**Case Study Name:** Critical research on the governance of tourism and sustainability  
**Author:** Bill Bramwell and Bernard Lane  
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**Region:** Oceania  
**Country:** Australia  
**Ecosystem Type:** Temperate deciduous forest  
**Social Characteristics:** Indigenous community  
**Scale of Study:** Community, National, global  
**Resource Type:** Forestry, biodiversity conservation  
**Type of Initiative:** Community initiative, development project/GOV initiative  
**Community-Based Work:** Resource management, conservation, development planning  
**Keywords:** governance; sustainable tourism; critical perspectives; geographical scale; adaptive governance  
**Summary:** Tailored and effective governance is a key requirement for implementing sustainable tourism: it can enhance democratic processes, provide direction and offer the means
to make practical progress. This introduction explains how the papers in this collection provide critical assessments of the theory and practice of tourism governance and sustainability. It argues that theoretical frameworks are crucial to research on the subject as they affect the issues examined and the policy recommendations made. Several papers in the collection focus on relevant theoretical frameworks and concepts, while others consider governance at different geographical scales and the interconnections between those scales. The temporal dimensions of governance are also explored because sustainable development relates to long time horizons. Governance is also considered in relation to trade-offs, policy failures, learning processes, adaptive management, the public sphere and the principle of subsidiarity.