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Tourist loyalty and Intangible Cultural Heritage: the case of Popayán, Colombia

Purpose – The aim of this research is to analyse the loyalty of the tourists who visit a city with an important heritage event: The Holy Week Processions in the city of Popayán (Colombia), recognised by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Design/methodology/approach – This research focuses on determining the mediating effect of the perception of the processions and the evaluation of the elements of the destination during a visit to the city by using a sample of 615 tourists. The software tool used in this research is the Smart Partial Least Squares (PLS).

Findings – Results show that the motivations of the visitor are not enough by themselves to guarantee loyalty regarding the destination, but other variables are needed such as the perception of the processions and the evaluation of the elements of the destination, through which the motivation acquires a true meaning to secure the tourist's loyalty.

Practical implications – The principal practical implication of this research is offering to the stakeholders involved in the promotion and organisation of this event an opportunity to undertake and review actions for improvement.

Originality/value – This research seeks to highlight the interaction between heritage, sustainability and heritage in Latin America.

Keywords: tourism; intangible cultural heritage; PLS-SEM; mediation analysis; Popayan; Colombia

Introduction

The identity of different peoples is defined by the slow passage of generations. Thus, some of the elder customs and ways of living that have been revived by and have revived the different communities that generated them (providing them with a clear cultural identity) are currently in danger, given the speed of the prevailing globalisation

in the societies of the twenty-first century. This situation is made even clearer in the intangible cultural heritage of local communities, defined by their own customs, representations, knowledge, celebrations and festivities. In this case, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), at the Paris Convention in 2003, asserted the importance of protecting an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) as part of the cultural heritage of the peoples (UNESCO, 2003).

The recognition of a legacy or heritage, categorised as an ICH by UNESCO, is a stamp of authenticity, which gives it an unparalleled power in terms of attracting tourists (Indera & Yahaya 2016; Scott & Chhabra 2017; Williams 2016). This has already happened with World Heritage Sites. UNESCO (2003) indicates the need to balance the preservation of an ICH for the future generations with the economic development of the local community, encouraging the tourist to feel attracted to the intangible heritage. In any case, it should always be taken into consideration that an excessive amount of tourists could result in damaging the authenticity of an intangible heritage (UNESCO 2007). Therefore, a balanced and symbiotic management is required among the scientific, historic and educational evaluation of an ICH. Its correct tourist management is also required in order to generate economic income for the local community where these expressions take place (Del Barrio, Devesa, & Herrero 2012; Sotiriadis 2017).

This research is focused on one of the most noteworthy displays of a religious and cultural nature in the Latin American continent: The Holy Week Processions in the city of Popayán (Colombia). These have been registered by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2009. This celebration shows the life of a community with the maximum expression of feeling, fervour and respect. It has its origins in the sixteenth century, with processions during

the nights of the Holy Week, which possess a deep relationship with the conquest by and settlement of the first European inhabitants and religious communities of this Colombian city. The displays of this ICH have been formed over the passage of time, generation after generation, in accordance with the political and religious aspect of each age. However, the fundamental essence of this celebration remains intact. As a result, it is one of the main representations of the cultural tradition and identity of the city of Popayán.

We can also see that UNESCO, as a way of making cities cooperate in different areas, created in 2004 the "Creative Cities Network". The main aim of this network is to incentivise the creativity and the innovation through the implementation of urban cooperation strategies which allow cities to have a more sustainable and inclusive development (UNESCO, 2006). This way, Popayan also possesses the international recognition of its rich culinary heritage by UNESCO as a Creative City of Gastronomy in 2005 (it was the first city to obtain this recognition). This recognition created another tourist attraction that allows for sustainable local development (Pearson & Pearson 2017).

In addition to these UNESCO inscriptions, Popayan has other many cultural attractions like the Festival of Religious Music, The Small Holy Week, Kings' Holiday (known also by "Blanquitos y Negritos") and the routes for museums and churches. In the culinary aspect, we must highlight their Gastronomical Congress and the Maize (corn) itinerary. It also offers thermal waters, birds watching and hiking activities in its exuberant nature.

In any case, said inscriptions on behalf of UNESCO mean the managers of a tourist destination (local, regional or national) have to let this supranational organisation some authority and implication over their tourist resources when it comes to study them,

implant actions or plans and evaluate the main aspects for the sustainable management of the heritage: holistic and long-term vision, as well as governance from the various agents that participate from it and preserve it (Landorf, 2009). From Popayan's City Hall, the "Corporación Mixta De Turismo Del Cauca" and the Ministry of Cultures and Tourism of Colombia must coordinate themselves with UNESCO to preserve this intangible heritage.

As well as the two previous UNESCOS's acknowledgements highlighted before, in 2016 the Accords of the Peace Process in Colombia were agreed. This offers a unique opportunity for reconciliation in this Latin American country, allowing for the excombatants (currently reintegrated into society) as well as the victims of this conflict to collaborate in the fair economic and social development of the Valle del Cauca, where the city of Popayán is located. All these aspects are what truly give this research its innovative character as well as it being carried out in a developing country such as Colombia. Unfortunately, this innovation also highlights the lack of research there is done about these affairs in Latin-America compared to other continents where these researches are more common. This research is one of the first research in this field in that geographical area.

The fundamental goal of this article is to contribute to the study of the perceptions that the tourist has of the city of Popayán in relation to the Holy Week Processions (ICH). In order to attain this goal, first the direct relationships between tourist motivation and loyalty associated with a visit to this heritage event are examined. Later, the intermediary influence of the perception of the processions and/or the evaluation of the elements in relation to visiting this Colombian city is analysed.

Literature review

The cultural legacy of a community is generated by tradition and the shared beliefs of its inhabitants who have passed it on to new generations, allowing for the structure of a rich and singular identity, far from the current standardising tendency of globalisation. The fragility of this cultural heritage is clearer if it is intangible heritage, as it is no longer connected to something physical but to customs, celebrations or festivities of those who live on in time without worrying about the difference between tangible and intangible (Ahmad 2006; Anh 2017; Kurin 2004, 2007). The singularity of these displays also suggests an attraction for the visitor interested in cultural expressions, which is seen by some authors as a way to democratise the heritage and, by other researchers as a way of endangering its own authenticity (Greenop, Juckes & Landorf 2016; West & Carrier 2004).

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) (2012), determines a series of strategies for the conversion of ICH into cultural products, although, at the same time it recognises and warns of the risks that await its safeguarding, especially in developing countries. This dichotomy derives from the need to find a balance between the tourist enjoyment of the ICH, allowing for the prosperity of the local community, and the maintenance of adequate levels of sustainability in the tourist flows attracted to this heritage. Because of this, UNWTO indicates the need to conduct scientific research that allows for the analysis of the effects of these new tourist types on destinations recognised as ICH (UNWTO 2012). All of this has the goal of determining guidelines and improvements that will allow for the understanding of the ever-complex relationships between tourist enjoyment and heritage protection.

When we speak about tourist sustainability related to a specific heritage (in economic, social and environmental terms), we are referring to the concept of load capacity or reception capacity (Coccossis, 2017; O'Reilly, 1986; Zelenka & Kacetl,

2014). This determines the maximum number of tourist that can visit a place or event (in our case, the Holy Week Processions), so that its impact does not cause deterioration in the cultural and allow the protection of what gives it authenticity and, to at the same time, get full visitor satisfaction (Salerno, Viviano, Manfredi, Caroli, Thakuri & Tartari, 2013). Hence, these thresholds would ensure the safekeeping of this cultural good for present and future generations. In any case, these analyses must be dynamic and relative, since they depend on different variables that, in many cases, are changing. Some researches (among others McCool, & Lime, 2001; Muler Gonzalez, Coromina & Gali, 2018; UNESCO, 2007) indicate that such capacity must take into account three key aspects: ecology, landscape and perception. The first of them is based on the intensity of the visit related to the available natural resources. The second is related to the analysis of the capacity the heritage has to absorb the visitors it receives without implying, in the case of an intangible asset, the alteration of its traditional representation. The last variable is based on psychosocial tolerance about the presence of visitors by the local community and the tourists that assist to the heritage event.

In any case, the majority of the empirical studies that analyse the relationship between heritage and tourism have been focused on areas that have a tangible UNESCO recognition, i.e. the World Heritage Sites. And this is due to the enormous difficulty in the completion of academic research into the involved intangible displays, in the majority of occasions for a short, specific and finite period (Vidal González 2008). Among other research related to tourism and ICH, the study by Aoyama (2009) can be highlighted as it analyses the relationship between tourism and flamenco as an ICH in the region of Andalusia, Spain. Similarly, Gómez Schettini, Almirón & González Bracco (2011) study the tango as a tourist resource in the city of Buenos Aires. In turn, Bille (2012) goes further and examines the relationship of the Bedouins of Petra and the

 Wadi Rum in Jordan – ICH – and its tourist synergy with the declaration of the city of Petra as a World Heritage Site. More recently, López-Guzmán & González Santa Cruz (2017) conducted research that analyses the tourist experience of travellers during the celebration of an ICH, in this case, the Fiesta of the Patios in Córdoba (Spain).

Motivations and loyalty

For the appropriate and sustainable management of a destination, it is fundamental to study the relationships between the motivation and the degree of loyalty of the tourists that visit it. Therefore, motivation is one of the most important factors in choosing a tourist destination prior to visiting it (Breakey 2012). In any case, the academic research related to the analysis of the motivations for acquiring a product or service indicates that its structure is subject to the variations of the environment, such as behavioural changes that society itself produces. As such, the structure of the motivation is formed as a dynamic process that is changed by questions such as the consumer's experience, status or age (Pearce 1982). In this case, the motivations involved in the choice of a cultural destination such as Popayán, specifically within the dates of its Holy Week Processions (ICH), may be defined as diverse and constantly evolving. On the other hand, it is currently producing an intensification of the competition among the destinations with an important tangible or intangible heritage legacy, mainly in reference to foreign tourists (Remoaldo, Vareiro, Ribeiro & Santos 2014) for which, additionally, a prior work of cultural understanding is necessary as many of them come from different cultures (Tucker & Carnegie 2014).

In the tourist environment, the structure of the motivations for the visit has different determining factors, with the culture of the place visited being one of the most important (Correia, Kozak & Ferradeira 2013). In this way, for Abuamoud, Libbin,

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Green & Alrousan (2014), the tourist attraction of these cultural destinations is conditioned by aspects such as the services offered by the public and private organisations responsible for their management and by the local community's own involvement in the development of this destination. Vong & Ung (2012) indicate four determining elements in the management of this tourism type: (1) the historic and cultural legacy of the destination; (2) the assistance services that are offered in this place; (3) the interpretation of this legacy; and (4) the different tourist attractions that are offered to visitors.

Vareiro, Freitas Santos, Remoaldo & Cadima Ribeiro (2016) classify the motivations into four different groups: historic heritage and accessibility, entertainment and shopping, efficiency, and convenience. For Romao, Neuts, Nijkamp & van Leeuwen (2015), tourist motivations can be classified into three main blocks: culture; business; and entertainment. In turn, Almeida-Santana & Moreno-Gil (2018) group the different motivations into the following dimensions: rest and relaxation; knowledge and culture; prestige and social display; sports; entertainment; and meeting new people. In the most specific area of cultural tourism, other research (Nguyen & Cheung 2014) distinguishes between tourist motivations and heritage motivations. Thus, among the tourist motivations, we find: entertainment purposes; personal attachment; and knowledge pursuit, among others. And among the heritage motivations, we have: enrich personal knowledge; learn about the city; learn about the culture and heritage city; or increase knowledge regarding the site.

On the other hand, the loyalty variable regarding the destination requires an elemental construct for the development of the appropriate marketing strategies, given that it is considered to be the best predictor of shopping behaviour or the acquisition of consumers (Chen & Chen 2010). Thus, loyalty towards a destination visited determines

a guarantee of sustainable income for any local community. Additionally, loyalty is not only based on the desire to return to visit a geographical zone but also based on a source of positive information and communication for other possible visitors (Baker & Crompton 2000). The research about tourist loyalty usually finds two different types: (1) behavioural loyalty, associated with a desire to repeat the visit; and (2) loyal attitude, associated with a positive predisposition to recommend the destination to other individuals, in addition to the desire to repeat this visit (Almeida-Santana & Moreno-Gil 2018; Barroso, Armario & Ruiz 2007; Chen & Tsai 2007; Oppermann 2000; Sato, Gipson, Todd & Harada 2018). Likewise, loyalty towards a destination is related to the different tourist resources that the destination has to offer, including, meaningfully, cultural ones (Almedia-Santana & Moreno-Gil, 2018).

In line with the literature review, this leads us to propose the following hypothesis:

H₁: The motivations of the visitor shall have a positive and direct influence on their loyalty to the destination.

Motivations, perceptions and loyalty

In scientific literature, one of the most discussed topics is the analysis of the relationship between tourism and the cultural heritage of a destination. This tourism type is known as 'heritage tourism', that is to say, tourism associated with places, monuments, experiences, celebrations, etc., in these destinations. All of this suggests, according to Poria, Reichel & Biran (2006), that the trip becomes something more than a recreational practice, entering into the area of comprehension and understanding of the cultural heritage that the destination transmits to each individual, deriving a unique perception and a different experience from that which other destinations could offer. The destination is perceived as being part of the heritage legacy of the community. This perception is connected to its visit patterns (Poria, Butler & Airey 2003). Even the visitors can understand that this legacy is part of their culture, which implies that the traveller is behaving in a noticeably different way from the tourists who do not have this perception. This conclusion is extremely interesting for the analysis of tourist behaviour and the development of an appropriate management of the heritage destinations, allowing for the planning and implementation of appropriate strategies on behalf of the public and private bodies that participate in its promotion. Thus, McKercher & du Cros (2003) analyse the tourists according to the experience sought and the effect the culture and traditions of the destination has on them.

In line with the literature review, this leads us to propose the following hypothesis:

 H_2 : The influence of the motivations in loyalty regarding the destination is found to be measured by the perception that the tourists have of the Holy Week Processions in Popayán.

Motivations, evaluation of the elements of the visit and loyalty

Tourist destinations are characterised by a series of attributes or elements that define their attraction to the tourist (Lew 1987). In this sense, the complex of elements in a destination is based on the different aspects that are key for the structure of the relational experience with the place visited and, as such, for the determination of the different factors key to the tourist's experience (Kim 2014; Tung & Ritchie 2011). This experience shall be perceived as memorable if the combination of the different elements of the destination, such as the heritage preservation, the cleanliness of the place, security, mobility and accessibility or gastronomy (Chi & Qu, 2008; Kim & Brown

2012) have an evaluation highlighted by the tourist. As such, an unforgettable tourist experience shall generate satisfaction in the traveller, loyalty towards a visited destination, and its promotion (Ozdemir, Aksu, Ehtiyar, Çizel, Çizel & İçigen 2012).

Nevertheless, some of the elements that define a tourist destination do not provide competitive advantages or they performed with the same intensity (Prayag 2008). In this way, the scientific literature analyses the different elements that provide the tourist assessment of a destination, as well as the analysis of their corresponding evaluation. It is also essential to determine the attributes that suggest areas for improvement in the evaluation that the travellers award to the place visited (Beerli & Martin 2004; Chandralal & Valenzuela 2013; Chi & Qu 2008; Crouch 2011; Kim 2014; Kim & Brown 2012; López-Guzmán, Torres, Pérez & Carvache 2019) and how these elements may define the satisfaction of the tourist and their loyalty to the destination.

In line with the literature review, this leads to the following hypothesis:

H₃: The influence of motivations in loyalty regarding the destination is found to be measured by the evaluation of the elements in the destination.

Below, in Figure 1, the approach of the different hypotheses and the proposed model are presented.

[Insert Figure 1]

Methodology

Area of study and completion process

In order to maintain the sustainability of cultural heritage over time, it is essential to provide the visitor with a quality experience that ensures adequate levels of satisfaction (Brida, Meleddu & Pulina, 2016). All this being able to maintain the balance between the need to preserve traditions while avoiding the cultural appropriation and giving

tourist a memorable experience according to what they came looking for. This research is developed with the aim of analysing the perception that tourists have of the celebration of the Holy Week Processions in Popayán (ICH). In this regard, this section provides a methodological framework that allows the visitor's experience to be related to the level of loyalty developed. In this way it can be examined how important is the care of the context and the sustainability work developed during the Holy Week Processions.

The target population of this research is the tourists who visited the Holy Week Processions when they were held in 2018. For the collection of the information, fieldwork was carried out. This was conducted with a structured questionnaire that was answered by a sample of tourists that were found on the different routes of the Holy Week Processions. Questionnaires were only given to tourists that had already seen the processions and, therefore, could give an informed opinion of this cultural event (Correia et al. 2013; Remoaldo et al. 2014).

The questionnaire consists of two blocks. The first block analyses the motivations the tourist has for visiting the city in Holy Week, the evaluation of the attributes or elements associated with this ICH, the tourist perceptions of this intangible heritage and the loyalty shown towards the destination. The second block focuses on the study of the socio-demographic profile of the tourists surveyed.

The fieldwork was carried out between the 25th of March and the 1st of April 2018, at the same time as the Holy Week Processions. The group of surveyors was linked to the University of Cauca (Colombia).

Measurements

The questions of the first block of the questionnaire were answered with a Likert scale of five points. The questions were given in positive and negative forms to avoid

 acquiescence. The questionnaires were provided in two languages – Spanish and English – chosen according to the mother tongue and place of origin of the visitors, so as not to exclude anyone.

The questionnaire used is based on the previous scientific literature (Correia et al. 2013; López-Guzmán & González Santa Cruz 2017; McKercher 2002; Poria et al. 2003; Remoaldo et al. 2014). With the aim of attaining a valid and consistent questionnaire, a refinement process was carried out in three different phases: (1) review of the questionnaire on the part of a researcher specialising in heritage tourism; (2) analysis of the questionnaire by some of the tourist managers of the city who, in turn, participated in the organisation and promotion of this ICH; (3) completion of a validation pre-test of 50 tourists who were representative of the population being surveyed.

Sampling and data collection

The target population were the tourists who visited the city of Popayán, during the Holy Week Processions of 2018, regardless of whether they stayed overnight or not or whether they visited other places in the department of Cauca (Colombia). A nonprobability sampling technique was chosen, usually used in this type of research, where tourists surveyed are in the same space and time (Finn, Elliott-White & Walton 2000). In relation to the size of the target population, the figure of 22,560 tourists was considered, this being the number of visitors who visited the different tourist information points during the Holy Week Processions of 2017. A total of 643 surveys were received, of which 615 were valid. This figure, according to Cohen (1992), is valid as a minimum required sample in the design and later analysis of the SEM-PLS model. Additionally, this type of data establishes the possibility of exploring the minimum sample size according to the number of relations proposed by the model – in this case, five (Figure 1). Therefore, a G* Power test (Faul, Erdfelder, Lang & Buchner 2007) is used for a significance level of α =0.05, an effect size of f2=0.15 and, with three predictors, gave a level of 95.09% as a result with a minimum sample of 128 individuals. As such, the value was appropriate (far above the level of 80%) according to that recommended by Araujo & Froyland (2007).

Global measurement model

To confirm the accuracy of the setting of the global measurement model, the root mean square error correlation value (hereafter RMStheta) is calculated, applying a bootstrapping process (the technique of re-sampling gives the generation of 4,999 samples as a result), allowing for the difference between good and bad specified models (Henseler, Hubona & Ray 2016). The result proved to be the appropriate one, as RMStheta = 0.106, and it is considered that a model has a good setting when RMStheta <0.12 (Henseler, Ringle & Sarstedt 2015).

Validation of measurement model and data analysis

The proposed structural model has been assessed by the application of the approximation of Partial Least Squares (PLS) (Chin & Newsted 1999). The Smart PLS V.3 was used to complete the model estimations. In Table 1, the factorial loads for the reflective scales are shown, as well as the corresponding reliability measures. In relation to the reflective scales, the convergent validity is confirmed as the average variance extracted (AVE) shows values higher than 0.5 in all cases. In relation to the composite reliability (CR), the values surpass the minimum limit of 0.6 in every case and Cronbach's alpha is higher than 0.7 for every latent variable.

[Insert Table 1]

Additionally, the discriminating validity was confirmed through the use and calculation of the heterotrait-monotrait ratio (HTMT) (Henseler et al. 2015) among the reflective composites. The HTMT has a value lower than 0.90 (Table 2). As such, the value is appropriate according to Gold, Malhotra & Segars (2001).

[Insert Table 2]

Results of the research

This section presents the results of the study. First of all, the distribution of the sample from a socio-demographic point of view is described, which is divided into almost equal parts between men (52.8%) and women (47.2%). By age, the surveyees were divided in the following way: under 30 years of age (47.5%); between 30 and 39 years of age (32.2%); between 40 and 49 years of age (10.4%); between 50 and 59 years of age (6.2%); and over 60 years of age (3.7%). With respect to the level of education, the tourists surveyed show a high level of studies. Thus, 6.5% have only primary education, 10.8% have secondary education, 62.7% have university education and 20.0% have a master's degree or a doctorate. In terms of professional occupation, the surveyees are divided as: students (25.5%); employed by another party (21.7%); self-employed (19.6%); business owners (14.4%); civil servants (8.2%); housewives (5.6%); retirees (3.8%); and unemployed (1.2%). In terms of their nationalities, 86.6% of the tourists surveyed were Colombian and 13.4% were foreigners. Among the latter, European tourists comprised the highest number (45.3%), followed by Latin Americans (32.3%) and North Americans (21.2%). Finally, with respect to the income level of the family unit, those with less than \$525 (36.6%) were the largest group, followed by those with 6.6 between \$526 and \$1,050 (30.1%), then those with an income of between \$1,051 and \$1,575 (15.1%), between \$1,576 and \$2,625 (12.2%), between \$2,626 and \$3,675 (4.1%) and, finally, an income of over \$3,675 (1.9%).

Next, in the following sections, the results of the analysis of the structural equation are presented. This analysis mainly develops the measurement of the structural model (Henseler, et al. 2016).

Structural model

Having tested the validity and reliability of the measurement models, possible problems of collinearity were identified. The hypotheses proven in the structural model were assessed by means of the analysis of path coefficients and the predictive power measures of said structural model (Stone–Geisser's R2 and Q2).

1. Valuation of collinearity

In agreement with Hair, Hult, Ringle & Sarstedt (2014), there are multi-collinearity indexes when the variance inflation factor (hereafter, VIF) value is less than 5. As seen in Table 3, all of the values are found below this figure and move specifically between 1 and 1.755.

[Insert Table 3]

The trajectory coefficients may be interpreted as coefficients of standardised regression (Hair et al. 2014). In Table 4, the coefficients of the five relationships or paths appear (1; 2a; 2b; 3a; 3b). These results suggest that the motivations do not imply by themselves an increase in the loyalty of the visitor to the destination. Therefore, hypothesis 1 (H₁) is rejected. However, there is an indirect double effect between the motivations and the loyalty toward the destination. First of all, there is an indirect effect, which relates the perception of the processions with loyalty to the destination, where H₂ presents coefficients of 0.490 (p<0.01) for path 2a and 0.712 (p<0.01) for path 2b, respectively. In second place, it is possible to speak about an indirect second effect that associates the evaluation of the elements of the visit with loyalty to the destination,

where H_3 presents coefficients of 0.574 (p<0.01) for path 3a and 0.169 (p<0.01) for path

3b.

[Insert Table 4]

2. Predictive power

In this section, the R² coefficient of determination and Stone–Geisser's Q² test is calculated. The first of these represents a measure of predictive power, while the second is used as criteria for measuring the predictive relevance of the reflective dependent constructs (loyalty, perception and evaluation). In Table 5, the results can be seen. Thus, for R², the results may be seen as acceptable from a predictive point of view (Chin 1998). On the other hand, if Q²>0, it could confirm that the composite models have a predictive power (Chin 1998). In accordance with the results obtained, loyalty, perceptions and evaluation have values above zero.

[Insert Table 5]

3. Mediation analysis

For the confirmation of the mediation effect, a bias-corrected bootstrap confidence interval was applied as the most reliable test (Hayes & Scharkow 2013). SmartPLS 3.2 software was used with the aim of testing the mediating effects of the model. To obtain the confidence intervals, 5,000 samples were executed, and the bias-corrected method percentile generated a confidence interval of 95%. In Table 6, the results of the mediating effects are detailed. In this case, Nitzl, Roldan & Cepeda's (2016) two-stage model is used. This consists of establishing the meaning of the indirect effects first of all and, secondly, determining the effects and/or the mediation.

In accordance with the phases of the mediation model, the first step determines the meaning of the indirect effects. The results are shown in Table 6 with a significant

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indirect double effect (positive) with a confidence level of 95%. On the one hand, the motivations towards the destination (DM) and regarding loyalty towards the destination (LD), through the perception of the processions (PP) (non-standardised estimations = 0.349; p<0.05), confirm hypotheses 2 (H₂). On the second hand, hypothesis 3 (H₃) (Table 6, panel A) is confirmed, as there is a relationship among the motivations towards the destination (DM) and regarding loyalty towards the destination (LD), through the evaluation of the visit elements (VEE) (non-standardised estimations = 0.039; p<0.05). With these results, the mediating effect can be confirmed.

Second of all, in table 6 panel B the type of effect and/or mediation that PP and VEE have is determined. Therefore, the inexistence of a direct effect between DM and LD (path 1) means that hypothesis 1 cannot be supported (non-standardised estimations = 0.097; p<0.05). As such, it can be concluded that the mediation that exerts, in terms of the perception of the processions as well as the evaluation of the visit elements, is complete in the relationships between the motivations and loyalty to the destination. Additionally, in order to prevent the possible discrepancies in relation to the result of the mediation (Rucker, Preacher, Tormala & Petty 2011), we consider the sample size to be sufficiently large (see methodology section) so as to consider that there is a complete mediation and this cannot be confused with a partial mediation.

[Insert Table 6]

Conclusions

The recognition by UNESCO of a tradition, a festivity or a celebration as an ICH supposes, in addition to its first-class cultural recognition and its primordial obligation of protection, its promotion as a tourist product, one that is especially attractive to a specific type of tourist, those known as heritage tourists. As such, this implies the need for the completion of scientific studies, as is the case of the Holy Week Processions in

the Colombian city of Popayán, which look to discover the possible relationships that exist between tourist motivation and loyalty. The aim is to provide a tourist offer that is adapted to what the tourist desires but prioritising, logically, the protection of this ancestral legacy. Additionally, in the case of this city, another tourist attraction stands out in its UNESCO recognition as a Creative City of Gastronomy, without forgetting the recent Peace Accords of Colombia, which establish a more hopeful future for this Latin American country.

The results of this research show that the (positive) influence of the motivations regarding loyalty to the destination is mediated completely by the perception that tourists have of the processions and by the evaluation of the motivations that lead to their visit. In this respect, this research shows how even when the motivations of the visitors are high in relation to the destination, this does not necessarily imply that loyalty to the destination afterwards is more likely. As such, the relationship of the motivations regarding the destination is explained in its entirety (Nitzl et al. 2016) (without taking into consideration other possible explanations away from the model) by means of determining elements during the visit, such as the acquisition of a positive perception of the processions, as well as a positive evaluation of the experience of the visit. In conclusion, the visitor will not be loyal to the destination if, during their stay in the city, they perceive and evaluate negatively elements that accompany them during the visit.

This study intends to examine in more depth research which relates tourism and ICH, and is one of the first academic works regarding this material in Latin America. From a practical point of view, the results contain important implications for management. In this case, the results offer the organisations involved in the promotion and organisation of this event (among those that can be listed: the Permanent Council for Holy Week of Popayán; the Mayor's Office of Popayán; and the Regional Government of Cauca) and other groups of interest (such as local businesses) an opportunity to undertake and review actions for improvement and, specially, when it comes to the development of synergies with other important resources (like the declaration of Creative City of Gastronomy), that allows to exploit the loyalty levels generated during the Holy Week Processions. Thus, increasing the potential of the city with the ulterior motive of developing business and tourist projects and agendas that generate work positions which allow the local community to have an active role in the sustainable development of the activities taking part in their city (e.g. developing a city brand; partnership agreements).

These actions should not only be focused on the implementation of preliminary actions of promotion that develop a feeling or a motivation in the visitor, but also the need to introduce specific plans or activities that make the stay of the tourist in the destination become a key vehicular element that allows for the creation of a multiplying effect. This way, it would be possible to improve the loyalty of the visitor and have the tourist become an active promoter in their area of influence after their visit to the city.

Additionally, to improve the equitable and inclusive use of this ICH the creation of meeting and coordination spaces between the public organizations responsible for its management and the local community itself is proposed, thereby facilitating the development of entrepreneurship and educational improvement strategies. To this end, workshops and specific courses can be designed to encourage heritage interpretation. In this way the inhabitants of Popayan would have the possibility to implementing cooperative entrepreneurship experiences so they can raise the economic and social value of their heritage. Thus, businesses dedicated to guided tours and heritage

interpretation, recreation, symbolism, cultural animation and local cuisine would blossom.

The main restriction of this research is that there are no previous data which could have been used as the basis for the completion of this research. Due to the purpose of our research, the field work was only carried out during the Holy Week **Processions.** As a future line of research, the completion of studies focused on the perspective of tourist activity is proposed, from another perspective, during the Holy Week Processions. It would also be necessary to delve deeper in the tourist reception capacity that this ICH could have, all this done through charge thresholds or indexes. It is necessary too to analyse deeper the concept of tourist symbolic social appropriation. With this, we would be able to improve the economic use on behalf of the local community (through the tourist income generated), as well as guarantee its cultural, environmental and social safekeeping.

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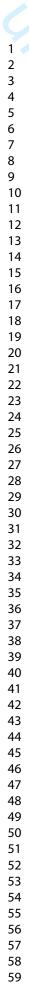
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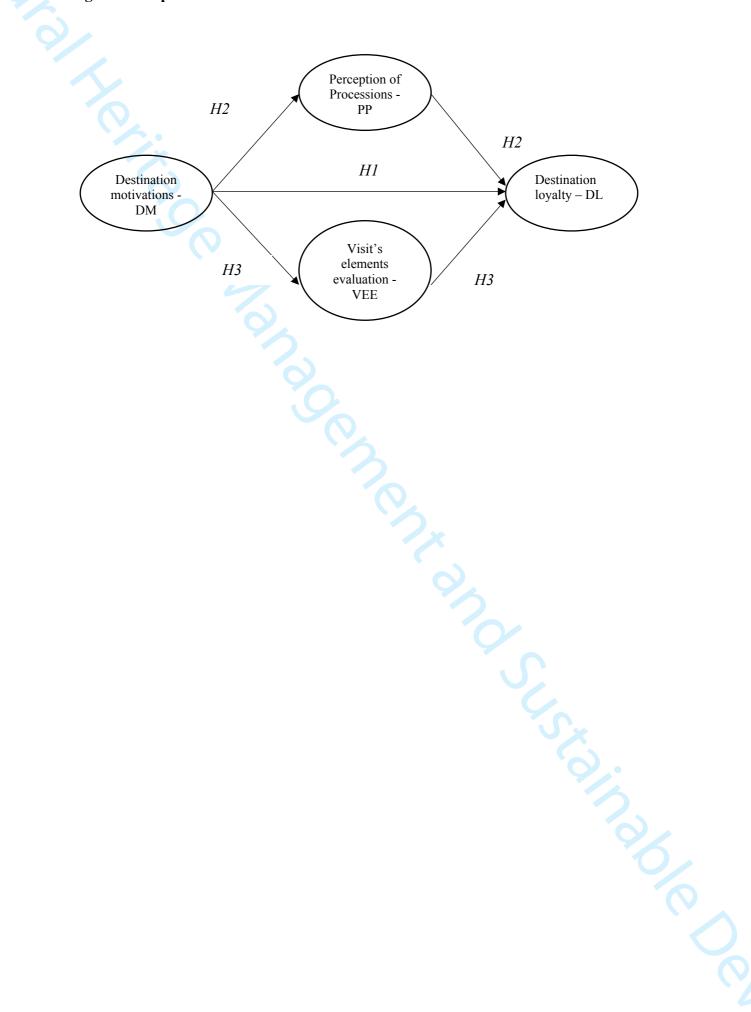
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| Indicators | Loading | AVE | CR | Cronbach 's- alpha |
|--|---------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| Motivations | | 0.513 | 0.913 | 0.894 |
| Q7.1: To attend cultural events: exhibitions, festivals, | 0.623 | | | |
| concerts, etc. | | | | |
| Q7.2: To know the Holy Week of Popayán | 0.686 | | | |
| Q7.3: To know the city's wealth of monuments and history | 0.758 | | | |
| Q7.4: To taste the gastronomy | 0.723 | | | |
| Q7.5: To break away from daily routine | 0.694 | | | |
| Q7.6: To know new places | 0.712 | | | |
| Q7.8: The city's tourist attraction and reputation | 0.776 | | | |
| Q7.9: To get a deeper knowledge of the city's heritage | 0.763 | | | |
| Q7.10: Because it is a tourist destination that suits my | 0.763 | | | |
| budget | 0.745 | | | |
| Q7.11: To increase my tourist itinerary | 0.669 | | | |
| Perception of processions | | 0.804 | 0.942 | 0.918 |
| Q9.1: During my presence in the Holy Week | 0.873 | | | |
| Procession I felt a part of the heritage | | | | |
| Q9.2: My presence in the Holy Week Procession moved | 0.907 | | | |
| | 0.000 | | | |
| Q9.3: My presence in the Holy Week Procession has contributed to increasing my knowledge about the | 0.889 | | | |
| culture of the city | | | | |
| Q9.4: My presence in the Holy Week Procession made | 0.916 | | | |
| me feel good | | | | |
| Visit's elements evaluation | | 0.589 | 0.94 | 0.93 |
| Q8.1: Accessibility to the processions | 0.763 | | | |
| Q8.2: Hospitality of residents | 0.757 | | | |
| Q8.3: Beauty of the city and the processions | 0.798 | | | |
| Q8.4: State of conservation of the environment where | 0.817 | | | |
| the processions took place | 0.022 | | | |
| Q8.5: Cleanliness and maintenance of the city | 0.823 | | | |
| Q8.6: Availability of restaurants and bars | 0.741 | | | |
| Q8.7: Diversity of processions | 0.765 | | | |
| Q8.8: Tourist information | 0.71 | | | |
| Q8.9: Opportunity to purchase traditional craftwork and | 0.714 | | | |
| food Q8.10: Citizen security | 0.796 | | | |
| Q8.11: Time to wait to access the processional areas | 0.751 | | | |
| Destination loyalty | 0.751 | 0.513 | 0.913 | 0.894 |
| Q10.1: My presence at the Holy Week of Popayán was | 0.883 | 0.313 | 0.913 | 0.894 |
| the right decision | 0.000 | | | |
| Q10.2: My level of satisfaction with the Holy Week is | 0.889 | | | |
| high | | | | 1 |
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| Q10.3: I will encourage my relatives and friends to | 0.911 |
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| visit Popayán during the Holy Week | |
| Q10.4: If someone asked me, I would recommend the | 0.899 |
| Holy Week of Popayán | |
| Q10.5: After my experience, I will definitely come back | 0.866 |

All loads of the reflective measurement model are significant at the 1% base on a two-tailed test

[t (0.01;4999) =2.577].

| Table 2. Evaluation | of discriminar | t validity. |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|

| T.C. | Destination loyalty | Motivations | Perception of processions | Visit's elements evaluation |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Destination loyalty | 1 | | | |
| Motivations | 0.516 | 1 | | |
| Perception of processions | 0.888 | 0.529 | 1 | |
| Visit's elements evaluation | 0.627 | 0.617 | 0.602 | 1 |
| 1 | | | | |

| | Destination | Motivations | Perception of | Visit's elements |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| | loyalty | | processions | evaluation |
| Destination loyalty | | | | |
| Motivations | 1.591 | | 1 | 1 |
| Perception of processions | 1.550 | | | |
| Visit's elements evaluation | 1.755 | | | |
| | | | | |

Table 4. Structural model (N = 615).

| | R ² | R ² adjusted | _ |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Destination loyalty | 0.706 | 0.705 | _ |
| Perception of processions | 0.241 | 0.239 | |
| Visit's elements evaluation | 0.329 | 0.328 | |
| 6 | | Q ² | — |
| Destination loyalty | | 0.521 | _ |
| Motivations | | | |
| Perception of processions | | 0.182 | |
| Visit's elements evaluation | | 0.180 | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| 2 | | Panel | A: Indirect | teffect | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| 5 | Original sample | Sample mean | | | Boot | strapping BC | Sig. |
| Indirect effects | (0) | (M) | Bias | P. 95, CI | P. 95, CI | P. 95, CI | |
| | | | | 2.50% | 97.50% | 2.5% 97.5% | <i>0</i> |
| path 2a x path 2b | 0.097 | 0.349 | -0.253 | 0.301 | 0.398 | 0.048 0.146 | 5 yes |
| path 3a x path 3b | 0.349 | 0.098 | 0.251 | 0.063 | 0.137 | 0.314 0.388 | 3 yes |
| | 1 | Pan | el B: Media | ation | | | |
| Direct effec | ct | 5 | Indirect | effect | Туре | of mediation | VAF |
| path 1 95% | sig +/- | | x path 2b | 95% sig | +/- | | |
| 0.039 no |) | 0. | 349 | yes | + Tota | al mediation | 0.920 |
| | | | x path 3b | 95% sig | +/- | | |
| | | 0. | 097 | yes | + | | |
| bootstrap s | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | |

Table 6. Mediation analysis.