Proposing a typology of tourists and lifestyle migrants

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Theorizing Lifestyle Migration
January 28th & 29th, 2010
CCHS-CSIC, Madrid

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In 16 municipalities on the Costa Blanca, foreigners are more than Spaniards.

Most old-age pensioners are British or German in many towns, e.g., Calp 80%

Host societies require the definition of criteria to classify European citizens “living” among us.
INTRODUCTION

Social problems
- Local management
- Fiscal issues
- Health services
- Political representation and participation rights
- Integration policies

Lack of an analytical tool based on objective criteria.

We propose a typology that may be helpful in dealing with this complex situation.
A personal in-home survey:

- 872 interviews to foreign non-working citizens from 25 EU, and residing in a private dwelling.
- Systematic sampling with random grid position.
- Winter 2005
A TYPOLOGY

Introduction

Methodology

Results

Conclusions

Permanent residents
62%
foreign citizens who own a home, and are registered on the Padrón Municipal de Habitantes.

Temporary residents
6%
foreign citizens who live in a home that they do not own (it is rented, a timeshare, or owned by relatives or friends), and are registered on the Padrón.

Second home owners
22%
foreign citizens who own a home, but are not registered.

Tourists
10%
foreign citizens who do not own a home, nor are registered on the Padrón.
**Permanent residents**  
*(owners & registered)*

- Do not keep a house in home country
- Better quality of life is their main motivation
- Choice of town based on price
- Want to learn Spanish
- British

**Temporary residents**  
*(other than owners & registered)*

- Distributed across those who keep a house in home country and those who do not
- Diverse motivations
- Choose town following recommendations given by fellow citizens, and to live near them
- Do not want to learn Spanish
- More Germans here than in other groups
Second-home owners
(owners & not registered)

- Better quality of life is their main motivation
- Choice of town based on price

Tourists
(nor owners & nor registered)

- Climate is their main motivation
- Choice of town based on landscape and services available

Neither British, nor German
Do not want to learn Spanish
Keep a house in home country
Would go back to home country in case of illness
We put forward two lifestyle models: one has the characteristics of permanent migration, the other shapes a transnational citizenship more related to tourism.

Although the expression “residential tourism” incorporates the idea that North European residents on the Mediterranean somehow make tourism their *modus vivendi*, it describes only a part of the citizens who are the object of this study, since people who settle in a certain place cannot be called tourists.
We suggest limiting the use of the term “tourists” to those persons who intend to return to their home country, that is, they are “passing through” and enjoying their holidays in a second home of their own (or with other type of possession),

while the citizens who do not want to return to, or do not know whether they will, their country of origin in the foreseeable future, should be considered “migrants”, or at any rate, “residents”.
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Thank you!

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