

Sustainability

(21047) - THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF RESTORATION

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Background and objectives

This symposium focuses on a topic we feel is underresearched in the study of restorative environments. Traditionally the focus of restoration studies is on qualities of the physical environment. We argue that to really understand the concept of restorative environments asks for an in depth analysis of what the social context is of experiences leading to restoration. As argued by Long and Averill (2003), never is the presence or absence of others a negligible characteristic of the situation and we are sure this also applies to restorative environments. To advance knowledge on this topic is the goal of this symposium.

Significance for the advancement of People-Environment relations

We are happy to present six contributions that testify to the importance of this social dimension of restorative environments. The contributions cover a number of different and timely issues, from social and cultural influences on restorative emotions of forest visitors (Kaplan-Mintz, Ayalon, Eshet, & Nathan), to reflections on the importance of shared restorative experiences in the past (Corraliza); from the effects of the Covid-19 lockdown on the importance and effects of visiting green urban spaces compared to social interaction (Fornara, Rinallo, Carrus, & Scopelliti), as well as on the frequency and role of socializing in natural places for restoration during the pandemic (Gatersleben, White, Wyles, Golding, Scarles, Xu, & Willis). A virtual mode of socializing is investigated by studying smartphone screen use for social purposes as competing with nature experiences while in the outdoors (Minor, Glavindl, Schwartz, Danforth, Lehmann, & Bjerre-Nielsen). Finally an overview of studies will be presented on the extent to which different kinds of greenspace affect general feelings of loneliness and its different dimensions (Astell-Burt, Hartig, Putra, Walsan, Dendup, & Feng).

Palavras-chave : restoration, nature, social context, stress, covid-19