**Travellers, rights and responsibilities**

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**Abstract**

“Travel remains heavily promoted as an agent of change. Among many other things, it is often claimed to promote learning (e.g. of languages, cultures, history, religions and places); cross-cultural understanding; an awareness of various global issues (e.g. poverty, conflict, migration, trade and power imbalances); environmental consciousness and wellness. It is also believed that these momentary insights can have long-term attitudinal and behavioral implications” (Lean 2012:152).

This paper will discuss the implications of a meeting between Tourists and Refugees (Bauman 1998) on the small Greek Island, Lesbos (Summer 2015). A Danish tour operator encouraged tourists to bring extra luggage filled with clothes, tent, carpets and other necessities which the company would transport to the refugee camps on the island. The travellers/tourists were not meeting the refugees directly, unless they opted for going to the other side of island, but a social interface (Long 2004) was created in this (partly virtual) meeting of different actors, which to some extent may have changed travellers in the ways described by Lean above, especially the power conflicts (between migration control and refugees), conflicts (Syrian refugees), migration (the entry into EU is becoming more and more difficult for refugees and migrants), power imbalances (the Greek government is overwhelmed by refugee influx in the midst of the country’s severe economic crisis and negotiations for new loans from IMF and the rest of the EU) and human rights, since there has been much discussion in the EU concerning refugee rights.

Tourists are meeting refugees more directly at other tourist destinations in Southern Europe, to a larger degree due to the refugee crisis following from the Syrian conflict (and other conflicts), which force people to flee from conflicts. This happens in southern Spain, Southern Italy, Malta and Greece. The ‘meeting’ between these groups of travellers can be discussed from Bauman’s concepts of ‘Tourists and Vagabonds’, and this paper will use these concepts as a guiding argument for the themes discussed. Furthermore Long’s concept of ‘interface’ will be central for the discussion as the concept can open up for a more nuanced discussion of different elements of the ‘meeting’ between different social actors. Human rights will be discussed as it plays out in the conceptualization of new norms for European travellers in their meeting with refugees.