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Critically Analyzing Definitions of Excellence in Scholarly Literature on Hospitality

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Title: Critically Analyzing Definitions of Excellence in Scholarly Literature on Hospitality

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Abstract:

What are the definitions of excellence produced and reproduced in the main scholarly hospitality journals? What are the (hidden) values invoked through such definitions? What are, if any, the dis/agreements on the concept of excellence? In this study I review 25 academic papers published in the last 15 years in the top 20 scholarly journals on Tourism and Hospitality that have the term “excellence” in title and/or abstract, with the objective of shedding light on how the concept of excellence is constructed and communicated within and through the academic discourse. This study aims at drilling down the meaning of such a fuzzy concept as excellence, at eliciting a more reflective understanding and usage of the term, and at raising awareness of the stakes related to the ways excellence is defined, in order to critically discuss it in terms of humanism and progressivism. Are there different kinds of excellences that can be thought, pursued, and reached? If yes, which ones are the most relevant from a critical, humanistic, and progressivist perspective, aimed at making the world a better place to live in for everyone? From this point of view, the contribution’s major aspiration is starting and stimulating a discussion about these issues.