

WLN NEWS

ISSUE 52

**SPECIAL ISSUE WORLD LEISURE
CONGRESS 2023**



December 2023



Since
1952

A worldwide, non-governmental association dedicated to discovering and fostering those conditions best permitting leisure to serve as a force for human growth, development and well-being.

Dear members, dear colleagues,

This is a special issue of *WL News*, in which we want to report about the [2023 World Leisure Congress](#), which was held a few days ago (December 11-15, 2023) in Dunedin, New Zealand, hosted by the University of Otago and the World Leisure Centre of Excellence (WLCE) at that university. The WL Congress 2023 brought together over 200 leisure researchers and professionals from over 20 countries from all across the globe – among which, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, and USA, just to name a few.

These days have been filled with work and knowledge, but also with emotions and fun! It was a tremendous joy to be able to finally meet old and new colleagues and friends at a World Leisure Congress. On behalf of the World Leisure Organization (WLO) Board of Directors, I sincerely thank you our hosts, who warmly welcome and took care of Congress delegates, and also all of you who traveled all the way to New Zealand and made this event possible with your presentations, comments, openness to network and, ultimately, with your embracement of the 2023 WL Congress: “Learn Well, Live Well”.

In the following lines, we offer you a summary of the different Congress sessions. Whether you were able to join us or not, we hope this is of your interest and look forward to meeting you at our next event!

Yours truly,

Dr. Cristina Ortega Nuere
WLO Chief Operating Officer





WLO Boards of Directors meets in New Zealand

As a preamble to the World Leisure Congress in New Zealand, the Board of Directors of the World Leisure Organization (WLO) held its annual face-to-face meeting at the University of Otago. On this occasion, the members of the highest governance body of the WLO reviewed the performance of the organization during the past year and the budget for 2024. They also discussed about the development and transformation of events and programs that would ensure a greater geographical coverage of WLO's initiatives, with the ultimate purpose to ensure the development of leisure worldwide. Finally, WLO Board members devoted some time to acknowledge the contribution of those leaving as they reach the end of their terms. The meeting was held in a hybrid format, and a voting period is now open for the motions put forward during the meeting to be voted by Board members.



A special workshop for PhD candidates is organised during the World Leisure Congress in New Zealand

Held in the Otago Business School building on the University of Otago main campus on December 11, 2023, the purpose of this full day workshop was to provide a high-quality learning and networking opportunity for PhD scholars and early career researchers. Workshop activities sought to develop knowledge and skills for the later parts of the PhD journey and into the early stages of academic careers. The workshop was structured in four parts. In the first panel, Prof. Sandro Carnicelli Filho, Professor of Tourism and Leisure Studies at University of the West of Scotland, Eliza Raymond, PhD student at Victoria University of Wellington, Centre for GOOD Travel, Prof. Rasul Mowatt, from North Carolina State University, College of Natural Resources, and Prof. Marcel Bastiaansen, from Breda University of Applied Sciences and Tilburg University, discussed on "Examiners' perspectives and expectations". This session was followed by a peer discussion-based session titled "Managing change, transitions and feeling like an imposter", which explored coping with the transition from student to staff, settling into new roles and managing (the very common phenomenon of) feeling like an imposter. This session counted

with the participation of Nikki Fahey, Graduate Wellbeing Coach at the University of Otago. The last part of the workshop was devoted to a double session, before and after lunch, on “Beyond the PhD: Developing a career plan”, led by Kathryn Sutherland, Associate Professor at Victoria University of Wellington, and Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith, from the University of Otago. The workshop was a unique opportunity for emerging academics to network with fellow scholars and internationally recognised academics.



World Leisure Congress Field School 2023: A Journey of Discovery in Dunedin

The World Leisure Congress Field School 2023 “Multiplicities of leisure: seeing through other lenses”, a unique event blending education with cultural immersion, was held in the beautiful city of Dunedin from December 7-11, 2023. The event brought together 15 students from WLCE Vancouver Island University, Texas State University, and Western Sydney University, offering them an extraordinary opportunity to explore and learn. Resonating with the congress’s theme “Learn Well, Live Well,” it aimed to enhance inclusion in leisure. It provided a learning experience to deepen students’ understanding and commitment to the leisure needs of underrepresented groups. They engaged with the local Māori and Pacifica communities, the queer community, and with those working to support the leisure needs of people with disability issues, participating in various community-driven leisure activities.

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Researchers from over 20 countries present their work at the WL Congress 2023

Over 50 general and special sessions were part of the [program of the World Leisure Congress 2023](#), held in Dunedin, New Zealand, on December 11-15. With 2-3 presentations in each, during these sessions, experts from many different countries – over 20 – presented their research work on wide range of topics connected to leisure and its different forms – tourism, sports, culture and recreation. Among these, the topics of the WLO Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were represented (Leisure Management; Diversity, Access and Inclusion; Leisure and Gender; Leisure and Ageing; Leisure and Wellbeing; Leisure and Sports; Leisure and Children and Youth; Leisure Education, and Travel and Tourism). Besides these, a significant number of presentations focused on the topic of Events, with some specific sessions devoted to this topic – “The paradoxes of events studies as a form of leisure session” or “Adaptation and innovation of events in times of crisis”. WLO Chief Operating Officer (COO) Dr. Cristina Ortega led the special session “Higher education and innovation in the field of leisure around the world in the face of recent global challenges”, where she also delivered a presentation with the same title resulting from a study conducted in the framework of the Global Relevance Committee formed by national and regional leisure associations and the WLO.



WLO celebrates its annual General meeting in New Zealand

On December 13, 2023, the 2023 General Meeting (GM) of the World Leisure Organization was held, in the framework of the 2023 World Leisure Congress organized by the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. The GM is our annual gathering, where WLO members, Board of Directors and staff meet each other to discuss on the work done and the way forward. This GM was particularly special, since we were finally able to reunite face-to-face, after a long time working and meeting virtually. On this occasion we opened the door for anyone interested in our work to join the meeting and provide inputs which will help us define our future. We are sincerely grateful to all of you who traveled to New Zealand and joined us for the GM, as well as to all the program chairs who presented their work and contributed to bringing WLO's work closer to our membership and extended community. For those of you who missed it, we are sharing with you [here](#) the presentation that was used by the speakers during the GM. Please note that the feedback gathered from the audience has also been included in the last slides of this presentation. As mentioned during the GM, this consultation does not stop here! As a member-driven organization, we stay open to any suggestions you may have, and will continue to provide spaces for active participation of our members and others in the leisure community worldwide.



WLCE Panel Discussion: Advancing Global Perspectives in Leisure Education

The third day of the World Leisure Congress, December 14, 2023, started with the World Leisure Centers of Excellence (WLCE) Panel Discussion, chaired by WLO Chair Prof. Joanne Schroeder and WLCE network coordinator Dr. Arianne Reis. The panel counted on the participation of representatives from the different WLCEs, such as Dr. Aggie Weighill (Vancouver Island University), Dr. Marc-Andre Lavigne (Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières), Prof. Dr. Ricardo Uvinha (University of Sao Paulo), Prof. Dr. Marcel Bastiaansen (Breda University of Applied Sciences), Prof. Dr. Jane Zhou (Zhejiang University) and Brent Lovelock (University of Otago). It offered interesting insights into the evolving landscape of leisure education and research. Panelists underscored the significance of the WLCE network as a platform for promoting international cooperation and knowledge exchange. They highlighted how the network facilitates unique partnerships between institutions and scholars, enabling a multifaceted approach to leisure research. Discussions revolved around the challenges and opportunities in integrating different cultural and academic perspectives in leisure studies, emphasizing the need for a more global and inclusive approach to understanding leisure's impact on society.



Virtual gathering among Brazilian delegates at World Leisure Congress organized by Centro Esportivo Virtual (Brazil)

On December 13, Brazilian delegates attending the congress hosted a virtual gathering to connect with their colleagues who could not travel to Dunedin. This connection enabled those in Brazil to interact with attending Brazilian scholars, exchanging insights, and discussing how to contextualize the congress's learnings within Brazil's unique leisure landscape. This virtual connection with the event in Dunedin, New Zealand, underlined the significance of integrating the Global South's perspectives to enhance the underrepresented regions' academic and practical approaches to leisure.

DesconferenCEV
13 de Dezembro às 18h

XVII Congresso
Mundial de Lazer/
Dunedin
Nova Zelândia

PRESENCAS CONFIRMADAS!

diretamente da Nova Zelândia

- Cinthia Silva
UFPR e SENAC/PR
- Fernando Cavalcante
UNB
- Leonardo Soares
USP e Sesc/SP
- Maria Luiza Soza Dias
Membro do Conselho Diretor
da World Leisure Organization
- Ricardo Uvinha
EACH/USP -
WLCE/Brasil

diretamente de Sorocaba

- Antonio Carlos Bramante
Membro do Conselho Diretor
da World Leisure Organization

diretamente de Maceió

- Laércio Pereira
Centro Esportivo Virtual

Acesse e participe via Zoom:
<https://bit.ly/cevcm12023>

Realização:

Apoio:



WLO Awards recognize five prominent figures in the leisure field

The WLO Awards was celebrated during the World Leisure Congress at Otago Museum in Dunedin, on December 14, 2023. The WLO Community of Excellence recognition was awarded to Shangyu District, and prominent figures who have contributed to the development of the leisure field were awarded the Thomas & Ruth Rivers International Scholarship, the Cornelis Westland Humanitarian Award, and the George Torkildsen Literary Award. The Ceremony closed with a tribute to Prof. Danilo Santos, who recently passed away, in recognition to his enormous contribution as the Director of Sesc Sao Paulo since 1984.

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Experts discuss on the role of leisure in eradicating poverty at the WLO Global Leisure Debate in New Zealand

The 2023 Global Leisure Debate, held on December 15, was dedicated to "The role of leisure in eradicating poverty and addressing the needs of the most marginalized communities". This year's edition counted with the participation of experts representing the regional leisure associations – ANZALS, TALS, CALS, LSA – as well as the WLO, who provided different geographical perspectives on this relevant topic, which will be the theme of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2024.

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World Leisure Journal: Shaping the Future of Leisure Studies

As part of the General Assembly at the World Leisure Congress, Sandro Carnicelli, Editor-in-Chief of the World Leisure Journal, presented a brief overview of the journal's achievements and outlined future objectives. He emphasized the journal's role in advancing leisure studies and its impact on academic discourse, in particular highlighting the work done in regard to the promotion of Global South Leisure Perspectives. This focus not only diversifies the scope of research but also enriches the understanding of leisure dynamics in various cultural contexts.

Additionally, the Editor-in-Chief encouraged the audience, consisting of scholars and professionals in the field, to submit proposals for the next two special issues, aiming to foster diverse perspectives and research in leisure studies. This call for submissions was positioned as an opportunity to contribute to and enrich the field's academic exploration. See calls [here](#).

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Legacy of the World Leisure Congress 2023 and passing the baton to the Netherlands in 2025

A mural painted by local artists, integrating ideas by the Field School students, has been painted at the Otago Business School and was presented at the closing ceremony, as part of the legacy of the 2023 World Leisure Congress. Dunedin passed then the baton to Breda-Rotterdam, where the next World Leisure Congress will be organized in 2025. A Taonga from the local The Koru art gallery was handed by Dr. Anna Carr, Professor at the University of Otago, to Dr. Marcel Bastiaansen, from Breda University of Applied Sciences. The Taonga is an integral symbol of Māori art, representing growth, life, flourishing, rejuvenation, wellness and peace. The artist, Moira Crossman, is an Otepoti/Dunedin sculptor. She has various public and private artworks around the world. Her works are located at Orokonui Ecosanctuary. She works in marble stone, wood and oamaru stone, a local limestone, so the art piece that was handed by Dunedin to Breda-Rotterdam represents Aotearoa/New Zealand's landscape. In fact, the main venue of the World Leisure Congress 2023 includes oamaru stone in the exterior. Thus, a Taonga from Otepoti/Dunedin's cultural landscape will travel to the Netherlands! After this passing the baton moment, Dr. Marcel Bastiaansen presented the World Leisure Congress 2025. Mark your agenda for a new successful World Leisure Congress in August 2025 in Breda-Rotterdam!

See you in Breda for the World Leisure Congress 2025!

The 2023 World Leisure Congress closed with the passing the baton from Dunedin to Breda-Rotterdam, when the next World Leisure Congress will be organized in 2025. A Taonga from the local The Koru art gallery was handed by Dr. Anna Carr, Professor at the University of Otago, to Dr. Marcel Bastiaansen, from Breda University of Applied Sciences. The *Taonga* is an integral symbol of Māori art, representing growth, life, flourishing, rejuvenation, wellness and peace. The artist, Moira Crossman, is an *Otepoti*/Dunedin sculptor. She has various public and private artworks around the world. Her works are located at *Orokonui* Ecosanctuary She works in marble stone, wood and *oamaru* stone, a local limestone, so the art piece that was handed by Dunedin to Breda-Rotterdam represents Aotearoa/New Zealand's landscape. In fact, the main venue of the World Leisure Congress 2023 includes *oamaru* stone in the exterior. Thus, a Taonga from *Otepoti*/Dunedin's cultural landscape will travel to the Netherlands! After this passing the baton moment, Dr. Marcel Bastiaansen presented the World Leisure Congress 2025. Mark your agenda for a new successful World Leisure Congress in August 2025 in Breda-Rotterdam!

[Watch it here.](#)





WORLD LEISURE ORGANIZATION (WLO)

World Leisure Organization is a non-profit organization registered in the State of New York in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 1990.

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