

**Cynarski, W. J. (2020). *Tourism of Martial Arts: Social-cultural perspective*. Rzeszow: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego.
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Tourism of Martial Arts offers a novel and interesting collection of experiences on tourism relating to martial arts activities. Predominantly focussed on Japanese martial arts, such as Jujitsu, Karate, and Aikido, there is also some consideration of Chinese Kong fu, and Polish hussars. The author does not make any false attempt to convince the reader that his collection is by any means all encompassing, and is quite open to his potential subjectivity, making for a more sound and appropriate read.

Starting with a historical description of martial arts practice and research, Cynarski then proceeds to provide insights on the geographic spread of martial arts tourism, the types of participants, different types of martial art, martial arts trips as case studies, and the role of martial arts in sport and science tourism. The descriptions are vivid, clear, and very interesting to those who study or practice martial arts.

The book offers a detailed collection of the author's anthropological research studies on martial arts travel, acting as a good starting point for those wishing to study the topic further. The fact that the book is written in both Polish and English adds to the versatility and usefulness of the text.

However, *tourism* analysis in the text is brief and mostly from a cursory 'setting' perspective; the described studies revolve around martial arts experiences taken while travelling. No obvious tourism theories and principles have been applied or described, which leaves the reader questioning the tourism side of martial arts. Readers should not, therefore, read the text expecting to explore and understand the relationship between tourism and martial arts, as one may expect in a niche-tourism or special interest tourism perspective. The focus is very much on martial arts practice, competitions, conferences, and martial arts as a sport.

Therefore, while this tourism research omission is limiting from a learning and understanding perspective, there is great potential in the form of application. In the classroom, the text would be well-suited to a Special Interest Tourism or niche tourism class exploring different types of tourism. Given the detail in the text on the martial arts being practiced, the nature of travel related to martial arts, and the case studies provided (Chapter 6), students have the martial arts information provided, and could therefore look at applying their tourism knowledge. Whether as its own individual niche or as a part of sports tourism, students could explore and discuss different types of special interest tourist attendees and the consequences of this (see Agarwal, Busby, & Huang, 2018; Brotherton & Himmetoglu, 1997), the impacts of this tourism or tourists on destinations, management considerations of these types of tourism. Activities could encourage students to plan such events, helping to provide better industry connections and more hands-on experience for students.

From a research perspective, the text offers those interested in researching martial arts tourism with a valuable resource to introduce the martial arts literature, albeit predominantly Cynarski's work, and interact with the discussion present there, with a special focus on the travelling elements of martial arts. A cursory and highly unscientific or thorough scan of literature relating to martial arts tourism would suggest at a general lack of research in tourism literature on martial arts, supported by some, albeit dated, publications (Kim, Lee, Kim, & Kim, 2015; Ko, Kim, Kim, & Lee, 2010).

The international nature of the book, covering trips across Europe and Asia offer a variety of empirical contexts to explore for researchers and students alike. Therefore, readers have the opportunity to explore potentially familiar or novel environments to guide their case study applications or research agendas.

The book is, therefore, an insightful collection of anthropological studies on the author's experiences travelling globally for martial arts activities. From a tourism research perspective, however, it does suffer from a lack of tourism ideology, theory, and practice. This therefore makes the book less useful as a tourism learning resource, but could be used as a guide to martial arts research or as supporting material for special interest tourism classes, where students can make the necessary tourism connections.

From one Kenshi to another, *Arigato gozaimashita!*

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