

**The second session** in WG 1 consisted of three presentations and a group discussion.

Marco Eimermann (Umeå University, Sweden) connected an article on multilocality (Ekecrantz et al 2026) to work in progress on the internationalisation of tourism labour markets in rural Arctic Sweden. He asked how the relationship between companies and communities changes when increasingly non-local labour is recruited. For this work in progress, Marco presented ideas re potential actors in civil society to study and asked for further suggestions. One suggestion regards attention for place attachment, which appears renewed after seminal work by Tuan, Buttimer and colleagues in the 1970's. This can be linked to digital nomads (living in bubbles, apart from local communities?), though seasonal workers in tourism are not remote workers. Another suggestion is to focus on the specifics of small tourism entrepreneurs, their networks and drivers to recruit seasonal staff (which differs from major hotel and resort companies' recruitment strategies). A final suggestion regards life course stages: if seasonal workers are in the family building stage, integration can progress via schools.

Mari Kattilakoski (University of Eastern Finland) presented intersections of mobility, aging and unequal care provision regarding rural multi-locality and care poverty. Following the presentation, we discussed to what extent digitalisation can be a solution for care givers. We discussed gender issues and the question whether it is self-evident that care givers are mainly women. Another issue regards how formal care relates to informal care, for instance provided by the municipality in a Nordic welfare state. This relates to various roles of different states in formal care provision. A final question regards the receivers of care: is there a need of multilocality for them? This can concern moving closer to their children or commuting regularly to receive care.

Pasi Saukkonen (University of Eastern Finland) explored absentee (non-resident) forest owners' multilocality patterns and their rural agency. Based on a survey, the study regarded activities during the forest owners' forest estate, including spending time at the cottage, visiting friends and families, leisure activities (including maintaining the forest), working remotely and participating in activities of a (hunting) club or association. Other survey questions regard potential future use of the forest and whether the owners considered visiting the forest property more often. Results indicate that owners are neither expecting to increase or decrease ownership. A conclusion is that non-resident forest ownership has emotional values and that the share of urban forest owners living outside the region is expected to grow, which provides diverse opportunities and challenges for regional development in North Karelia. A concern was raised in the audience that forest owners risk becoming increasingly alienated from practical forest work.

After the presentations, we arranged a group discussion based on the working group description and potential mutual future research interests. First, we considered interlinked perspectives on multilocality and how it can be practiced (see a special issue in *Tourism Geographies*, edited by Hannonen and Pitkänen). Multilocality relates to 1) housing; 2) (remote) work, entrepreneurship and digital nomadism; 3) visiting friends and relatives; 4) leisure and attending specific events; 5) landscapes and activities around agriculture or forestry. Then, we considered how the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions have influenced domestic and international multi-locality in terms of mobility and seasonality. Third, we talked about renewed interest in place attachment in the light of current times of closing borders and reappraisal of local places and communities. A final topic regarded multi-locals' local rural employment. Ongoing research considers needs of local municipalities to engage multi-locals in local public sector jobs. We ended the discussion with the idea of engaging more in the European Network for Multi-Locality Studies.

*Thank you all for your contributions!*