



THE EFFECT OF RESIDENTS' PLACE ATTACHMENT ON THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM: THE MODERATING EFFECT OF PERSONAL BENEFIT

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ABSTRACT

Residents' attitude towards tourism development in religious tourism destinations is especially relevant for tourism planning. Nevertheless, there are few studies that analyse how residents' attitude towards the development of religious tourism is formed. This paper analyses the effect of residents' place attachment on their attitudes towards the development of religious tourism, considering perceived impacts of tourism as mediator and the personal benefit derived from tourism as moderating effect. On the basis of a sample of 410 residents of Montecristi, a religious tourism destination of Ecuador, and using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM), the results show that place attachment directly influences the attitude towards the development of religious tourism, but mainly through the perceived impacts of tourism. Moreover, this paper finds that the influence of the perceived impacts on the support for the development of religious tourism is higher in residents with a lower personal benefit than in residents with a higher personal benefit. These findings enable a series of recommendations to be made to the agents concerned regarding the development of religious tourism in sacred destinations.

KEYWORDS

Residents' Attitude; Place Attachment; Perceived Impacts of Tourism; Personal Benefit; Social Exchange Theory; Religious Tourism.

RESUMEN

La actitud de los residentes hacia el desarrollo del turismo en los destinos de turismo religioso es especialmente relevante para la planificación turística. Sin embargo, hay pocos estudios que analicen cómo se forma la actitud de los residentes hacia el desarrollo del turismo religioso. Este trabajo analiza el efecto del apego al lugar de los residentes en sus actitudes hacia el desarrollo del turismo religioso, considerando los impactos percibidos del turismo como mediador y el beneficio personal derivado del turismo como efecto moderador. Sobre la base de una muestra de 410 residentes de Montecristi, un destino de turismo religioso de Ecuador, y utilizando el modelo de ecuaciones estructurales de mínimos cuadrados parciales (PLS-SEM), los resultados muestran que el apego al lugar influye directamente en la actitud hacia el desarrollo del turismo religioso, pero principalmente a través de los impactos percibidos del turismo. Además, este trabajo encuentra que la influencia de los impactos percibidos en el apoyo al desarrollo del turismo religioso es mayor en los residentes con un menor beneficio personal que en los residentes con un mayor beneficio personal. Estas conclusiones permiten formular una serie de recomendaciones a los agentes implicados en el desarrollo del turismo religioso en destinos sagrados.

PALABRAS CLAVE

Actitud de los residentes; Apego al lugar; Impactos percibidos del turismo; Beneficio personal; Teoría del intercambio social; Turismo religioso.

1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism has become very important in Ecuador, increasingly establishing itself as one of the most important economic sectors (Ministerio de Turismo de Ecuador, 2020). The natural and cultural wealth of Ecuador places tourism as a strategic activity for the development of the country. For instance, the historical and cultural heritage of Catholicism makes Ecuador a destination with great potential for the development of religious tourism. So, the support of residents is crucial for its development (Gursoy, Chi and Dyer, 2010). The success of a tourism project depends largely on the fact that its development is planned and built with the support of residents. Consequently, it is essential to understand how residents' attitude towards tourism development is formed (Ayazlar and Ayazlar, 2016; Vargas-Sánchez, Plaza-Mejia and Porras-Bueno, 2009).

Since the 1970s, numerous studies have examined the attitudes of local residents towards tourism development and the factors that may influence their attitudes. However, there is limited research about the factors that may influence residents' attitude towards tourism development in religious tourism destinations (Terzidou, Styliadis and Szivas, 2008; Uriely, Israeli and Reichel, 2003). Literature thus highlights the necessity of further research to find out residents' attitudes and its antecedents in the context of this specific type of tourism (Shtudiner, Klein and Kantor, 2018).

In general, the factors considered in the literature that may have an impact on local community support for tourism development are very different: perceived impacts of tourism, personal benefits of tourism, place attachment, social identity, personal values, etc. (Sharpley, 2014). Nevertheless, regarding factors that may have an impact on residents' support for religious tourism, literature analyses only religious identity, religion, age, gender, and employment in the tourism sector (Uriely et al., 2003; Shtudiner et al., 2018; Terzidou et al. 2008). Recent studies, however, analyse factors that may influence visitors' behaviour in religious tourism destinations, including variables as place attachment, emotional experience, emotional solidarity or perceived safety (Patwardhan et al., 2020a; Patwardhan et al., 2020b). But these studies considered only two dimensions of place attachment (place identity and place dependence), while more recent place attachment scales incorporate two new dimensions (affection attachment and social bonding) (Ramkissoon et al., 2013b).

Several authors state that the main variable to explain residents' attitude towards tourism is the perception of the impacts of tourism (Ko and Stewart, 2002), but there is no evidence in the literature of such an effect on religious tourism. On the other hand, and considering the uniqueness of the different destinations, several investigations have addressed the effect of place attachment on the impacts perceived by residents (Lee, 2013). Nevertheless, results in the literature are conflicting (Nugroho and Numata, 2022; Vargas-Sánchez et al., 2015), and further research is needed (Gursoy et al., 2019).

The results of the studies addressing the effect of place attachment on support for tourism are contradictory and non-conclusive (Gannon, Rasoolimanesh and Taheri, 2021; Lee, 2013; Vargas-Sánchez et al., 2015). According to Stylidis (2018), this could be partly due to the different forms used in the literature to operationalize attachment. The first studies on attachment considered duration of residence or place of birth as attachment measures (e.g. Haralambopoulos and Pizam, 1996), while later studies measure attachment by considering items of one or more of the dimensions that constitute it: place dependence, place identity, affection attachment, and social bonding to the place (e.g. Lee, 2013; Nicholas, Thapa and Ko, 2009). More specifically, only Lee (2013) considers items of the four dimensions. In this context, it is necessary, given the inconsistency in the results, to continue to deepen the attachment as a complex and multidimensional concept.

Personal benefits derived from tourism are the most prominent and persuasive motivation factors to support tourism development (Pizam, 1978). Research has considered personal benefits as a variable that can affect perceived impacts (e.g. Gursoy et al., 2019) or support for tourism development (e.g. Vargas-Sánchez et al., 2015). Nevertheless, no study considers personal benefits derived from tourism as a variable that may moderate the relationship between residents' attachment, perceived impact of tourism and attitude towards tourism development.

This study aims at advancing knowledge of the factors that determine residents' attitude towards the development of religious tourism. More specifically, this paper proposes and validates a model that, considering place attachment as a complex and four-dimensional concept, includes (1) residents' place attachment as an antecedent to the attitude towards development of religious tourism, (2) the perceived impact as mediator between the effect of residents' place attachment and their attitude towards

the development of religious tourism, and (3) the moderating effect of residents' personal benefit.

Montecristi (Ecuador) was selected as the setting of this research for different reasons. First, no previous study that examines the formation of residents' attitude towards the development of religious tourism focuses on a predominantly Catholic destination. Second, in Latin America, religion (and specifically Christian religion) plays an important role in people's lives and Ecuador is one of the Latin American countries with the highest percentage of Christians, only behind Paraguay (Pew Research Center, 2017). However, research on residents' support for religious tourism in this region has been limited. Third, Ecuador has great potential for the development of religious tourism, and an in-depth understanding of the support of residents is crucial to develop such a type of tourism. This study, therefore, will benefit the religious tourism planning process in Ecuador, which is progressively expanding. In addition, among the different religious tourism destinations in Ecuador, Montecristi is one of the most important places of Catholic devotion, both for the population that lives there, as well as for the thousands of visitors who year after year participate in the religious festivities of this city. Montecristi is well-known for the Minor Basilica of the Virgin of Monserrat and the pilgrimage festival in honour of this Virgin.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1) *RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN LATIN AMERICA*

Latin America has a high number of Christian believers, for whom religion plays an important role in their daily lives (Millán, Pérez and Martínez, 2012; Pew Research Center, 2017). Specifically, in Latin America, the majority of the population professes Catholicism (Pew Research Center, 2017) and there is a marked tendency to make pilgrimages to its different sanctuaries, in such a way that every year millions of people move through this region for religious motivation, generating important impacts (e.g. Cornejo-Ortega, Andrade Romo and Chávez Dagostino, 2016; Macedo de Sousa and Rogério Lopes, 2022). The region has numerous places of pilgrimage,

such as the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, the Sanctuary of Las Lajas in Colombia or the Church of San Francisco in Salvador de Bahía, Brazil.

Within the Latin American context, several studies have focused on religious tourism in different issues by focusing on opportunities for local development (Macedo de Sousa and Rogério Lopes, 2022), challenges for planning of religious destinations (Sartori, 2019), tourism management of religious heritage and events (Hiriart Pardo and Barrera Sánchez, 2019, Moreno and Gull, 2021; Rueda Esteban, 2017) or characteristics of the demand for religious tourism, with special emphasis on the motivation of the visit (Cornejo-Ortega, Andrade Romo and Chávez Dagostino, 2016; González Santa Cruz et al., 2020). It is important to note that, within the Latina American context, there are no studies that have determined the antecedents that influence residents' attitude towards the development of religious tourism. Therefore, a reason behind this research is to fill this gap.

2.2) RESIDENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM

For believers, religion influences many aspects of their daily life. Some people establish their residence in sacred areas due to their religious meaning. When these sacred areas become religious tourism destinations, residents can come into contact not only with religious tourists, but also with secular tourists or tourists of other religions, and there may be a high potential for friction. According to Zamani-Farahani and Musa (2012), tourists' behaviour can sometimes attack residents' values and beliefs. However, tourism also contributes to the socio-economic and environmental conditions, which leads to complex feelings about religious tourism. Consequently, residents' attitude towards the development of tourism in sacred destinations is especially important for tourism planning (Shtudiner et al., 2018). Nevertheless, there is limited research about how residents' attitude towards religious tourism is formed (Shtudiner et al., 2018; Terzidou et al., 2008; Uriely et al., 2003), without also focusing any study on a predominantly Catholic destination, and no study in literature analyses the effect of both residents' place attachment and perceived impact of tourism on their attitude towards the development of religious tourism, considering personal benefit as a moderating effect.

2.3) RESIDENTS' PLACE ATTACHMENT AND ITS EFFECT ON THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM

Place attachment is one of the most important non-economic constructs that are used to analyse why residents support or oppose tourism development (Strzelecka, Boley and Woosnam, 2017). Despite the processes of mobility and globalisation, place remains to be an object of strong attachments (Lewicka, 2011).

Attachment shows a psychological connection between individuals and significant or particular objects (Thomson, MacInnis and Park, 2005). The concept of place attachment refers to the affective link or bond between individuals and specific places (Hidalgo and Hernandez, 2001). Most research on place attachment addresses place dependence and place identity (Tsai, 2016). Nevertheless, recent research suggested social bonding and affection attachment as other two major dimensions, then considering place attachment as a complex, inclusive and multifaceted concept that reflects the intensity of the link between an individual and a place by including four dimensions (Wynveen, Kyle and Sutton, 2012). Since then, this four-dimension framework of place attachment has been tested in tourism contexts (Ramkissoon, Smith and Weiler, 2013a).

Appendix A presents a literature review on the relationship between residents' place attachment and their perceived impacts of tourism and/or their attitude towards tourism. This collection of the relevant literature was extracted from Web of Science (WOS), considering journals indexed in Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and ranked by Journal Impact Factor in the first and second quartile in the category of "Hospitality, leisure, sport & tourism" and using the following query applied to the title, abstract and keywords: ("place attachment" or "community attachment" or "place dependence" or "place identity" or "affection attachment" or "social bonding") AND ("perceived impacts" or "economic impacts" or "social impacts" or "environmental impacts" or "perceived benefits" or "perceived costs" or "attitudes" or "support for tourism") AND ("residents"). Regarding the relationship between place attachment and attitude towards tourism development, literature presents different results. Some papers find that there is no significant direct relationship between place attachment and support for tourism development (Dimitrovski, Crespi-Vallbona and Ioannides, 2022; Ganji, Johnson and Sadeghian, 2020; Gannon et al., 2021; Gursoy, Jurowski and Uysal, 2002; Jurowski, Uysal and Williams, 1997; Nugroho and Numata, 2022, <https://doi-org/10.33776/et.v13i1.7427>

Stylidis, 2020), while others show a significant direct relationship. More specifically, most research finds a positive relationship, regardless of the type of tourism to support: heritage tourism (Chen and Chen, 2010), sustainable community tourism (Choi and Murray, 2010), sustainable tourism (Gursoy and Rutherford, 2004; Lee, 2013; Nicholas et al., 2009; Orgaz-Agüera et al., 2022), island tourism (Eusébio, Vieira and Lima, 2018), gaming tourism (Lee et al., 2020; Luo and Xiao, 2017), ethnic tourism (Wang et al., 2020), film tourism (Castro, Kim and Assaker, 2023), festival tourism (Eluwole et al., 2022) or mass tourism (Hateftabar and Chapuis, 2020; Li, Pan and Hu, 2021; Shen, Geng and Su, 2019; Shen and Shen, 2021). Nevertheless, according to Gursoy et al. (2010), the relationship depends on the type of tourism, with a positive relation in the case of mass tourism and no significant relationship if it is an alternative type of tourism.

The results obtained in the research on the effect of place attachment on the support for tourism development are not conclusive, show contradictory results, and in some of them the relationship depends on the type of tourism, on seasonality or on the level of tourism development. Hence, further research is needed (Nugroho and Numata, 2022; Vargas-Sánchez et al., 2015). Moreover, there is limited research on the relationship of place attachment with the attitude towards tourism development considering place attachment as a multidimensional variable (Lee, 2013), then allowing a deep understanding of the relationships of residents with the place where they live. This research aims at advancing knowledge of residents' attitudes towards the development of religious tourism considering the multidimensional character of place attachment and considering a type of tourism not analysed up to now, as it is the case of religious tourism. Consequently, the following hypothesis (H) is proposed:

H1: Place attachment has a positive and significant effect on the attitude towards development of religious tourism

2.4) THE MEDIATING ROLE OF PERCEIVED IMPACTS BETWEEN RESIDENTS' PLACE ATTACHMENT AND THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM

Literature affirms that tourism causes economic, sociocultural and environmental impacts, both in general (Stylidis and Terzidou, 2014) and in the context of religious tourism (Shtudiner et al., 2018; Terzidou et al., 2008).

Regarding the relationship between place attachment and perceived impacts, as in the relationship between attachment and attitude towards the development of tourism, literature offers different results. For instance, some investigations have not found a significant direct link between place attachment and tourism perceived impacts (Gursoy et al., 2002; Hateftabar and Chapuis, 2020; Jurowski et al., 1997; Stylidis, 2018), while Gannon et al. (2021) highlight this significant direct link. Most studies point out that the relationship depends on the type of impact, considering if it is a positive or negative impact, or if it is an economic, social or environmental impact. Some works (Choi and Murray, 2010; Eusébio et al., 2020; Nugroho and Numata, 2022) found that strongly attached residents perceived the positive impacts higher and the negative impact lower, but most studies state that attachment has a significant influence on benefits, but not on perceived costs (Chen and Chen, 2010; Chen and Raab, 2012; Dimitrovski et al., 2022; Luo and Xiao, 2017; Gursoy et al., 2019; Gursoy and Kendall, 2006, Lee, 2013). More specifically, Gursoy and Rutherford (2004) show that attachment influences the perceived economic and social benefits, but not the cultural benefits. By contrast, Rasoolimanesh et al. (2017) highlight that the attachment does not influence benefits but costs, and according to Grusoy et al. (2010) this effect is only on socioeconomic costs.

Furthermore, McCool and Martin (1994) point out that strongly attached residents perceived positive impacts higher and they were also more concerned about negative impacts. According to Vargas-Sánchez et al. (2015), who analysed the moderating effect of the level of tourism development in the destination, this occurs in more advanced stages of development, of stagnation. Nevertheless, these results differ from the study by Látková and Vogt (2012), who also analyse the moderating effect of this variable.

The results obtained in the papers that address the effects of place attachment on perceived impacts present divergent results, and in some of them these effects depend on the level of tourism development. In this light, further research is needed. Moreover, up to the authors' knowledge, no study in literature analyses the relationship between attachment and perceived impact considering the multidimensional character of both variables, and consequently allowing a deep

understanding of residents' relationships with the place where they live and the perceived impacts. In this context, this research aims at advancing knowledge by measuring attachment and perceived impacts as multidimensional variables for a specific type of tourism: religious tourism. Consequently, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H2: Place attachment has a positive and significant effect on the perceived impacts of religious tourism.

Regarding the effect of perceived impacts on the attitude towards tourism development, in general literature supports that the more positively residents perceive impacts of tourism, the greater their support for tourism development and vice versa (Vargas-Sánchez et al., 2009). Nevertheless, according to Gursoy et al. (2019), the different dimensions of the perceived impacts of tourism have different influences on the support for tourism development. More specifically, on the one hand, perceived benefits have a considerable effect on support, which could eliminate the effect of perceived costs. On the other, among the economic, sociocultural and environmental effects, residents generally value economic gains, followed by sociocultural benefits, when determining their support. Moreover, residents pay less attention to environmental issues, and consequently there is not a significant relationship between environmental impacts and support for tourism. Finally, according to these authors, the overall perceptions of tourism impacts have the highest effect on residents' support for tourism development.

According to Gursoy et al. (2010), tourism perceived impacts have a different effect on the attitude towards tourism development depending on if it is mass or alternative tourism. For instance, their findings showed that residents with negative perceptions about the socioeconomic impact oppose to mass tourism, while expressing neither opposition nor support to the development of alternative tourism. Furthermore, residents with negative perceptions about social impact showed neither support nor opposition to the development of mass tourism, while they firmly opposed to the development of alternative tourism. These authors state that this finding may be the consequence of perceiving that mass tourists tend to minimize their encounters with residents, while in alternative tourism tourists may probably interact more with residents, resulting in higher negative social impacts.

Although there is no previous study analysing the relationship between both variables in a context of religious tourism, it seems that the residents' perceived impact may have a positive impact on the attitude towards religious tourism development. In this light, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H3: Perceived impacts of tourism have a positive and significant effect on the attitude towards the development of religious tourism

2.5) MODERATING EFFECT OF RESIDENTS' PERSONAL BENEFIT

Among the works that analyse the relationship between attachment, perceived impacts and support for tourism development, some authors examine the role of the personal benefit derived from tourism (Gannon et al., 2021; Hateftabar and Chapuis, 2020; Jurowski et al., 1997; Deccio and Baloglu, 2002; Chen and Chen, 2010; Chen and Raab, 2012; Látková and Vogt, 2012; Vargas-Sánchez, Porrás-Bueno and Plaza-Mejía, 2014; Gursoy et al., 2019). Most studies found that personal benefits have a direct and positive influence on support for tourism development (e.g. Vargas-Sánchez et al., 2014). Nevertheless, Chen and Chen (2010), Gannon et al. (2021) and Látková and Vogt (2012) state that there is no significant relationship between both variables, while Vargas-Sánchez et al. (2009) find a negative relationship. Teye, Sirakaya and Sönmez (2002) point out that the residents that get a higher personal benefit from tourism, being employed in the tourism industry, have a less favourable perception towards tourism development. This negative attitude could be due to deplorable working conditions. These authors thus suggest that being employed in the tourism industry should not mechanically be operationalised as a benefit.

On the other hand, some authors find that personal benefits have a direct and positive influence on tourism perceived impacts (Gannon et al., 2021; Vargas-Sánchez et al., 2011; 2014). When distinguishing the impacts on different contexts, Jurowski et al. (1997) point out that personal benefits have a positive influence on the perceived economic and social impacts, but not on environmental impacts. Styliadis and Terzidou (2014), however, highlight that personal benefits have a positive influence on perceived economic impacts, a negative influence on environmental impacts, and no effect on sociocultural impacts. Moreover, other authors, when distinguishing between positive and negative impacts, find that residents that have

personal benefits from tourism perceive more strongly the positive effects of tourism and less strongly the adverse effects (Nunkoo and So, 2016). Others state that personal benefits have a positive relationship with perceived positive impacts, but have no effects on negative impacts (Frleta, Badurina and Lipovčan, 2022; Gursoy et al., 2019). According to Vargas-Sánchez et al. (2015), personal benefit influences positive impacts, but the relationship between personal benefit and negative impacts is moderated by the level of tourism development of the destination.

Literature analyses the effects of personal benefit on perceived impacts and/or on the attitude towards tourism development. Nevertheless, there are no works that prove the moderating role of personal benefit in the relationships proposed in this research. Only Styliadis (2020), when analysing the relationship between place attachment and attitude towards tourism development, examines the differences between residents employed and not employed in the tourism sector. His results show that there is no significant relationship between attachment and attitude, and there is no difference between residents employed and not employed in the tourism sector. However, this author does not consider place attachment as a multidimensional concept, does not include in his analysis the perceived impacts, and only considers as personal benefits those derived from being employed in the tourism sector.

This paper aims to find out whether the personal benefits derived from religious tourism may be moderating the relationships proposed in this study. This moderating effect may be justified by considering the social exchange theory. This is a general sociological theory that aims to understand the exchange of resources, in an interaction situation, between individuals and groups (Ap, 1992). This theory involves that residents' support for tourism is based on their evaluation of tourism as a social exchange process. Hence, residents will participate in the exchange if they expect more benefits than costs from tourism (Gursoy et al., 2010).

Considering the Social Exchange Theory, it is foreseeable that the effect of place attachment on the attitude towards tourism development and on perceived impacts, as well as the effect of perceived impacts on the attitude towards the tourism development, may be conditioned by the personal benefit that residents obtain from tourism. In this light, the following hypotheses are proposed:

H4: The effect of residents' place attachment on the attitude towards the development of religious tourism will be higher for those residents with a high personal benefit derived from tourism in comparison with those residents with a lower personal benefit.

H5: The effect of residents' place attachment on the perceived impact will be higher for those residents with a high personal benefit derived from tourism in comparison with those residents with a lower personal benefit.

H6: The effect of the perceived impact on the attitude towards the development of religious tourism will be higher for those residents with a high personal benefit derived from tourism in comparison with those residents with a lower personal benefit.

Figure 1 shows the research model proposed in this research.

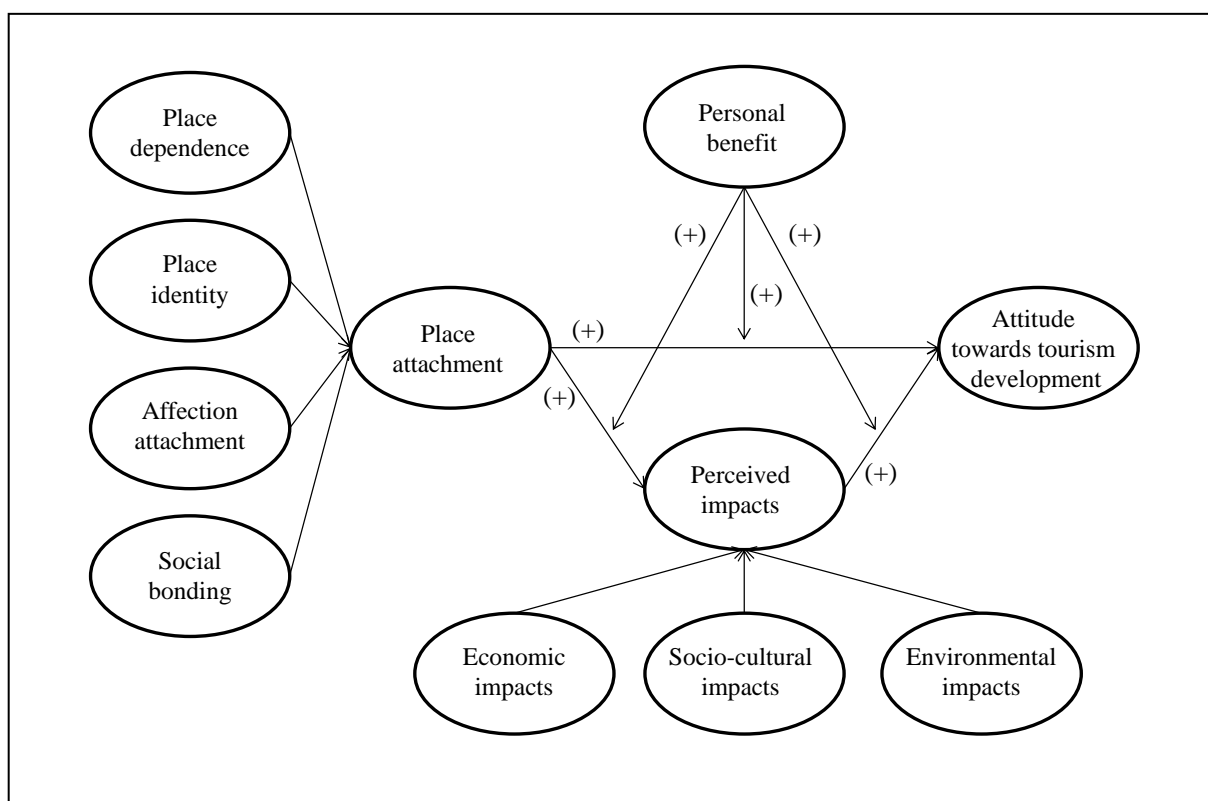


Figure 1: Research model proposed.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1) SAMPLE DESIGN AND DATA GATHERING

This study is focused on the residents of Montecristi, one of the most important Catholic religious destinations of Ecuador. Montecristi is an Ecuadorian city, capital of the Montecristi Canton, located in the province of Manabí, with over 46,000 inhabitants. The Minor Basilica of the Virgin of Monserrat is located in Montecristi, and every year only during the patron saint festivities (from 9 to 21 November) receives about 300,000 religious tourists. Together with the religious celebrations, concerts and cultural events are also organised, being a great economic opportunity for the city.

To test the model proposed, quantitative research is carried out by administering a questionnaire to Montecristi residents older than 18 years old. A total of 410 valid questionnaires were issued. The sampling procedure was random, stratified by gender, age and area of residence to ensure the representativeness of the population. For each area of residence, the places and times where residents were most commonly found were identified. Later, the questionnaire was personally administered to the respondents through a group of interviewers according to stratification quotas. The questionnaire was administered in November 2018, during the week after the patron saint festivities.

Regarding the sociodemographic profile of the sample (Table 1), 51.9% of the respondents were men. Considering age, 75.1% were between 18 and 45 years old, 22% were between 46 and 65 years old, and 2.9% were older than 65 years old. A total of 43.4% were married, while 43.2% were single. A high percentage of the respondents had completed secondary (42.9%) or university (41.7%) education; were employees (27.3%), students (24.0%) or were engaged in domestic work (20.0%); and most of them had a monthly income of less than \$1000 (61.5%). Moreover, most of the respondents were born in Montecristi (61%) and had been living there for 10 to 20 years (24.2%) or over 20 years (34.7%). The characteristics of the sample are similar to the population and housing census of Montecristi (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos de Ecuador, 2010).

Variables	%
Gender	
Male	51.9
Female	48.1
Age	

18-25	26.6
26-45	48.5
46-65	22.0
>65	2.9
Marital status	
Single	43.2
Married	43.4
Others	13.4
Level of studies	
No studies	0.3
Primary studies	15.1
Secondary studies	42.9
University studies	41.7
Net monthly income of the household	
Up to \$700	46.1
\$701 to \$1000	15.4
\$1001 to \$1500	6.3
\$1501 to \$2500	1.7
Over \$2500	1.5
No answer	29.0
Occupation	
Business owner	7.0
Employee	27.3
Housework	20.0
Unemployed	5.5
Retired	4.1
Student	24.0
Others	12.1

Table 1: Sociodemographic variables.

3.2) MEASUREMENT OF CONSTRUCTS

The measurement scales of the constructs, validated in previous studies, were adapted to the context of our study (Appendix B). The questionnaire was reviewed by four experts and a validation was carried out with a sample of residents.

The attitude towards the development of religious tourism, dependent variable used in this research, was measured using 4 items adapted from Kang and Lee (2018) and Woosnam et al. (2018). Place attachment, independent variable, included four dimensions: place dependence, place identity, affection attachment and social bonding. Specifically, place dependence was measured using four items adapted from Blasco et al. (2018), Chen and Dwyer (2018) and Lee (2013); place identity and affection attachment were measured using, for each dimension, three items adapted

from Blasco et al. (2018) and Lee (2013); and social bonding was measured using three items adapted from Chen and Dwyer (2018). The perceived impacts of tourism, independent variable, included three dimensions: economic impacts, socio-cultural impacts and environmental impacts. In this case, the scale of each dimension, each of them with 4 or 5 items, was adapted from Styliadis and Terzidou (2014). The constructs were measured on 5-point Likert scales (from strongly disagree to strongly agree), except for perceived impacts of tourism which were measured using a 5-point bipolar scale (from strongly negative to strongly positive).

The moderating variable, personal benefit derived from tourism, was measured using one item adapted from Vargas-Sánchez et al. (2014) (Do you personally benefit from the development of religious tourism in Montecristi?) on a 5-point Likert scale (from nothing much).

3.3) DATA ANALYSIS

PLS-SEM was used to estimate the model proposed (Wold, 1985; Tenenhaus et al., 2005). Unlike the covariance-based approach (CB-SEM), PLS-SEM does not require normally distributed data, handles complex models, easily including formatively measured constructs, and is more appropriate when the aim of the research is exploration rather than confirmation (Hair et al., 2014).

In this study, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov normality test showed that the data are non-normally distributed. However, the absolute values of skewness and kurtosis were not greater than 1, indicating that the data are not extremely far from normal (Hair et al., 2014) (see Table 2), as recommended. Moreover, this study was composed of a combination of reflective and formative measures. In particular, “support for tourism development” was a reflective first-order construct, while “place attachment” and “perceived impacts” were higher-order reflective-formative models (formative second-order constructs, with their dimensions as reflective first-order constructs). Previous literature supports the multidimensional approach and the second-order structure of both place attachment (Blasco et al., 2018; Ramkissoon et al., 2013b) and perceived impacts (Gannon et al., 2021; Rasoolimanesh, Noor and Jaafar 2019). More specifically, both constructs were formative second order constructs since their dimensions represent defining characteristics that collectively explain the meaning of the construct. Unlike reflective constructs, in which the

direction of arrows and causality is from construct to indicate, with highly correlated indicators and interchangeable indicators; in a formative construct, the measures jointly influence the construct, and meaning is derived from the measures to the construct. Therefore, for this type of constructs, the measures are not assumed to be determined or caused by the construct, and the measures are not required to be correlated. In addition, eliminating a measure may exclude a unique aspect of the conceptual domain, altering the meaning of the construct. The measures are not necessarily interchangeable and each measure may capture a unique part of the conceptual domain (MacKenzie, Podsakoff and Jarvis, 2005). These formative second order constructs were built following the superblock method or repeated indicators method (Tenenhaus et al., 2005), a hierarchical component approach.

The common method bias was tested using Harman's single factor approach. As the first factor accounted for 37.95% of the variance, being under the cut off of 50%, the common method bias was not a serious concern in this study (Podsakoff et al., 2003).

4. RESULTS

A two-step procedure (measurement model and structural model) is used to test the model (Anderson and Gerbing, 1988).

4.1) EVALUATION OF THE MEASUREMENT MODELS

Table 2 shows the adequate psychometric properties of the scales used to measure the eight reflective first-order constructs. The reliability analysis of the indicators showed that all of them have a factor loading over 0.70, the recommended minimum value, indicating that constructs explain over 50% of the indicator's variance (Hair et al., 2014). The internal consistency analysis of each construct showed that all Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability values are over 0.7, the recommended minimum value (Cronbach, 1951; Nunnally and Bernstein, 1994). In addition, convergent validity was tested since all the constructs obtained an average variance extracted (AVE) over 0.5, as recommended, indicating that on average constructs explain over 50 of the variance of its items (Fornier and Larcker, 1981).

	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis	Loading	Cronbach's α	Composite Reliability	AVE
Place Dependence: PD						0.908	0.937	0.789
PD1	3,910	0,824	-0,384	-0,138	0.867			
PD2	3,861	0,814	-0,559	0,294	0.913			
PD3	3,924	0,877	-0,704	0,481	0.911			
PD4	3,915	0,949	-0,796	0,424	0.860			
Place Identity: PI						0.891	0.933	0.823
PI1	3,937	0,865	-0,650	0,344	0.904			
PI2	3,934	0,894	-0,653	0,259	0.925			
PI3	3,883	0,952	-0,705	0,323	0.892			
Affection Attachment: AA						0.878	0.925	0.804
AA1	3,915	0,876	-0,469	-0,263	0.893			
AA2	3,868	0,902	-0,541	0,050	0.914			
AA3	3,876	0,877	-0,585	0,280	0.882			
Social Bonding: SB						0.862	0.916	0.785
SB1	3,854	0,937	-0,618	0,132	0.886			
SB2	3,766	0,945	-0,529	-0,114	0.905			
SB3	3,785	1,000	-0,605	-0,179	0.866			
Economic Impacts: ECI						0.885	0.916	0.686
ECI1	3,724	0,800	-0,067	-0,262	0.799			
ECI2	3,771	0,789	-0,321	0,234	0.838			
ECI3	3,607	0,856	-0,114	-0,166	0.878			
ECI4	3,732	0,810	-0,333	0,125	0.828			
ECI5	3,776	0,818	-0,321	-0,076	0.794			
Socio-cultural Impacts: SCI						0.870	0.906	0.658
SCI1	3,912	0,799	-0,507	0,266	0.804			
SCI2	3,871	0,804	-0,557	0,497	0.842			
SCI3	3,822	0,821	-0,591	0,689	0.832			
SCI4	3,888	0,837	-0,640	0,659	0.791			
SCI5	3,885	0,806	-0,437	0,104	0.786			
Environmental Impacts: ENI						0.937	0.955	0.842
ENI1	3,517	1,047	-0,347	-0,469	0.897			
ENI2	3,573	1,023	-0,391	-0,375	0.923			
ENI3	3,593	1,015	-0,360	-0,489	0.939			
ENI4	3,580	1,013	-0,320	-0,562	0.911			
Attitude towards Tourism Development: ATD						0.791	0.878	0.705
ATD1	4,051	0,779	-0,527	0,069	0.814			
ATD2	4,059	0,843	-0,751	0,600	0.867			
ATD3	4,241	0,784	-0,882	0,720	0.838			

Table 2: Assessment of the measurement model.

The discriminant validity of the constructs was tested. The AVE square root for each construct was higher than the correlations between that construct and the other constructs of the model (Table 3) (Fornell and Larcker, 1981). The cross loadings matrix also confirmed that the indicators of each dimension were more strongly

correlated with its construct than with the other constructs in the model (Hair et al., 2014).

	PD	PI	AA	SB	ECI	SCI	ENI	ATD
Place Dependence: PD	0.888							
Place Identity: PI	0.814	0.907						
Affection Attachment: AA	0.722	0.797	0.896					
Social Bonding: SB	0.576	0.597	0.676	0.886				
Economic Impacts: ECI	0.472	0.433	0.462	0.384	0.828			
Socio-cultural Impacts: SCI	0.465	0.442	0.476	0.391	0.704	0.811		
Environmental Impacts: ENI	0.243	0.292	0.331	0.445	0.380	0.434	0.918	
Attitude towards Tourism Development: ATD	0.398	0.387	0.389	0.274	0.479	0.511	0.227	0.840

Note: Diagonal values (in bold): Square root of AVE.

Table 3: Discriminant validity analysis: correlations between constructs and AVE square root.

Table 4 shows how place attachment and perceived impact are appropriately measured by second-order formative models with four and three dimensions, respectively. As expected, the weights of the first-order constructs were higher than 0.1, and all of them were significant (Lohmöller, 1989). The variance inflation factor (VIF), which estimates the degree of multicollinearity, was always lower than the recommended value of 5 (Hair et al., 2014).

Second-order Constructs	First-order Dimensions	Weights	T	Pr > t	VIF
Place attachment	Place dependence	0.348	1941.332	0.0000	3.145
	Place identity	0.277	1355.642	0.0000	4.065
	Affection attachment	0.273	1469.613	0.0000	3.378
	Social bonding	0.234	1678.186	0.0000	1.901
Perceived impacts	Economic impacts	0.438	2365.839	0.0000	2.008
	Socio-cultural impacts	0.433	2287.031	0.0000	2.119
	Environmental impacts	0.338	2341.505	0.0000	1.250

Table 4: Estimates of the (formative) parameters of the second-order model.

4.2) EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURAL MODEL

After examining the properties of the scales, the research model proposed was tested, without considering the moderating effect of the personal benefit. Figure 2 shows the results of the structural model. The explained variance of the attitude towards the development of religious tourism shows an acceptable level ($R^2 = 0.291$), higher than 0.10 (Falk and Miller, 1992), and Stone-Geisser Q^2 value is adequate ($Q^2 > 0$) (Hair et al., 2014). Consequently, the predictive power of the model is acceptable.

H1, H2 and H3 are supported as coefficients are positive and significant. Regarding the role of place attachment, the results show that it has a direct influence on the attitude towards tourism development (β *Place attachment* --> *Attitude towards tourism development*: 0.184; $p < 0.001$), but mainly through the perceived impacts (total effect: 0.232). According to the procedure of mediation analysis proposed by Hair et al. (2014), 55.89% of the effect of place attachment on the attitude towards tourism development can be explained by the mediator perceived impacts. This mediation is a partial mediation as the Variance Accounted For (VAF) is higher than 20% but lower than 80%.

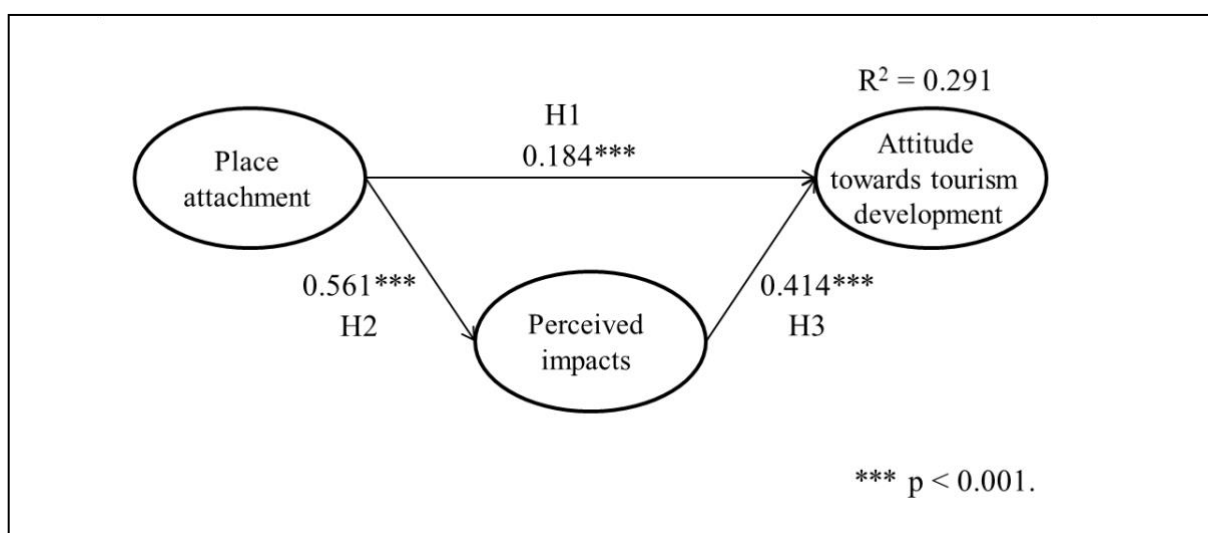


Figure 2: Results of the PLS analysis.

To consider the moderating effect of the personal benefit (low or high personal benefit), after measurement invariance examining, the structural model was estimated using permutation-based multigroup analysis (Vinzi, Trinchera and Amato 2010).

Measurement model invariance was tested through the Measurement Invariance of Composite Models (MICOM) approach (Henseler, Ringle and Sarstedt, 2016). This approach involves 3 steps: 1) configural invariance (i.e., equal parameterization and way of estimation), 2) compositional invariance (i.e., equal indicator weights), and 3) full measurement invariance (i.e., equal means and variances). Table 5 shows MICOM results. Configural invariance of each construct was established since items per construct, data treatment and algorithm settings were identical. With respect to the compositional invariance of the constructs, in order to ensure that, despite

possible differences in path coefficients across the groups, the constructs had been formed in the same way, a one-tailed permutation test was run at 5% significance level and with 5000 permutations. Then, after computing the correlation between composite scores, the null hypothesis that this correlation was equal to one was tested. Compositional invariance was established since permutation p-values were nonsignificant for each measurement model. Regarding full measurement invariance, the equality of the composites' mean values and variances was assessed. Results showed that full measurement invariance was established only for perceived impacts. However, in the case of place attachment and attitude, since configural and compositional invariance had been established, partial measurement invariance was confirmed and, therefore, group comparison was feasible (Henseler et al., 2016).

Constructs	Configural invariance	Compositional invariance assessment			Full measurement model invariance assessment						
		Original correlation	0.05	Compositional invariance	Mean difference	Confidence interval	Equality of means	Variance difference	Confidence interval	Equality of variances	Full measurement invariance
Place attachment	Yes	0.999	0.996	Yes	-0.265	(-0.188, 0.181)	No	0.372	(-0.298, 0.324)	No	No
Perceived impacts	Yes	0.999	0.999	Yes	-0.001	(-0.186, 0.165)	Yes	0.096	(-0.326, 0.351)	Yes	Yes
Attitude	Yes	1.000	0.999	Yes	-0.149	(-0.178, 0.180)	Yes	0.423	(-0.330, 0.373)	No	No

Table 5: MICOM results.

Regarding multigroup analysis, Figure 3 shows the results of path differences across groups for all the relationships of the model. H4 is not supported. Although the coefficient values are in the expected direction, differences are not significant (β Place attachment \rightarrow Attitude towards tourism development, High personal benefit: 0.198 vs. β Place attachment \rightarrow Attitude towards tourism development, Low personal benefit: 0.168; $p = 0.792$). The results also do not support H5, as the coefficient values are not in the expected direction and differences are not significant (β Place attachment \rightarrow Perceived impacts, High personal benefit: 0.507 vs. β Place attachment \rightarrow Perceived impacts, Low personal benefit: 0.576; $p = 0.505$). In addition, the results do not support H6, as differences are significant, but the coefficient values are not in the expected direction (β Perceived impacts \rightarrow Attitude towards tourism development, High personal benefit: 0.205 vs. β Perceived impacts \rightarrow Attitude towards tourism development, Low personal benefit: 0.479; $p = 0.020$).

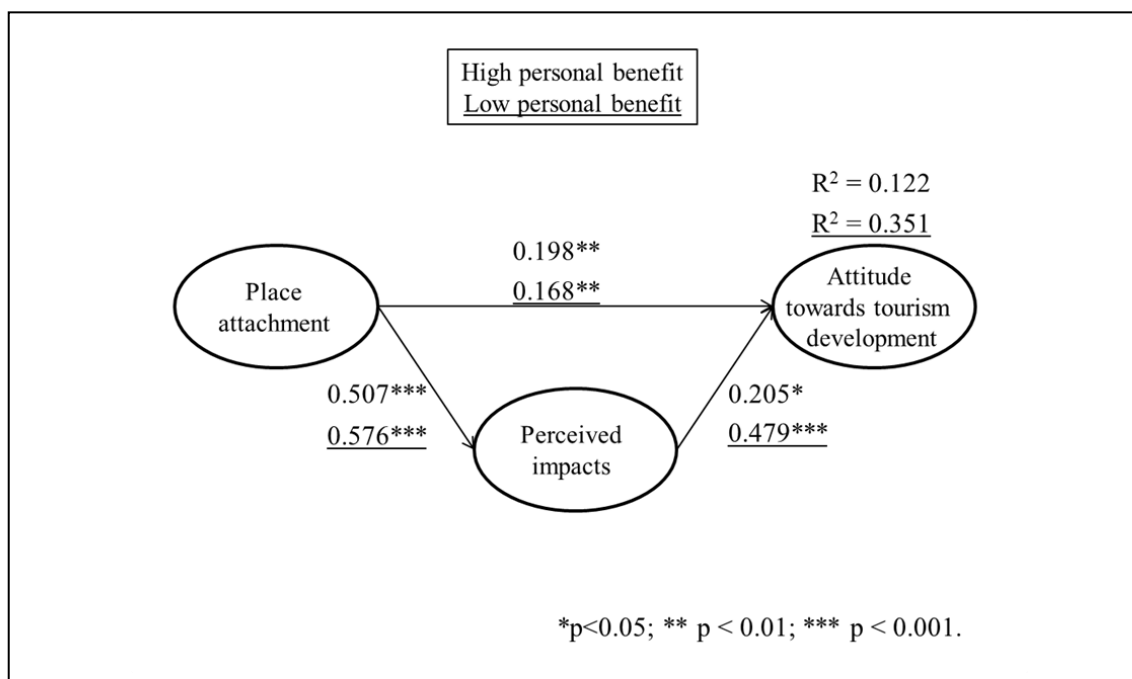


Figure 3: Estimated model of the attitude towards development of religious tourism (with groups).

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This research demonstrates the need for further analysis on the formation of residents' attitude towards development of religious tourism. There are few works in the literature on understanding how residents' attitude towards the development of this type of tourism is formed (Shtudiner et al., 2018; Terzidou et al., 2008; Uriely et al., 2003), especially there are no previous studies within the context of predominantly Catholic destinations or Latin American destinations, and the

residents' attitude in sacred destinations is especially important for tourism planning (Shtudiner et al., 2018). This research has considered the role of residents' place attachment and perceived impacts as antecedents to their attitude towards the development of religious tourism. More specifically, the objective of this research is to propose and validate a model that includes (1) residents' place attachment, considered as a multidimensional concept, as antecedent of the attitude towards the development of religious tourism, (2) the perceived impacts, considered as a multidimensional concept, as a mediator between residents' place attachment and attitude towards the development of religious tourism, and (3) the moderating effect of residents' personal benefit.

Firstly, the results of this research show that residents' place attachment has a positive and significant effect on the attitude towards the development of religious tourism, in line with previous works considering other types of tourism (e.g. Eusébio et al., 2018). Residents with a stronger place attachment will tend to have a more favourable attitude towards the development of religious tourism. These results are an advance in literature, where diverse results are found (Vargas-Sánchez et al., 2015). Furthermore, research considering the multidimensional nature of place attachment is limited (Lee, 2013) and this paper also addresses a specific type of tourism – religious tourism.

Secondly, the results of this research show that place attachment has a significant and positive influence on the perceived impacts of religious tourism. This is another advance in literature, where diverse results are found (Stylidis, 2018). This research is the first attempt to consider simultaneously place attachment and perceived impacts as multidimensional concepts of four and three dimensions, respectively, in a model to explain the formation process of residents' attitudes towards the tourism development. Considering these dimensions allows a deep understanding of the residents' relationships with the place where they live and the perceived impacts. The findings by Gannon et al. (2021) support our results by pointing out a positive and significant relationship between place attachment and perceived impacts. Residents with a stronger place attachment will tend to perceive more positively the impacts derived from tourism. Moreover, our results are partially in line with previous research that affirms that residents attached to their place of residence are more likely to evaluate the impacts derived from tourism in a more positive way (Nugroho and Numata, 2022). Our results are also partially in line with previous research that states

that attachment has a significant influence on the benefits, but not on the perceived costs (Lee, 2013). In addition, our findings are an advance in literature as this research involves religious tourism specifically.

Thirdly, the results show that the perceived impacts of religious tourism have a positive and significant effect on the attitude towards the development of religious tourism, in line with previous literature that has shown similar results for other types of tourism (e.g. Vargas-Sánchez et al., 2009), advancing in literature as it considers a specific type of tourism (religious tourism). Those residents who perceive more positively the impacts of tourism tend to have a more favourable attitude towards the development of religious tourism.

Fourthly, this research tests the moderating role of personal benefit derived from religious tourism. Our findings show that personal benefit does not moderate the relationship between attachment and attitude towards the development of religious tourism or between place attachment and perceived impacts. The results show that the influence of perceived impacts on the attitude towards the development of religious tourism is higher in those residents with a lower personal benefit than in those residents with a higher personal benefit. These findings contradict the social exchange theory and what could be expected considering previous studies that point out that the higher the personal benefit derived from tourism for the residents, the higher their support for tourism development (McGehee and Andereck, 2004). Nevertheless, our results are in line with what could be expected considering the results obtained by Vargas-Sánchez et al. (2009). According to Teye et al. (2002), the negative experiences of residents employed in the tourism sector may lead to less positive perceptions towards the development of religious tourism in their place of residence. Nevertheless, the personal benefit derived from tourism may also be linked to a greater knowledge of the sector and, consequently, to a greater awareness of the evolution of the area as a tourist destination. According to the tourism area life cycle theory (Butler, 1980), as the cycle of evolution of a destination progresses, residents' perception of the economic, social and environmental effects lead to less support for tourism (Martin and Uysal, 1990). Similarly, the Irridex model (Doxey, 1975) also confirms the idea that the presence of tourists becomes a cause of continuous tension for the community as destinations evolve. Moreover, the constant presence of tourists exerts a significant pressure on the residents. Consequently, residents' feelings and perceptions become increasingly negative.

Overall, this research is one of the first studies that consider simultaneously place attachment and perceived impacts as multidimensional concepts that contribute to the residents' attitude towards the tourism development, as well as one of the first studies that examine the moderating effect of the personal benefit derived from tourism in the relationships proposed. In addition, this study provides empirical support to improve the understanding of the residents' attitudes towards the development tourism in contexts of religious tourism as well as in predominantly Catholic contexts and Latin American contexts.

5.1) *MANAGERIAL IMPLICATIONS*

The results revealed the direct and indirect effects of residents' place attachment on their attitude toward development of religious tourism. Consequently, to increase residents' support for religious tourism, tourism planners and managers should develop programmes to promote place attachment. These programmes could be oriented towards the increase of each of the four dimensions: place dependence, place identity, affection attachment and social bonding. For instance, local authorities could organize more community activities to improve residents' quality of life or develop community facilities to favour the network of neighbour relationships and increase the residents' bond with the community.

Another way to favour place attachment is by encouraging cultural involvement, organizing more cultural activities (events or festivals) that reflect a place's authentic community culture in order to have communicating platforms for local community to improve their knowledge about local traditions and cultures (Li et al., 2021). Moreover, local traditions and cultures can be transmitted through traditional local media, such as magazines, newspapers, documentaries, TV programs or radio programs. Social media can also be an effective tool. Social networking sites can be used, not only to promote local culture and history, but also to improve community-to-community communications or promote community participation (Kuo et al., 2021).

Moreover, according to Mazumdar and Mazumdar (2004), even religion can play a key role in the development of place attachment, as the location is an integral component of many religions. For example, place attachment can be developed with local rituals, the appreciation of local artefacts, and with the exposure to relevant local experiences. Stories, myths, songs and hymns are key strategies for the

development of place attachment. These actions should be addressed mainly to residents with a low to moderate attachment level in order to improve their attachment to Montecristi.

Furthermore, results confirmed that perceived impact of tourism has a partial mediating effect between place attachment and support for religious tourism. This suggests that, in addition to developing programmes to increase place attachment, tourism planners and managers should develop activities to favour the perceived impacts of religious tourism among residents in order to increase support for religious tourism development. These activities could be aimed at favouring not only the economic impacts, but also the social and environmental impacts, in order to improve the overall impact perception of religious tourism, in particular for those residents who do not personally benefit from tourism, as our findings reveal that, in general, perceived impacts tend to generate a more favourable attitude towards tourism development, especially in residents with a lower personal benefit in comparison with residents with a higher personal benefit. For example, tourism planners and managers could develop communication actions addressed to the residents with a lower personal benefit in order to help them understand about the benefits of religious tourism as a significant strategy for the development of the destination rather than as a source of personal benefits. It could be the case of a website with all the information (Nunkoo and Ramkissoon, 2011), a page or a group on social media platforms or communication actions through traditional media. These actions could favour a positive attitude towards further tourism development, necessary to ensure future sustainability of religious tourism.

5.2) LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

This research presents several limitations. Firstly, this paper only focuses on one Latin American destination of religious (Catholic) tourism. Residents of other religious tourism destinations may have different opinions regarding tourism development. So, this research should be replicated in destinations located in different countries and with different religions. Secondly, this study was performed after a moment of high seasonality. Future research should be carried out during times of high and low seasonality, as residents may answer differently to the tourism development at different moments. Moreover, it would be interesting to examine the validity of the

model for other types of tourism (e.g. urban vs rural), as residents of larger cities may show different levels of place attachment, perceived impacts and attitudes towards tourism development compared with the residents of smaller cities. Other factors should also be considered in further studies as possible mediating factors (e.g., personality) or moderating factors (e.g., residents' utilization of religious tourism resources). In addition, future studies should carry out a qualitative approach in order to identify why some of the proposed hypothesis in our study were not supported (Silva, Brandão and Sousa, 2019; Unurlu, 2021). Finally, as the data was collected in 2018, the data is now obsolete and future research should replicate this study with current data. Furthermore, considering the deep impact of COVID-19 on tourism and on residents' daily life, and the acute global economic crisis, it is possible that nowadays the effects of place attachment and perceived impacts on the attitudes towards the development of religious tourism have changed. Further studies should replicate this research after the COVID-19 outbreak to consider the effects of the pandemic.

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Appendix A. Literature review on the relationship between place attachment and perceived impacts and/or attitude towards tourism

Author (year)	Area	Type of tourism	Variables	Hypotheses	Supported hypotheses
McCool and Martin (1994)	Montana (USA)	Mass tourism	Community attachment, attitudes toward tourism development (positive benefits, negative impacts, costs and equity, benefits distribution)	-Community attachment → Positive benefits (+)	✓
				-Community attachment → Benefits distribution (+)	✓
				-Community attachment → Negative impacts (-)	✓
				-Community attachment → Costs and equity (-)	✓
Jurowski et al. (1997)	Virginia (USA)	Nature-based tourism	Community attachment, economic gain, perceived economic impact, perceived social impact, perceived environmental impact, support for nature-based tourism	-Community attachment → Perceived economic impact (+)	
				-Community attachment → Perceived social impact (+)	
				-Community attachment → Perceived environmental impact (+)	
				-Economic gain → Perceived economic impact (-)	✓
				-Economic gain → Perceived social impact (+)	✓
				-Economic gain → Perceived environmental impact (+)	
				-Economic gain, Perceived economic impact, Perceived social impact → Support for nature-based tourism (+)	✓
-Community attachment, perceived environmental impact → Support for nature-based tourism (+)					
Deccio and Baloglu (2002)	Utah (USA)	Mega-Event	Community attachment, economic gain, perceived opportunities, perceived concerns, support for Mega-Event	-Economic gain → Perceived opportunities (+)	✓
				-Community attachment → Perceived opportunities (+)	
				-Economic gain, community attachment → Perceived concerns (+)	✓
				-Economic gain, perceived opportunities → Support for Mega-Event (+)	✓
Gursoy et al. (2002)	Virginia (USA)	Cultural tourism	Community attachment, perceived benefits, perceived costs, community support for cultural tourism	-Perceived benefits → Support for tourism (+)	✓
				-Perceived costs → Support for tourism (-)	✓
				-Community attachment → perceived benefits (+)	
				-Community attachment → perceived costs (-)	
				-Community attachment → Support for tourism (+)	
Gursoy and Rutherford	Washington and Idaho	Sustainable tourism	Community attachment, economic benefits, social benefits, cultural benefits,	-Community attachment → Economic benefits	✓
				-Community attachment (+), economic benefits, cultural costs (-) → Social benefits	✓

(2004)	(USA)		social costs, cultural costs, community support for tourism development	-Community attachment → Social costs (-)	
				-Community attachment → cultural costs (-)	
				-Community attachment → cultural benefits (+)	
				-Cultural costs → Cultural benefits (-)	✓
				-Economic benefits → Social costs (-)	✓
				-Economic benefits (-), social costs (+) → Cultural costs	✓
				-Community attachment, economic benefits, cultural benefits → Support for tourism (+)	✓
				-Social costs (-), social benefits (+), cultural costs (-) → Support for tourism	
Gursoy and Kendall (2006)	Utah (USA)	Mega-Event	Community attachment, perceived benefits, perceived costs, support for Mega Events	-Community attachment → Perceived benefits (+)	✓
				-Community attachment → Perceived costs (+)	
				-Perceived benefits ↔ Perceived costs (-)	✓
				-Perceived benefits → Support for Mega-Events (+)	✓
				-Perceived costs → Support for Mega-Events (-)	
Nicholas et al. (2009)	Santa Lucia	Sustainable tourism	Community attachment, perception of PMA (Pitons Management Area), support for sustainable tourism development	-Community attachment → Perceptions about the PMA (+)	✓
				-Community attachment, perceptions about the PMA → Support for sustainable tourism development (+)	✓
Chen and Chen (2010)	Tainan (Taiwan)	Heritage tourism	Community attachment, economic dependence, positive impact, negative impact, support for tourism development	-Community attachment, economic dependence → Positive impact (+)	✓
				-Community attachment, economic dependence → Negative impact (-)	
				-Community attachment (+), positive impact (+), negative impact (-) → Support for tourism	✓
				-Economic dependence → Support for tourism (+)	
Choi and Murray (2010)	Texas (USA)	Sustainable community tourism	Community attachment, positive impacts, negative impacts, support for tourism	-Community attachment → Positive impacts (+)	✓
				-Community attachment → Negative impacts (-)	✓
				-Community attachment (+), positive impacts (+), negative impacts (-) → Support for tourism	✓
Gursoy et al. (2010)	Sunshine Coast (Australia)	Mass tourism and alternative tourism	Community attachment, economic benefits, social benefits, cultural benefits, socio-economic costs, social costs, community support or opposition for conventional mass tourism development,	-Socio-economic costs (-), cultural benefits (+), social costs (+) → Social benefits	✓
				-Economic benefits (+), socio-economic costs (-) → Cultural benefits	✓
				-Community attachment (+), economic benefits (-) → Socio-economic costs	✓
				-Socio-economic costs → Social costs (+)	✓
				-Community attachment → Economic benefits (-)	

			community support or opposition for alternative tourism development	-Community attachment → social benefits (-)	
				-Community attachment → social costs (+)	
				-Community attachment → Cultural benefits (-)	
				-Community attachment (+), economic benefits (+), socio-economic costs (-) → Support for mass tourism	✓
				-Economic benefits (+), cultural benefits (+), social costs (-) → Support for alternative tourism	✓
				- Social benefits (+), cultural benefits (+), social costs (-) → Support for mass tourism	
				-Community attachment (+). Socio-economic costs (-), social benefits (+) → Support for alternative tourism	
Chen and Raab (2012)	Connecticut (USA)	Community tourism	Attachment, personal gain, perceived benefits, perceived costs, attitude, intention	-Attachment, personal gain → Perceived benefits (+)	✓
				-Attachment → Perceived costs (-)	
				-Personal gain → Perceived costs (-)	✓
				-Perceived benefits (+), perceived costs (-) → Attitude	✓
				-Attitude → Intention (+)	✓
Látková and Vogt (2012)	Michigan (USA)	Rural tourism	Community attachment, personal benefits from tourism, perceived positive impacts, perceived negative impacts, support for future tourism development	Three countries with different stages of tourism and economic development. Hypothesis in all three countries: -Personal benefits from tourism → Perceived positive impacts (+) -Personal benefits from tourism → Perceived negative impacts (-) -Perceived positive impacts (+), Perceived negative impacts (-) → Support for future tourism	✓
				In the two countries with the lowest level of tourism development: -Community Attachment → Perceived positive impacts (+)	✓
				In the countries with the highest and lowest levels of tourism development: -Personal benefits from tourism → Support for future tourism (+)	✓
				In all three countries: -Community attachment → Perceived negative impacts (+)	
Lee (2013)	Cigu wetland (Taiwan)	Sustainable tourism	Community attachment, perceived benefits, perceived costs, support for sustainable tourism development	-Community attachment → Perceived benefits (+)	✓
				-Community attachment → costs benefits (-)	
				-Community attachment (+), perceived benefits (+), perceived costs (-) → Support for sustainable tourism development	✓

Vargas-Sánchez et al. (2014)	Huelva (Spain)	Mass tourism	Personal benefit, perception of impacts, community attachment, attitude toward tourism, seasonality	High Season: -Personal benefit → Perception of impacts (+) -Personal benefits (+), perception of impacts (+), community attachment (-) → Attitude Low Season: -Personal benefit → Perception of impacts (+) -Personal benefits, perception of impacts → Attitude (+)	✓
				Low Season: -Community attachment → Attitude	
Vargas-Sánchez et al. (2015)	Huelva (Spain) and Algarve (Portugal)	Mass tourism	Personal benefits, perception of positive impacts, perception of negative impacts, community attachment, residents' attitudes, stage of life cycle	HUELVA: earlier stage of tourism development -Personal benefits → Perception of positive impacts (+) -Personal benefits → Perception of negative impacts (-) -Personal benefits (+), perception of positive impacts (+), perception of negative impacts (-), community attachment (-) → Attitude ALGARVE: stage of stagnation -Personal benefits (+), community attachment (+) → Perception of positive impacts -Community attachment (-) → Perception of negative impacts -Personal benefits (+), perception of positive impacts (+), perception of negative impacts (-) → Attitude	✓
				HUELVA: earlier stage of tourism development Community attachment → Perception of positive impacts (+) Community attachment → Perception of negative impacts (-) ALGARVE: stage of stagnation -Personal benefits → Perception of negative impacts (+) -Community attachment → Attitude (+)	
Luo and Xiao (2017)	Hong Kong (China)	Non-casino gaming tourism	Community attachment, perceived positive social impacts, perceived positive economic impacts, perceived negative social impacts, perceived negative environmental impacts, support level	-Community attachment → Perceived negative environmental impacts	✓
				-Community attachment → Perceived positive social impacts	
				-Community attachment, perceived positive social impacts, perceived negative environmental impacts → Support level	✓
Rasoolimanesh et al. (2017)	Penang (Malaysia)	Sustainable tourism	Community attachment, positive perceptions, negative perceptions, Support	-Community attachment → Positive perceptions (+)	
				-Community attachment → Negative perceptions (+)	✓

			for tourism development and conservation of World Heritage Sites (WHS)	-Positive perceptions → Support for tourism development and conservation of WHS (+)	✓
				-Negative perceptions → Support for tourism development and conservation of WHS (-)	
Eusébio et al. (2018)	Boa Vista Island (Cape Verde)	Island tourism	Place attachment, positive impacts, negative impacts, residents' attitudes towards tourism development	-Place attachment → Positive impacts perceived (+)	✓
				-Place attachment → Negative impacts perceived (-)	✓
				-Place attachment (+), positive impacts perceived (+), negative impacts perceived (-) → Residents' attitudes towards tourism development	✓
Blasco et al. (2018)	Trujillo (Peru)	Archaeological tourism	Community attachment, perceived benefits, residents' support	-Place attachment → Negative impacts perceived (-)	✓
				-Place attachment (+), positive impacts perceived (+), negative impacts perceived (-) → Residents' attitudes towards tourism development	✓
Eslami et al. (2019)	Langkawi Island (Malaysia)	Sustainable tourism	Community attachment, perceived environmental impacts, perceived sociocultural impacts, perceived economic impacts	-Community attachment → Perceived environmental impacts	✓
				-Community attachment → Perceived sociocultural impacts	✓
				-Community attachment → Perceived economic impacts	✓
Gursoy et al. (2019)	-	-	Personal benefits, economic dependence of tourism, community attachment, perceived benefits, perceived costs, perceived economic impacts, perceived socio-cultural impacts, perceived environmental impacts, overall perceptions of tourism impacts, support for tourism development	-Perceived benefits (+), perceived costs (-) → Support for tourism development	✓
				-Perceived economic impacts, perceived socio-cultural impacts → Support for tourism development (+)	✓
				-Overall perceptions of tourism impacts → Support for tourism development (+)	✓
				-Community attachment, personal benefits, economic dependence of tourism → Perceived benefits (+)	✓
				-Community attachment, personal benefits, economic dependence of tourism → Perceived costs (-)	
				-Perceived environmental impacts → Support for tourism development (+)	
Ganji et al. (2020)	Isfahan (Iran)	Mass tourism	Place attachment, support for tourism development	-Place attachment → support for tourism development (+)	
Gannon et al. (2021)	Kashan and Tabriz (Iran)	Mass tourism	Community attachment, economic gain, residents' perceptions, support for tourism	-Community attachment, economic gain → Residents' perceptions (+)	✓
				-Residents' perceptions → Support for tourism (+)	✓
				-Community attachment → Residents' perceptions → Support for tourism (+)	✓
				-Economic gain → Residents' perceptions → Support for tourism (+)	✓
				-Community attachment → Support for tourism (+)	
				-Economic gain → Support for tourism (+)	

Hateftabar and Chapuis (2020)	Isfahan (Iran)	Mass tourism	Place attachment, economic benefits, positive impacts, negative impacts, support for tourism development	-Economic benefits → Positive impacts (+)	✓
				-Economic benefits → Negative impacts (-)	✓
				-Place attachment (+), positive impacts (+), negative impacts (-) → Support for tourism development	✓
				-Place attachment → Positive impacts (+)	
				-Place attachment → Negative impacts (-)	
Lee et al. (2020)	Vietnam	Casino tourism	Community attachment, support of tourism development	-Community attachment → Support of tourism development	✓
Stylidis (2020)	Eilat (Israel)	Mass tourism	Place attachment, support for tourism, tourism employment	-Place attachment → Support for tourism	
				Tourism employment moderating: Place attachment → Support for tourism	
Wang et al. (2020)	Guizhou (China)	Ethnic tourism	Place identification, place dependence, perceived benefits, perceived costs, support for tourism	-Perceived benefits (+), perceived costs (-) → Place identification	✓
				-Perceived benefits (+), perceived costs (-) → Place dependence	✓
				-Place identification (+), place dependence (+) → Support for tourism	✓
				-Perceived benefits (+), perceived costs (-) → Support for tourism	
Alrwajfah et al (2021)	Petra (Jordan)	World Heritage Site	Community attachment, perceived economic benefits, perceived environmental benefits, perceived socio-cultural benefits	-Community attachment → Perceived economic benefits	
				-Community attachment → Perceived environmental benefits	✓
				-Community attachment → Perceived socio-cultural benefits	
Li et al. (2021)	Xitang and Wuzhen (China)	Mass tourism	Place attachment, attitudes toward tourism development	-Place attachment (+) → Attitudes toward tourism development	✓
Shen & Shen (2021)	Hongcun (China)	Mass tourism	Place attachment, behavioural intention to support tourism	-Place attachment (+) → Behavioural intention to support tourism	✓
Dimitrovski et al (2022)	Barcelona (Spain)	Mass tourism	Community attachment, perceived benefits, perceived costs, support for tourism development	-Community attachment (+) → Perceived benefits	✓
				-Community attachment (-) → Perceived costs	
				-Perceived benefits (+), perceived costs (-) → Support for tourism development	✓
				-Community attachment (+) → Support for tourism development	
Eluwole et al. (2022)	Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe)	Festival tourism	Community attachment, festival support	-Community attachment (+) → Festival support	✓
Kamata (2022)	Sapporo, Naha, Kyoto	Mass tourism	Place attachment, positive impact, negative impact, attitude	-Place attachment (+) → Positive impact	✓
				-Place attachment (-) → Negative impact	✓

	and Kanazawa (Japan).			-Positive impact (+), Negative impact (-) → Attitude	✓
Nugroho & Numata (2022)	12 villages in Indonesia	Community-based tourism	Community Attachment, Perceived Costs, Perceived Benefits, Support of Tourism Development	Community Attachment (-) → Perceived Costs	✓
				Community Attachment (+) → Perceived Benefits	✓
				Community Attachment (+) → Support of Tourism Development	
				Perceived Costs (-), Perceived Benefits (+) → Support of Tourism Development	✓
Orgaz-Agüera et al. (2022)	Santiago de los Caballeros (Dominican Republic)	Sustainable tourism	Community attachment, support for sustainable tourism	-Community Attachment (+)→ Support for sustainable tourism	✓
Castro et al. (2023)	Seville (Spain)	Film tourism	Positive socio-cultural impacts of existing tourism, negative socio-cultural impacts of existing tourism, place attachment, support for future film tourism	Positive socio-cultural impacts of existing tourism (+), negative socio-cultural impacts of existing tourism (-), place attachment (+) → Support for future film tourism	✓

Note: this appendix does not include those papers that measure attachment by considering duration of residence or place of birth, as they are not adequate measures (Gursoy and Rutherford, 2004; McCool and Martin, 1994).

Source: own elaboration.

Appendix B. Measurement scales

Construct	Source	Items
Place dependence	Adapted from Lee (2013), Blasco et al. (2018), Chen and Dwyer (2018)	Montecristi is my favourite place to be
		I prefer living in Montecristi over other communities
		I enjoy living in Montecristi more than other communities
		I really miss Montecristi when I am away from it for too long
Place identity	Adapted from Lee (2013), Blasco et al. (2018)	I identify the living in Montecristi
		I feel that Montecristi is a part of me
		Living in Montecristi says a lot about who I am
Affection attachment	Adapted from Lee (2013), Blasco et al. (2018)	Living in this community means a lot to me
		I am very attached and committed to Montecristi
		I feel a strong sense of belonging to Montecristi
Social bonding	Adapted from Chen and Dwyer (2018)	Many of my friends/family prefer Montecristi over other communities
		My friends/family would be disappointed if I were to move from Montecristi
		I were to leave Montecristi, I would lose contact with a number of friends
Economic impacts	Adapted from Stylidis and Terzidou (2014)	Revenue generated in the local economy
		Standard of living
		Number of jobs
		Infrastructure
		Price of goods and services
Socio-cultural impacts	Adapted from Stylidis and Terzidou (2014)	Opportunity to meet people from other cultures
		Cultural actives/entertainment
		Availability of recreational facilities
		Quality of public services (fire, police...)
		Community spirit among local residents
Environmental impacts	Adapted from Stylidis and Terzidou (2014)	Environmental pollution
		Noise levels
		Crowding
		Traffic congestions
Residents' attitudes towards development of religious tourism	Adapted from Kang and Lee (2018), Woosnam et al. (2018)	Religious tourism makes Montecristi a better place to live
		Montecristi should remain a destination for religious tourism
		I support the religious tourism in Montecristi

Source: own elaboration.