

UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL TOURIST DISPERSAL IN AUSTRALIA

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The overarching aim of this study is to enhance the understanding and evaluation of international tourist dispersal behaviours contributing to the promotion of regional dispersal. It investigates multidimensional tourist dispersal behaviours with a focus on regional tourism patterns, spatial configurations, and subjective perceptions, particularly among Chinese tourists in Australia. The research explores how diverse metrics—such as expenditure, length of stay, and emotional responses—can be integrated to provide a more comprehensive understanding of tourist dispersal, supporting sustainable tourism practices and regional equity.

The Primary research question (RQ) is a “meta-question” of tourist dispersal and four sub-RQs:

How can we better evaluate dispersal behaviour and inferring dispersal pattern of international tourists (with a focus on Chinese tourists) in Australia?

Sub-RQs:

1. What is the current state of research on tourist dispersal, and how has the field evolved over time?
2. How do we evaluate tourist dispersal by considering diverse metrics?
3. What spatial patterns of regional visits can be observed among Chinese tourists in Australia, and how do airports function as critical nodes in these travel networks?
4. How do Chinese tourists perceive different regions of Australia beyond geographical locations?

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