

# Comparative Research Studies: Tourist Use and Economic Valorization in the Natural Parks

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**Abstract:** *This observation and research is bilateral, in fact, takes place in two different states Italy and France in different periods of the year 2016/2017. The purpose is to compare the use and enjoyment of the natural tourist or amateur places defined as parks or nature reserves. The first observation is developed in France precisely at the University of Lille2. The second field observation is carried out in Italy, specifically in Enna at the University of Kore studies. Although the increasing human presence in natural sites is not a completely new phenomenon, the study of these territories from a dichotomous economy and consumer oriented approach remains scarce – even more in a cross-cultural comparison. French nature parks have a relatively vast literature, studying preservation questions, the characteristics of outdoor activities or the lived experiences on natural sites, for instance. Also, research on tourism is rather extensive, which is not surprising, since tourism is the country's leading economic sector. On the other hand, hardly any studies can be found on the development methods of Sicilian region (protected) natural territories – with the exception of conservation related subjects, which is, for their part, abounded in scientific literature. This type of analysis is based on the use of two sociological research methods: quantitative and qualitative. Beginning is that of observation on the field of subjects, social actors, students and ordinary people who frequent the natural parks. This research is aimed at the collection of useful elements to the grounding potential income (spontaneous donation of money for sustainable development of the site or taxation for daily use, weekly, monthly) of reserves and natural parks. Use the search tool, which the structured questionnaire helps us to understand, and compare the two dimensions of use and aims to be the search vector for the maximization and minimization of the existing potential.*

**Keywords:** territory, natural park, economics, development, use, frequency, quantitative research, qualitative research, ethnography, culture, comparison, discovery, attitudes, social actors 2.0.

## 1. Introduction

The main purpose of this work consists primarily in the territorial reality monitoring considered, through the implementation of an information system designed to show the demographic, social, cultural and economic conditions of the territory, emerging applications by users and services in present therein or to increase through the comparison at the international level.

- To promote, coordinate and implement periodic survey initiatives on the social condition of tourist territorial scope fruition considered.
- Implement and manage information services and data bank on the condition and on the environmental and spatial policies using data from all municipalities involved.

Sociology has long been involved in social behaviors in relation to the spatial dimension, particularly of the international dimension. This close relationship synthesized of the sociologist Bagnasco, him recalls George Simmel (1858-1918) in the title from his book: "Social Facts Formed in Space" (1999).

The relationship between man and the environment is strictly connected to the resources existing in nature and its ecosystem, closely related to other constraints that give meaning to the territory through material aspects of life, religious and political culture that influence the authorization of space.

The interconnected environment man in this perspective involves an effort to understand phenomena in order to

prepare methods and tools for intervention that are integrated with the disciplines of quali-quantitative research. The manifestations of the relationship between man as a social actor and the environment as a well-defined space (for example, the construction of sanctuaries within protected natural areas unknown mostly to those who do not profess a cult but known by those who exercise a sport) from the anthropized space And therefore the environment itself takes on a different meaning from the natural one marked by the role of the new modifies it, the organized, the negotiation of goals.

The original condition of the territory and man's ability to modify it over time require rules of domination over unorganized, political-social and exchange space that allow the implementation of the same social relations.

The idea of creating parks to protect the land developed at the beginning of the 19th century due to the industrialization of Western Europe and North America. Corboz (1985) indicates with the term territory the relational forms that develop in space, signifying a material reality that constitutes the processes of socialization.

In the text under analysis, in particular, attention is paid to the enhancement and use of the territory. Based on the tourism phenomenon closely linked to the local economy.

Qualitative and quantitative research aimed at collecting useful elements and putting reserves and natural parks into income has as its object and subject the study model of the regional parks themselves.

## 2. Object

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The first part is characterized by the legislative analysis in force in the territory under examination, on the one hand the territory of the Sicily region in particular of the natural reserves of the hinterland, on the other in comparison with the European one of the naturalistic sites present in the northern region of France precisely in Lille.

This comparison arises from the assumption: It is possible to have a unique model of comparative sustainable development from "north to south", in this case of two really different territories, in which there are poles of social and environmental policies at the antipodes.

The importance of putting a natural environment on the increase increases the possibility of usability by social actors supporting a functional ecosystem if regional contributions are not sufficient to maintain them.

Analyzing the behavior of the social actors who use them can compare geographically and geographically different, naturalistic sites.

### 3. Methodology

The research structure, first of all qualitative, starts from the assumption that the two environments under analysis are totally different in the morphology of the ecosystem. All this involves many difficulties in ethnographic surveys, but above all quantitative surveys: the linguistic but above all cultural approach to environmental sustainability in the area of the Sicilian hinterland.

The first graphs show that from the aggregated data analyzed, the researcher has highlighted a greater presence of female predisposition to the possibility of responding to the questionnaire compared to the male one in both territories compared.

A positive response on the interest of environmental sustainability and international comparison was found by users aged 18 to 25 with a downward interest from 26 to 35 years. In both cases it is important to note how the environmental, landscape and natural interest of young people is of fundamental importance to guarantee their enjoyment for future generations. Regarding the disaggregated data, it is very interesting to note that the highest percentage in both territories, of the interviewed users - as well as respondents, has an equal level of education, that is, the degree that is the study.

The researcher in her qualitative-quantitative and ethnographic analyzes - manages to analyze various sociological aspects of her interest, including the religious issue in comparative research.

This aspect is not entirely secondary, as in previous research we can find a common thread that closely links religion to the territory and vice versa.

In fact, it is not easy to resolve the position of the researcher on the possibility of investigating a "religious" question posed within the questionnaire, because in France it is not possible to officially request, if not in anonymity, the

profession of one's own religious faith in a given place, or how much it can affect daily life. Despite the first difficulties, the formulation of the application was made "free" with a 43% match of the answers received.

Moreover, the question that asked whether the presence of Sanctuaries in the protected natural areas was known has found a satisfactory answer as regards Italy and a considerably lower percentage in France.

The close link between nature and sport practice within the areas under analysis has received positive feedback from the "runners".

Regarding the qualitative analysis carried out through the N-Vivo research program with the creation of Word-Cloud - the researcher Salerno has highlighted the two comparative categories, such as territory and sport, in both cases despite the territorial morphological differences. The latter are linked by the same sporting phenomenon that of the "race" and the sporting practice of cycling.

### 4. Conclusion

The sporting activity that identifies the sport of cycling in Sicily has as particular characteristic the manifestation of events closely linked to religious ones.

For example, the sport of cycling is associated with that of the "sport pilgrimage". Another confirmation in the category of the territory is the prevalence of a more in-depth knowledge at an eco-naturalistic level concerning the Madonie Park and the Pergusa nature reserve.

As far as the naturalistic landscape in the north of France is concerned, we find a greater frequency and tourist enjoyment concerning the Citadels of Lille which is strategically positioned (history of the place) geographically close to the historical center of the city.

In conclusion, the various activities carried out by social actors regarding the environment in which they are located are closely linked to the culture and implementation of social policies that tend to the good of the citizen or of those who are tourist users.

The very importance of cultural conservation and environmental sustainability as well for future generations is the result shared by all the interviewees in total 698 users.

Therefore, the possibility of making nature reserves income would benefit those who have a conscious recognition of the importance of environmental and landscape protection, especially for the conservation of protected areas analyzed in the Sicilian territory of our extreme interest.

## 5. Words Clouds



Cloud 1: Territory Northern of France



Cloud 2: Territory of Centre of Sicily

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