

Reviving calm technology in the e-tourism context

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Abstract: Tourism industry practitioners should understand the controversial nature of the information and communication technology (ICT) proliferation to ensure the ICT solutions do not consume too much of their attention, thus jeopardizing consumer enjoyment of tourism services. The concept of calm technology or calm design serves this purpose. Calm design suggests that technology should quietly recede in the background and come into play with users when and if required, thus delivering and/or enhancing a desired experience. Although this concept is of relevance to e-tourism, until recently, it has never been considered within. This is where this paper contributes to knowledge as, for the first time, it introduces calm design into the e-tourism context and critically evaluates the determinants of its broader adoption within the tourism industry. It positions calm design within the e-tourism realm, discusses its implications for customer service management, supply chain management and destination management, and discloses opportunities for future research.

摘要

旅游业从业人员应了解信息和通信技术扩散的争议性，以确保信息与通信技术解决方案不会消耗他们过多的注意力，从而损害消费者对旅游服务的享受。平静技术或平静设计的概念就是为了这个目的。平静设计表明，技术应该退居幕后，并在用户需要时发挥作用，从而提供和/或增强理想的体验。虽然这一概念与电子旅游相关，但从未在其内部得到考虑。本文的贡献即在于第一次将平静设计引入到电子旅游环境中，并批判性地评估了其在旅游业中广泛采用的决定性因素。本文将平静设计置于电子旅游环境下，讨论其对客户服务管理、供应链管理和目的地管理的影响，并揭示未来研究的机会。

Keywords: calm technology; information and communication technology; tourism industry; supply chain; destination management

关键词：平静技术；信息与通信技术；旅游业；供应链；目的地管理。

Introduction

Information and communication technology (ICT) plays a crucial, and yet controversial, role in tourism. The positive impact of ICT has been systematically examined (Law, Buhalis, & Cobanoglu, 2014; Sigala, 2018) while significantly less attention has been paid to the shortcomings of ICT application in tourism (Dickinson, Hibbert, & Filimonau, 2016; Gretzel, 2014; Paris, Berger, Rubin, & Casson, 2015; Pearce & Gretzel, 2012), alongside the solutions to overcome these. Indeed, with increased ICT uptake, the frictions between the consumer and the desired experience of consuming tourism services can manifest more explicitly and frequently, thus resulting in a number of the human-technology interaction issues (Case, 2015a; Li, 2017; Yoo, Goo, Huang, Nam, & Woo, 2017). For example, the friction can be caused due to user's unfamiliarity with ICT during the time of its first use or because of the misalignment of the ICT solutions with human behavior, i.e. when technology fails to anticipate how consumers will use it (First Round Review, 2017). As a result, some of the most common shortcomings of the ICT application in tourism refer to information overload (Friás, Rodriuez, & Castanda, 2008; Magnini, 2017), technostress (Lee, Chang, Lin, & Cheng, 2014), difficulties in use (Benckendorff, Sheldon, & Fesenmaier, 2014), technological interferences or glitches (Neuhofer, Buhalis, & Ladkin, 2015b), the problem of 'value co-destruction' (Plé & Chumpitaz Cáceres, 2010; Sigala, 2017) or depersonalisation of tourist experiences (Tarlow, 2011). Thus, applying ICT in tourism can hamper the successful delivery of travel and tourist services. For example, a voice-recognition system of a self-check-in kiosk in a busy airport can frustrate (Case, 2015a); and a mobile travel guide application can confuse given that it is packed with generic, and often irrelevant, information (Meehan, Lunney, Curran, & McCaughey, 2013). In essence, by drawing consumers' attention to itself, for a variety of reasons, ICT unnecessarily spends the satisfaction of consuming tourism service.

The above mentioned issues have so far been mostly set aside by ICT developers in the pursuit of short-term profits attributed to increased technology sales or due to the sustained novelty effect assigned to technology use in tourism (Gronflaten, 2009; Guttentag, 2010; Jung, Kim, & Farrish, 2014; Szutowski, 2018). As part of a solution, mostly technical approaches for particular elements of ICT design have been examined (Ballagas et al., 2007; Chiu & Leung, 2005; Manes, 2001; Paganelli, Bianchi, & Giuli, 2007; Petersen & Kofod-Petersen, 2006) or the ICT shortcomings are partially addressed with the improvement of system's quality and its technical reliability, interacting capabilities, or the service itself (Stankov, Filimonau, & Slivar, 2018). The development of ICT itself and the evolution of consumer preferences have diminished previously existing issues. For example, there are more proposals that explore the advantages brought by the context-aware systems, social media & personalisation, and the use of mobile devices for tourism marketing (Buhalis & Foerste, 2015). Various examples of technology enhanced tourist services within the context of smart tourism demonstrate successful co-creation of richer, more personal, meaningful and memorable experiences, that reverse the possible issues of the ICT proliferation in new value propositions (Gretzel, 2014; Law, Chan, & Wang, 2018; Yunpeng Li, Hu, Huang, & Duan, 2017; Neuhofer, 2016; Sigala, 2018). Again, some issues can also be tackled by applying approaches that originate outside the tourism field, such as ambient technology that can be developed for seamless integration of artificial intelligence in all human-populated environments (Cook, Augusto, & Jakkula, 2009). For some consumers, the solution rests in the complete disconnection from technology (Dickinson et al., 2016; Paris et al., 2015).

Interestingly, the potential of the generic ICT design to address the overall issues caused by the ICT prevalence in the e-tourism context remain unexplored. Concurrently, recent evidence suggests that consumers can benefit from better ICT design (Lim et al., 2018; Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018) as it could prevent the unwanted consumption of their attention (Ooi,

2005) imposed by ICT frictions. Due to the diminished complexity and improved familiarity with technology, the reduced user's focus on technology may be required to ensure that main attention is paid to the actual tourist service (Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018). However, the technological intensity of tourism cannot be denied which implies that tourism providers should foresee the growing demand for technology and supply the viable ICT solutions to catch this demand.

Paradoxically, a solution to the technology shortcomings within the e-tourism realm may rest within the technology itself (Case, 2015a; Weiser & Brown, 1995). More specifically, it may sit within the idea of calm technology (CT) that has become a popular discourse object in ubiquitous computing (Brown, 2016; Case, 2015a; Elwood, 2010; Hohl, 2009; Rogers, 2006; Weiser & Brown, 1995) but, as such, been overlooked in e-tourism research (Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018). CT refers to the context in which technology operates in the background, not calling for full user's attention at all times (Weiser & Brown, 1995), having no purpose on its own, but serving in delivering a desired experience instead (Case, 2015a). According to Case (2015a), such technological intervention can also be called 'calm interaction' or 'calm design' (CD). While CD is not a new topic within ICT studies, this paper revives this concept and argues that CD should be placed at the heart of e-tourism research and practice as the tourism industry is equally affected by the positive and negative implications of ever-accelerating uptake of ICT.

The main goal of the paper is thus to revive the concept of calm technology which originated before the ubiquitous computing era and is now becoming more relevant for tourism, a highly technology dependent industry that increasingly encounters severe frictions in delivering the ICT services. Based on the original ideas from the CT/CD literature, we build the framework to employ calm design in the e-tourism context in order to broaden existing knowledge on calm technology. The findings are then discussed to extend theory on CD towards the domain

of tourist consumption and to reveal theoretical and practical opportunities for the (re-)design of the tourism product offer.

The evolution of the calm technology (CT) concept

In linguistic terms, ‘calm’ represents a state or a condition that is free from agitation, excitement or disturbance (Riekki, Isomursu, & Isomursu, 2004). In the context of technology, “calm” is predominantly related to the state of a user, and not to a specific application or a piece of hardware that, in most cases, should not shift to its opposite – a “disturbed” state when performing specific tasks or activities with ICT. This allows users to focus on their intended action rather than on the tool they are using (Brown et al., 2017). Therefore, ‘calm’ technology is an approach to designing tools which is based on user attention and focus (Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018) and which is expected to cater for user’s demands in a calm manner (Stanford University’s Calming Technology Lab., 2011). Thus, CT describes “any tool that can be used with uninterrupted focus on a central task while the new outside information is easily perceived and processed peripherally” (Brown, Fercher, & Leitner, 2017, 18).

Weiser and Brown (1995) laid the foundation of CT and raised first concerns regarding potential computer-imposed information overload and subsequent consumer stress (Byrne, O’Grady, & O’Hare, 2009; Greenfield, 2006). They focused on how technologies should engage both with user’s central and peripheral attention. For example, in terms of driving, the driver’s central attention is on the road while the driver’s peripheral attention is attuned with engine noise (Weiser & Brown, 1995). Peripheral attention can become central in case of a sudden change in engine noise and should draw driver’s attention and prompt them to stop

and check the engine (Weiser & Brown, 1995). This easy transition between the two types of user's attention encalms the user. Furthermore, calm technology can bring more detail into the edge of an interface (the periphery) which should increase the user's ability to act when needed without an increased information overload (Weiser & Brown, 1995). As most of information gained from technology does not require user's full attention, in the simplistic driving example described above the engine light informing the driver about an engine problem will turn on only when relevant (Case, 2015a). In terms of ICT, most notable examples of existing CT are related to calm communication provided as an output of a system, such as the relevant notifications and the different tones recorded for the different statuses of the system or the haptic alerts found in smartwatches and smart bracelets (Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018) . For example, some weather mobile applications rely on user's location, context of the use and the upcoming weather conditions to alert the user, but only when needed (Case, 2015b; Grossman, 2015).

CT is relevant to both digital and physical product design. For example, from the perspective of CT, removing focus from technology can be seen in those cases when the small enough ICT devices become embedded into physical features of products or when the ICT devices are not seen as computers anymore but as the augmented artefacts and the (more) natural services (for example, interactive screens, augmented or reality-based games) (Streitz, 2001; Tugui & Genete, 2009).

By focusing on how people process information, Weiser and Brown set the basis of CT long time before the ubiquitous computing era. This notwithstanding, the lack of detailed design principles and their accurate quantification have slowed down broad acceptance of the term (Brown et al., 2014). For example, while examples of calm output (information) from a network have been given, no examples of calm input (how to interact) within a network have been provided (Brown, Fercher, & Leitner, 2017). Therefore, Case (2015a) expands CT,

suggesting the term calm design (CD), and defines the basic principles that flow from human-centered design, social design, and anthropology, but with the same agenda. Case (2015a) refers to CD as being very simplistic in a way that it is elegant, humane and unobtrusive (Figure 1). Yet, according to Case (2015a), the principles of CD are not hard-and-fast rules as some are more applicable to specific products, services or users while others are not applicable to them at all; a fire alarm system, for example, should command full people's attention.

[Figure 1 near here]

As shown in this section, the general effectiveness of ICT is well covered by the existing literature on CT/CD. In the next section, we will discuss the theoretical framework which we have called the **calm design for e-tourism** (CDET).

Expanding the calm design dimensions towards the e-tourism context

E-tourism, as a context of dynamic interaction of ICTs in tourism (Buhalis, 2003), has facilitated the development of sophisticated solutions for delivering all sorts of tourism services (Femenia-Serra, Neuhofer, & Ivars-Baidal, 2018; Law et al., 2014; Navío-Marco, Ruiz-Gómez, & Sevilla-Sevilla, 2018). Still, e-tourism services cannot be seen as just another context of ICT usage. In terms of co-creating tourist experiences, technology can act as an enabler, creator, attractor, enhancer, protector, educator, substitutor, facilitator, reminder or destroyer (Benckendorff et al., 2014). All of that is happening in the changed environment (both physical and psychological) and within a sector that traditionally welcomes ICT. In the tourism market, consumers may travel to the service provider over longer or shorter distances (Sundbo, 2009). Going on holiday assumes changing user's ICT environment which can

create additional problems. Ideally, the change from everyday ICT solutions to the ones used during travel and at a destination should not be a cause of unnecessary technology-induced tension and, if problematic for some tourists, this transition in technology use should be addressed by intentional ICT design.

The main goal of CT is in enabling people to cope with the increased amounts of information, thus avoiding over the burden of information overload (Brown et al., 2017). In the case of e-tourism services, successful calm ICT design draws upon knowledge of a number of variables, including tourist psychology, holiday settings and the tourism industry structure (Gretzel, 2011). Thus, apart from the simple spatial relocation of general ICT use in a calm manner, or technology-related calmness, the complexity of e-tourism services also requires addressing consumer's characteristics towards ICT and the business perspective of the different types of e-tourism services offered in the market that affect calm ICT usage.

Figure 2 depicts the framework of calm design for e-tourism (CDET) starting with the dimension of technology-related calmness based on existing principles (HOW?), that are elaborated upon in previous section (CT/CD). The tourism context is added to calm design in CDET with a new dimension of consumer characteristics (WHO?), such as the different tourist preferences towards ICT or the different travel needs, and the dimension of the types of e-tourism services offered, ranging from a single service provided by tourism supply chain to complex mass or niche tourism offerings at certain types of tourist destinations (WHAT AND WHERE?).

[Figure 2 near here]

First, we will further elaborate upon a new dimension of **consumers' characters** (WHO?). This dimension is mostly determined by the users' diversity, referring to various differences

among customers in their perception, manipulation, and utilization of technology. Stephanidis (2012) suggests that it would be expected that all parties are not equally enthusiastic about the disclosure of ICT within the traditional tourism product offerings. Moreover, what is seen as a mainstream practice today was not taken well by certain customer categories at the time. In terms of demand, Dickinson and colleagues (2016) posit that there is always an implicit assumption that tourists welcome and embrace technology while, in reality, there may be a conscious desire to technologically disconnect instead. While some consumers value the pressure or satisfaction from exploring and using new technologies for tourism purposes, they are also concerned about the practicality of these technologies' prolonged use (Yongda Li, 2017). According to innovation theory the group of technology innovators and early adopters would be more willing to engage with the new and unfamiliar technologies (Kah, Vogt, & MacKay, 2008), comparing to the group of traditionalists when the ICT adoption is concerned. In order to understand the complexity of **the dimension of different types of e-tourism services** (WHAT AND WHERE?), an additional analysis will be implemented in the following section.

Analysis of calm design in the different types of e-tourism services

To retain the theoretical flexibility of the CDET framework and to focus efforts on theoretically useful cases (Eisenhardt, 1989; Neuhofer, Buhalis, & Ladkin, 2015), the main selection criteria for industry-specific examples are: (1) the use of one of the most common ICTs (Stankov, Pavluković, Alcántara-Pilar, Cimbalević, & Armenski, 2018) and; (2) the employment of at least one of the CDET dimensions, for example, ICT is an integral part of e-tourism services, not a distraction (WHAT AND WHERE?) or ICT works in the

background or it is “hidden”, but still informs users (HOW?); ICT uses simplified or human-oriented user interface (UI) (HOW?); ICT respects the timing and the relevancy of interaction (WHAT AND WHERE?). The review of the academic and ‘grey’ literature is used to collect the data.

Table 1 elaborates upon selected examples from the broad context of e-tourist services. This encompasses different technology applications and interactions, ranging from online travel promotion and distribution, social media communication, tourist experience enrichment to travel operations and identification systems. It is important to note that presented examples cannot be in any way considered conclusive, but are offered with an intention to spark an academic discussion.

[Table 1 near here]

As shown in Table 1, the theoretical underpinning of CDET suggests that it can be successfully embraced by the tourism industry as a means to enhance pre-existing and forthcoming technology infrastructure used by tourists. Some calm ICT design principles are already present in the context of mainstream tourist consumption, such as smartphones, wearables and audio and video units. For example, smartphones have become omnipresent and represent a main device for delivering and exchanging all sorts of information (Kim & Law, 2015), providing personalised information, two-way information sharing, context awareness based on sensors, communication with other machines (IoT), among others (Dickinson et al, 2014). Similarly, wearable technologies have the capabilities to create location-based services incorporating travel preferences and body parameters of the users (Choe & Fesenmaier, 2017; Dibble, 2015). Basically, some existing types of wearables

can be noted as good examples of the CT realisation in tourism as they are virtually invisible; small-sized; unobtrusive; easy to use; highly personalised; with sensor-based operations and real time connection to servers. (Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018).

At the same time, both smartphones and wearables could be distracting to users. According to Stankov and colleagues(2018) such issues poor Internet connectivity frequent need for charging, slow device performance or high roaming charges can be off-putting. In essence, from the CD perspective, communication between humans and -machines is still one of the most important issues to be solved (Case, 2015a),. Generally, the interaction between the device and the user can actually be distracting if the UI attracts most visual or auditory focus due its (design) inconsistency (Case, 2015a; Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018)

More sophisticated and less frequently employed hardware and software systems in tourism, such as the various biometric technologies and intelligent software agents and embedded sensors, also hold the strong ‘encalming’ potential. For example, biometrics , although not being a novelty, have only recently been recognised as a tool for improving the transaction services in travel and tourism industry (Kang, Brewer, & Bai, 2007). Further, intelligent software agents and the different types of embedded sensors provide calm ICT design with a context of their use, taking into consideration(Hermans, 1998) user’s dynamical behaviour (Wang et al., 2013). For example, the geo-enabled mobile applications represent an effortless way of positioning the user on the map(Chung & Lee, 2016), while the robust technological service enablers are located in the back-end.

Discussion

Theoretical implications of CDET for the e-tourism discourse

Adopting pragmatism as a research philosophy and employing an inductive approach, we

advocate broader application of CDET within the e-tourism discourse. As pragmatism philosophy recognises the different ways of interpreting the actual state of things (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2012), we will discuss the ways of how CDET can be integrated in the current array of ICT solutions adopted by tourism enterprises.

As shown in Figure 2, the travel supply chain has traditionally been technology-intense and technology-demanding (Enrique Bigné, Aldás, & Andreu, 2008). Its core is made up by the key tourism supply chain actors, such as airlines, hotel and restaurant chains, tourist service providers (for instance, travel management companies-CM, online booking tools-OBT and mobile services), global distribution systems, mid-offices and others. Towards the edge of the core, the level of technology dependence reduces, but does not entirely disappear, and includes small tourist accommodation and catering enterprises, local travel agencies, and other small-to-medium sized companies providing tourist products. This ICT epicentre influences, directly or indirectly, all other players within the tourism market with regard to the products they create, destinations they operate in, and tourists they serve.

On the other side are the tourists who consume products and services in various destinations and, as stated before, who normally have different expectations of the ICT forms and the magnitude of its deployment in tourism (Benckendorff et al., 2014; Jeon, Ali, & Lee, 2018). The disbalance in the amount of technologies used by the supply and demand side could be mitigated by creating a 'barrier' in the form of CDET, that is, the level of interventions to make the ICT usage 'calmer'.

Theoretical implications of CDET for the 'smart tourism' discourse

'Smart tourism', as a popular academic topic, also catches much attention in tourism practice and society. As a research discourse, it started with the phase of exploring its content (Buhalis

& Amaranggana, 2015; Gretzel, Sigala, et al., 2015; Huang, Yuan, & Shi, 2012) and underpinning technologies (Atembe, 2015; Chung, Tyan, & Han, 2017) and now entered the phase of developing and evaluating its applications (Buhalis & Leung, 2018; Buhalis & Foerste, 2015; Vecchio, Mele, Ndou, & Secundo, 2017; X. Wang, Li, Zhen, & Zhang, 2016). Consequently, the next phase should allow for further diffusion and globalization of smart tourism, enabling the different alternations, enhancements and reinvention of the original starting points (Ryan, 2017; Sigala, 2018). The smart tourism agenda highlights new, more sustainable ways of business management, tourist experience enhancement and destination management that have emerged in the era of ubiquitous computing (Bantau & Rayburn, 2016; Cannon Hunter, Chung, Gretzel, & Koo, 2015). This is where CDET can find a fertile ground for its implementation. For example, the trend of further development of smart tourism infrastructure favours the use of miniaturized and simplified assets (for example, sensors and wearables), with no diminished performance, capable to ensure access to various information and to support undisturbing communication (Tugui & Genete, 2009). On the other hand, CDET could support more humanized smart environments, such as smart homes or smart hotel rooms (Brown et al., 2017). This adoption of CDET could represent a way to moderate future smart tourism efforts in its quest for achieving operational efficiency, economic sustainability and consumer experience enrichment.

Practicalities of the CDET adoption in e-tourism

For variety of tourism companies, practical knowledge of CDET can be beneficial to better understand the shortcomings of unselective ICT employment for the purpose of creating e-tourism services.

Tourism Supply Chain

The benefits of the CDET embracement by the tourism supply side are manifold and range from the enhanced quality of work and improved delivery of products and services to refined profitability and better customer satisfaction. For example, the *Hotel Lugano Dante* in Switzerland employs technology to enhance and co-create guest experiences through the adoption of a bespoke digital customer relationship management tool (Neuhofer, Buhalis, & Ladkin, 2013). Furthermore, CDET can help create new business models, platforms of corporate communication and collaboration between tourism organisations. An example from Tasmania (Australia) demonstrates an innovative destination management approach to the use of smartphones in order to deduce travel patterns and opinions for specific visitor groups. This has become possible due to a geo-tracking technology; a distinctive feature is however in that this technology is presented to tourists in a 'calm' way through the use of a smartphone with an application running quietly in the background (Sense-T, 2015; Hardy et al., 2017).

Tourism Products

The development of CDET would require rethinking the digital nature of some tourism products and anticipating shifts to more tangible, 1 e-tourism solutions in some cases (Hohl, 2009; Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018). While the pre- and post-travel phase of tourist experiences can be operated mostly digitally from both the supply and demand side (i.e. e-promotion and e-distribution for the supply side and online purchasing and online reviewing for the demand side), the travel phase is largely physically determined, so this is where more audio-visual or even tactile communicators can be provided (Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018). The calm solutions can range from traditional 'on/off buttons' for in-room devices to voice and light notifications (Wasan, 2014). Furthermore, there are more novel examples of

the voice assistants' employment in hotels, such as the *Amazon Echo* hands-free speaker controlled by voice, that enables consumers to completely bypass touch screens or button controls (Ivanov, Webster, & Berezina, 2017).

Destination Management

The areas of particular interest from the CDET viewpoint are represented by smart environments and destinations; these seek to deliver practical realisation of the ubiquitous computing vision in everyday scenarios (Byrne et al., 2009). This is achieved via the application of intelligent tourism management systems that facilitate provision of real-time travel updates in tourist transport; delivery of personalised welcoming messages in tourist accommodation; and raised awareness of consumer preferences with a subsequent offer of more personalised customer services (Buhalis & Amaranggana, 2015; Wang, Li, Zhen, & Zhang, 2016). However, the ICT-savvy destinations could face challenges in terms of the CDET adoption, as more frequent use of key technologies through social computing and via visual information technologies can equally well enhance tourism services or contribute to information overload (Amadeus, 2007).

It is important to note that, when applied to the branding of tourist destinations or tourism products in general, the term 'calm' can be easily misunderstood in the current tourism marketing context. Some destinations have positioned themselves as providers of stress-free and peaceful surroundings (for instance, the fall foliage destinations in North America or certain rural areas in Ireland). In this case, calming technologies become more relevant, as will be explained in the next section. Going further, in some extreme cases, even the forms of the 'Amish lifestyle' tourist experiences (Trollinger, 2012) are offered. Due to a digital divide, the technology deficient destinations usually sit in underdeveloped and/or remote regions (Drakulić Kovačević et al, 2017). This kind of 'no connectivity zones' Pearce and

Gretzel (2012) call the 'dead zones'. The lack of ICT in such destinations can actually impose stress and discomfort on the users accustomed to technology prevalence in their everyday life. The tension and anxiety of being disconnected while travelling is not caused by the lack of technology per se, but largely rests within the consumer's inability to use its functions, such as for the purpose of socialisation, learning, work and play (Paris et al., 2015). Therefore, the inclusion of CDET sits in the opposite corner from the above mentioned experiences. In the realm of CDET, 'calm' destinations are not remote or 'tech free', but the destinations that conceal some unnecessary technological processes or naturally embed ICT solutions into tourism services or provide the mental disappearance of computational artefacts by offering familiar, intuitive and easy-to-employ UI.

Limitations of CDET

The propositions made in this paper highlight some important limitations of CDET. These fall under the general constraints experienced by tourism providers in their endeavour to adopt new technologies (Wasan, 2014). Still, to enhance competitiveness, small tourism providers have no choice but to engage with ICT innovations (Mihalic & Buhalis, 2013), although it can impose financial pressure and increase the need for technological expertise in the company. The technological and infrastructural limitations of the contemporary ICT solutions in tourism are still a major issue for calm design (Case, 2015a; Greenfield, 2006; Rogers, 2006). For example, the deployment of biometrics faces the problems of occasional high error rates, delays in processing information, and the need for additional hardware integration (Pato & Millet, 2010), to mention a few. Sometimes, ubiquitous access to WiFi or mobile network services that is cost-effective and considered as a basic need for modern service delivery can be a major issue for some destinations and types of holidays (Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018). Despite numerous advantages of the technological proliferation in tourism, the use of

ICT that is based on personal data collected during holidays and stored on different servers opens a question of user privacy (Alizadeh, Kanis, & Veenstra, 2012; Barua, Aimin, & Hongyi, 2018). This can be one of the major challenges in general ICT adoption among consumers (Wozniak, Liebrich, Senn, & Zemp, 2016). Therefore, privacy concerns are one of manifold variables that CDET ought to resolve if applied effectively in tourism.

Further research

The future development of CDET will depend on its value for end-users and future tourism business interest in the field (Stankov, Filimonau, et al., 2018). Therefore, three main directions for future research can be suggested. First, what could be the best approaches for empirical measurement of ‘calmness’ in the context of e-tourism services? Developing the appropriate measurement scales for technological ‘calmness’ (HOW?) in various tourism service contexts (WHAT AND WHERE?) and better consumer segmentation based on their relation to technological ‘calmness’ (WHO?). Second, an in-depth qualitative analysis of specific applications of CDET is needed for framing viable propositions for ICT redesign and for new product development in the tourism industry. For instance, further research on CDET can be grounded on existing methods of human-computer interactions (Goodwin, 2009) or can start from interaction design (Nielsen, 2013). Third, the tourism offer, when seen as a composition of separate service providers, is highly segmented; it is comprised largely of small-to-medium enterprises with limited technological expertise to efficiently evaluate new ICT solutions (Noh, Song, Park, Yoon, & Lee, 2016), consumer trends and various scientific and practical approaches that deal with the proliferation issues of ICT and its managerial implications. Thus, the CDET framework could serve as a starting point for encompassing existing knowledge and approaches in ICT design within CT in order to bridge theories into the adoptable managerial framework. This is particularly important for tourism small-to-

medium enterprises that provide e-tourism services on a day-to-day basis and for those tourism companies that cater to the niche tourist markets whose ICT preferences vary.

Concluding remarks

This paper does not aim to condemn the excessive use and the growing technology over-reliance in the e-tourism context. Instead, it strives to demonstrate a new viewpoint that emphasizes the very-often neglected relations between humans and technologies within the current e-tourism discourse. By its nature, travel as a sort of discontinuity in digitally-led people's lives cannot be totally 'calm'. Indeed, the consumer's initiative to engage with ICT is needed, but the level of this engagement and the desire to sustain it may vary among tourists. Therefore, finding the right place and the right way of the ICT development and integration in tourism services is an ever-lasting question.

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Table 1. Examples and explanations of the CDET dimensions in current and future e-tourism contexts (Source: compiled by authors)

Supporting technology infrastructure	Examples	Major CDET dimensions
Smartphones	<i>Roadside America</i> mobile application (Vong, 2012)	How? Applications working in the background What and where? Relevant notifications and contextual push mobile notifications
	Anonymised mobile phone data tracking trail in London's Hyde Park undertaken by Royal Parks (Williams, 2015)	How? Visitors tracking without their active participation; Who? Everybody
	Smart posters (Pesonen & Horster, 2012)	How? "Hidden" ICT What and where? Pull notifications at consumers' convenience.
	<i>iBeacon</i> airport mobile application (Babu, 2015)	What and where? Opt-in push notifications Who? Tech-dependant consumers
	<i>Starwood's</i> keyless mobile entry (Ting, 2016)	What and where? Self-directed experiences Who? Tech-dependant consumers
Wearables	Radio-frequency identification (RFID) festival bracelets (Bilolo, Boeck, Durif, Levesque, & Levesque, 2015)	How? Contactless identification, embedded technology Who? Everybody
	Near-field communication (NFC) enabled wearables (Pesonen & Horster, 2012)	What and where? Relevant location-based travel operations and proximity services
Biometric identification technology	Fingerprint authentication system for 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games (The Japan News, 2016)	How? Paperless transaction What and where? Frictionless shopping
	Prototype of airport's virtual aquarium tunnel (Dajani, 2017)	How? Identification with hidden and pleasant technology that scans passengers' face as they walk through it Who? Everybody
Audiovisual technologies	<i>Google Material design</i> (Cousins, 2015)	How? Unified user experiences for e-info points Who? Everybody
	<i>Google Street View</i> (Peng, Chen, & Tsai, 2010)	How? Virtual reality functions on websites that employ human-centred visual communication
	Use of emojis in delivering information (Clark, 2014); Smart ear-piece for instant translation (Cunningham, 2016)	How? Removing language barriers Who? Millennials
	<i>Amazon Echo</i> for hotel rooms (Eye for Travel, 2016)	How? Human-centred audio communication What and where? Enhanced hotel experience
Intelligent software agents, embedded sensors and geolocation systems	<i>PixMeAway</i> and <i>Routhappy</i> (Neuhofer, Buhalis, & Ladkin, 2014; Shroeder, 2015)	What and where? Proactive websites services for reducing information and choice overload Who? Everybody
	<i>Facebook</i> users' personal news feed (ETC & UNWTO, 2014)	What and where? Contextual social media notifications and promotions
	<i>Hilton's Connected Room</i> (Hilton, 2017)	What and where? Hyper-personalized hotel room experience that links everyday and on-site ICT.
	<i>Google Earth</i> ; <i>Bing</i> maps (Hecht, Schöning, Erickson, & Priedhorsky, 2011)	How? Online maps or mobile maps for intuitive use with no beforehand training
	Social media geo-tagging (Chung & Lee, 2016)	What and where? Simple end-user geo-tagging

Figure captions

Figure 1. Qualitative principles of calm design. Source: Adopted from Case (2015a)

Figure 2. The framework of calm design for e-tourism. Source: Authors' own compilation.