalie Aristizábal Valbuena. Data curation: Chris Nathalie Aristizábal Valbuena. Formal analysis: Chris Nathalie Aristizábal Valbuena. Drafting - original draft: Chris Nathalie Aristizábal Valbuena. Writing - proofreading and editing: Chris Nathalie Aristizábal Valbuena.