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## **Foucault Who?: The (Mis)use of Poststructural Theory to Examine Power Relations in Tourism Studies**

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Following the use of poststructural writings in various mother disciplines, some scholars in tourism studies began to draw from these works to examine acting power relations in tourism settings. However, the works of Michel Foucault have surprisingly received little attention in tourism studies despite scholars' interests in theorizing the conditions that maintain inequalities and related power relations. Poststructuralism in general, and specifically the works of Foucault, have not been incorporated nearly as often as critical or Marxist paradigms in the literature examining the phenomena of tourism. Subsequently, much of this scholarship reinforces binaries between racial groups and predetermines or over-determines power relations (Bruner, 2005). Although a few scholars have used Foucault in their research on tourism, these have been limited to only some aspects of his broad range of concepts and tools. Most research centers on interpreting power relations in tourism productions (Rojek, 1985, 1992; Bruner, 2001; Hollinshead, 1999; Cheong & Miller, 2000, 2004). Some other aspects in tourism research, including the "tourist gaze" (Urry, 1990; Hollinshead, 1994), the body (Veijola & Jokinen, 1994) and resistance (Wearing, 1995), have also borrowed from Foucault. Despite these contributions and many other tourism researchers that peripherally site his work, very few tourism scholars overtly take up Foucault in their research (Winter, 2007) and there are even fewer who adopt a Foucauldian-based methodological approach (Wearing & McDonald, 2002; Mason, 2014). When it comes to analyses of racial discourse in tourism research, particularly in colonial contexts, there is a clear gap in scholarship.

This paper utilizes tourism works for examples to address this substantial gap by using Foucauldian-centred methodological and theoretical approaches. In addition to highlighting some of the ways that Foucault's theories have been misused in tourism studies, the paper will also provide productive examples of Foucauldian tools to interpret acting power relations in tourism contexts. Specifically, Foucault's art of distributions (manipulations of time, space and movement); normalizing and assimilating processes; and his perspectives of surveillance as well as resistance will be considered. These insights will offer new theoretical directions to move beyond disciplinary boundaries and encourage scholars to produce critical readings that interrogate the inner workings of power relations in tourism sites, which can help create more equitable tourism industries.