This workshop aims at presenting breakthrough research topics and methods to researchers in tourism studies, especially those who are currently writing their PhD thesis in Tourism. It so does though the active involvement of three distinguished international researchers who have recently joined the Doctoral Programme in Tourism and Leisure at the Rovira i Virgili University as Thesis Supervisors: Nacima Baron-Yelles of the Université de Paris Est, Robert Maitland of the Westminster University, London, and Noam Shoval of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. All three of them have an extensive experience as founders and directors of research groups involved in a large amount of international and national projects dealing with tourism and territory, and a proven capacity to involve doctoral candidates in such top research.

Researchers will have the opportunity, during the three morning open sessions, to learn about their most recent research efforts: problems challenged, methods deployed, and outputs generated; and, during closed-group afternoon sessions, PhD candidates will have the chance to share with them their current or future research projects and the problems faced, discussing solutions, getting practical suggestions, and possibly also querying about future collaborations and tutorships.

The workshop focuses on the disciplinary speciality of the research group of Territorial Analysis and Tourism Studies (GRATET), i.e. the study of tourism in its territorial and geographical aspects. The GRATET, affiliated to the Department of Geography, is one of the research groups of the University Rovira i Virgili providing faculty and researchers to the Doctoral Programme in Tourism and Leisure accredited by the Catalan Agency of Quality in University Education and Research (AQU) in 2013. The workshop will also be an opportunity to outline the role of the GRATET and the Doctoral Programme within the strategy of CEICS, the Campus of International Excellence of Southern Catalonia, through which the URV aims to transfer high-level knowledge and innovation tools to its region in each of its five excellence fields, tourism being one of them.

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