Performing Arts in the Landscape of Cultural Tourism: A Mini-Review

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Abstract

Cultural tourism represents a significant sector with considerable economic and educational benefits for both domestic and international visitors. Despite its intersection with various disciplines, the integration of performing arts within this domain remains underexplored. This mini-review employs the PRISMA methodology to systematically analyze data retrieved from the Scopus database, providing a structured insight into the existing literature. The findings reveal that while performing arts are acknowledged as a component of cultural tourism, their potential impact is not extensively documented. Nevertheless, this review identifies three core conceptual themes—sustainability, adaptability, and authenticity—that are essential to understanding the role of performing arts in enhancing the cultural tourism experience. These themes suggest a framework for future research and the strategic development of cultural tourism initiatives that harness the transformative power of performing arts.

Keywords: *Cultural Tourism, Performing Arts, Mini-Review, Sustainability, Adaptability, Authenticity*

INTRODUCTION

Language in the most basic sense is complex communication, which is capable of being well understood and misunderstood with indefinite possibilities. Sometimes, we escape from the actual meaning of a word and look into the philosophical depth of the basis that undergirds each word with its thousands of interpretations. Most appreciable is their nuanced understanding of language when using the term 'culture,' referring to the umbrella of traditions and sets of intellectual paradigms firmly adhered to by a group or population. A definition from the Cambridge Dictionary, (n.d.-a) further explicates this as (Eliot, 2010; Kalman, 2009).

These cultural frameworks provide a lens through which we can explore and understand the diverse interpretations of language within various societal contexts, signifying the shared ideologies and modes of coexistence within a community. Tourism, a broad and complex term, can be challenging to define and is largely dependent on the context in which it is interpreted (Petroman et al., 2013). Referring to (Netto, 2009), tourism relates to the domains of leisure, hospitality, recreation, and entertainment. Intriguingly, tourism can also be characterized as a service-providing industry (Ammirato et al., 2022; Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.-b; Hausmann, 2007; Mura & Kajzar, 2019), where individual or groups engaging in the activities that intersect with cultural, social, and economic phenomena (Cavalheiro et al., 2020; X. Li et al., 2022; Seyfi et al., 2020, 2020; United Nations Tourism, n.d.; Uslu et al., 2020).

Drawing on this understanding of both tourism and culture, we now turn our attention to the primary focus of this mini-review paper: cultural tourism. The notion of 'cultural tourism' is indeed complex to delineate with precision, given its multidisciplinary essence. This complexity is primarily due to the intricate dynamics between

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fundamental cultural and social changes and the realm of tourism (Bui et al., 2020; Iliev, 2020; Peng, 2024; Richards, 2007; Rosalina et al., 2021; Templin & Popielarczyk, 2020). This complexity is widely recognized in the academic community, as providing a definitive characterization of cultural tourism is acknowledged to be a significant challenge (Du Cros & McKercher, 2014; Ivanovic, 2008; Mousavi et al., 2016).

Each challenge within the realm of cultural tourism offers a unique perspective, thereby enriching our multifaceted understanding of this field. One such area that presents both a challenge and an opportunity for exploration is the role of performing arts in cultural tourism. Despite its significance, this aspect often remains under-explored in the existing literature. Therefore, this mini-review paper is to delve into the key findings and conclusions drawn from recent studies on the role of performing arts in cultural tourism. The focus will be on areas where information is scarce, thereby contributing to the ongoing scholarly discourse and enhancing our understanding of cultural tourism.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

To uncover the role of performing arts, this mini-review employed scoping review techniques. This approach was chosen to ensure the reliability and credibility of the selected documents (Biasutti et al., 2022; Chowdhury et al., 2024; Jenkins et al., 2020; Kalke et al., 2021; Long et al., 2022; Mazlan et al., 2023; Ramdan et al., 2021; Razak et al., 2022; Song et al., 2021; Wollmann et al., 2021). This study employs document analysis to shed light on the role of performing arts in the context of cultural tourism. The methodology follows the mini-review strategy outlined by Arksey & O'Malley (2005), which consists of six steps. These steps are designed to systematically gather and analyze relevant literature, providing a comprehensive overview of the subject matter.
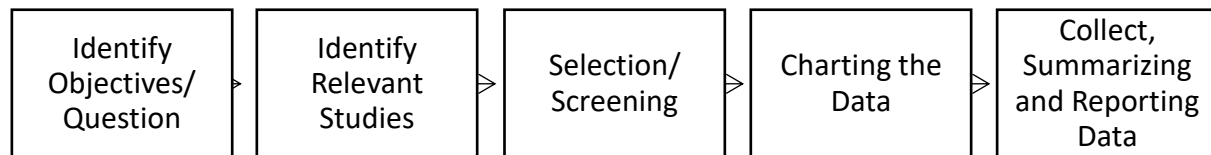

Figure 1 The six steps in selecting relevant documents

In Step 1, titled "Identify Objectives/Question," this study focuses on the following question to investigate the role of performing arts in cultural tourism: "What are the significant discoveries or conclusions that recent studies have made about the role of performing arts in cultural tourism?" Moving on to Step 2, "Identify Relevant Studies," this mini-review identifies suitable journal articles found in the Scopus database. To ensure alignment with the research question posed in Step 1, a carefully crafted search string is employed. Table 1 below outlines the search strings used in this mini-review.

Table 1 Search strings formulation

Database	Search Strings
Scopus	*TITLE-ABS-KEY* *(performing AND arts AND in AND cultural AND tourism)*

Following the identification of the search string in Step 2, the study progresses to Step 3, entailing the crucial selection or screening phase. Herein, articles retrieved based on the designated search string (refer to Table 1 above) undergo meticulous evaluation to ascertain their relevance and appropriateness for inclusion in this mini-review. This meticulous process ensures that the chosen articles are aligned with the research question and objectives delineated in Step 1, thus upholding the study's focus and scholarly integrity. Notably, the scope of articles considered in this mini-review is confined to those sourced from the Scopus database, thus justifying its classification as such.

In Step 4, the data charting process entails the systematic organization and synthesis of pertinent information gleaned from the selected articles. This structured procedure furnishes a comprehensive overview of the

literature germane to the research query. To facilitate this endeavor, we adhere to the inclusion and exclusion criteria delineated in Table 2 below, ensuring a rigorous and systematic approach to data analysis and synthesis.

Table 2 Inclusion and exclusion criteria used in this mini-review on Scopus database

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Year	No limit on the year range	
Author name	No limit on author	
Subject area	No limit on the subject	
Document type	Article, conference paper	Book chapter, book, review
Source title	No limit on sources	
Publication stage	No limit on publication stage	
Keyword	No limit on keyword	
Affiliation	No limit on affiliation	
Funding sponsor	No limit on funding sponsor	
Country/territory	No limit on country	
Source type	Journal, conference proceeding	Book, Book series
Language	English	Other than English
Open access	All open access	Gold, green, bronze, hybrid gold

The overview presented above outlines the significance of the inclusion and exclusion criteria utilized in this mini-review. These criteria served as fundamental guidelines for determining which articles were suitable for inclusion throughout the initial four stages of our review process. In the forthcoming section dedicated to Results and Discussion, we intend to provide a comprehensive analysis of these criteria.

This will include an in-depth examination of how they were formulated, their specific parameters, and the rationale behind their selection. Furthermore, we will explore the methodologies employed for collecting data, synthesizing information from the chosen articles, and presenting our findings. This detailed exploration will offer readers a clear understanding of the systematic approach undertaken to ensure the integrity and robustness of this mini-review.

RESULTS

The data and results that are synthesized in this mini-review will be meticulously organized and reported in accordance with the flow diagram provided by the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA). PRISMA is a well-established protocol that ensures comprehensive and transparent reporting of systematic reviews and meta-analyses. By adhering to the PRISMA flow diagram, we aim to present the process of data collection, screening, eligibility, and inclusion in a clear and concise manner. This approach will not only enhance the readability and comprehension of the review but also ensure the replicability and validity of the methods used in synthesizing the data and results (Akl et al., 2021; Haddaway et al., 2022; Rethlefsen & Page, 2022; Stovold et al., 2014).
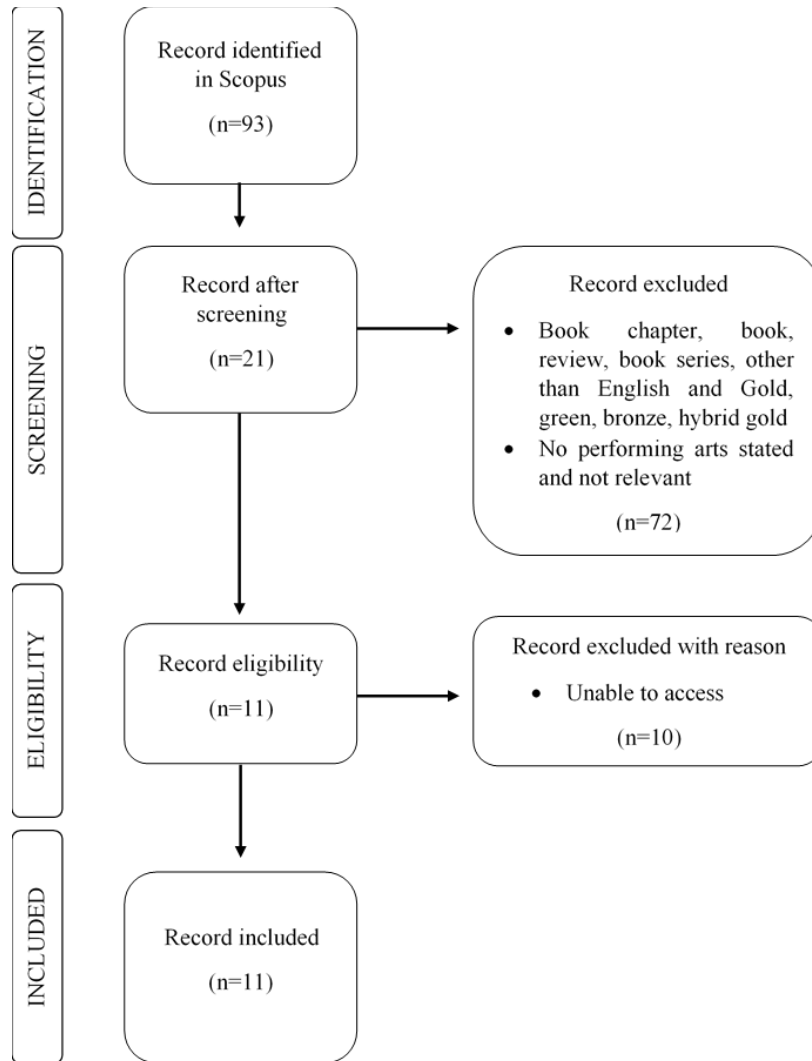
Figure 2 PRISMA Flow diagram for mini-review (adapted from Moher et al., 2010)

After implementing the six-step strategy, our investigation into the intersection of "performing arts in cultural tourism" unearthed 93 relevant records, ranging from as early as 1993 to 2024. These records underwent thorough scrutiny, including meticulous examination of titles and abstracts, as well as strict adherence to inclusion and exclusion criteria. As a result, 72 records were excluded, while 21 were identified as eligible for further scrutiny. Subsequently, 10 articles were omitted due to accessibility constraints, culminating in a final selection of 11 articles that precisely met our predetermined criteria and were thus incorporated into this concise review. This rigorous selection process underscores the reliability and pertinence of the chosen articles, laying a sturdy groundwork in this study.

Table 3 Charting the included record

Authors	Year	Context of Performing Arts Discussed	Theme
Zifkos, George	2015	Explores the complex relationship between sustainability and music festivals, challenging common sustainability concepts in festival management	Sustainability
Zhang, Ruizhi	2021	Uses AI models to evaluate social benefits in cultural-tourism integration in Yiyang Town.	Adaptability

Authors	Year	Context of Performing Arts Discussed	Theme
Lee, Yuching **Peng, Chingtun** **Lee, Taindow** **Zhao, Zhengyuan**	2022	Discusses the integration of cultural and creative industries within Macao's casino-dominated economy, recommending strategic priorities.	Sustainability
Shahnaz, Azzahra **Muhamad, Hermintoyo**	2022	Examines the Legend of Rawa Pening in the context of literary tourism, suggesting enhancements to attract tourists and improve narrative delivery.	Adaptability
Muhamad, Hermintoyo **Destianto, Nugroho** **Rian**	2022	Focuses on the potential of the Legend of Rawa Pening as a literary tourism destination in Indonesia, proposing infrastructure improvements.	Adaptability
Li, Li **Li, Shasha**	2022	Analyzes the importance of perceived authenticity in tourism and its effects on tourist satisfaction and destination image.	Authenticity
Jaeni, Jaeni	2023	Explores the development of performing arts in West Java, Indonesia through a model that integrates performing arts with tourism and community empowerment. Focuses on cultural sustainability and economic benefits.	Sustainability
Liu, Quan	2023	Analyzes the propagation of Chinese invention and nationalism through landscape performing arts (LPA), emphasizing the manipulation of cultural and natural elements in performances to foster national pride and cultural tourism.	Adaptability
Yang, Xiurui **Long, Huizhen** **Jia, Hanze** **Wen, Xinglin**	2023	Discusses the integration of performing arts in cultural tourism using fuzzy comprehensive analysis methods to assess social impacts in Taiyuan, China	Sustainability
Binson, Bussakorn **Komkam, Pattara** **Phaosavadi, Pornprapit** **Pornprasit, Kumkom**	2024	Discusses the mapping and preservation of diverse living cultural sites in Bangkok, focusing on various cultural activities including performing arts. It emphasizes the importance of these sites in reflecting the city's rich cultural diversity and heritage. The preservation efforts are aimed at maintaining these cultural expressions amidst modernization and urban development challenges.	Adaptability
Parani, Rizaldi **Hubner, Ira Brunchilda** **Juliana** **Purba, Herman**	2024	Explores how the Kebo Ketan ritual art serves as a ceremonial performance to convey messages of social cohesion in Sekaralas village, emphasizing the ritual's role in fostering community unity and cultural preservation.	Adaptability

The first article by Zifkos (2015) problematizes the concept of 'sustainability' in the context of music festivals. It argues that sustainability extends beyond environmental considerations to include cultural and social impacts. This perspective challenges the festival sector to broaden its understanding of sustainability and encourages further research into this area. Zhang (2021) takes a technological approach to assess the social benefits of integrating tourism and cultural industries. The study uses artificial intelligence and deep learning to predict the social impacts of cultural-tourism projects. This innovative approach underscores the potential of technology in assessing and enhancing the social benefits of cultural initiatives.

Lee et al. (2022) examine the potential of integrating cultural and creative industries (CCIs) into Macao's casino-driven economy. The study suggests prioritizing certain CCIs that align with existing sectors like exhibitions and cultural tourism. This strategic approach highlights the need for a balanced development strategy that considers the specific needs and context of the destination. Two studies by Shahnaz & Muhamad (2022) and Muhamad & Destianto (2022) explore the potential of the Legend of Rawa Pening as a literary tourism destination. Both studies emphasize the importance of narrative and cultural richness in attracting tourists and

propose infrastructure development to enhance the visitor experience. These studies underscore the potential of local legends and narratives in transforming areas into significant literary tourism destinations.

Li & Li (2022) delve into the role of authenticity in shaping tourists' satisfaction and their perception of destination images. The study confirms that tourists value authenticity, which contributes to a more fulfilling travel experience. This finding underscores the importance of authenticity in tourism management and marketing. In Jaeni (2023), "Arts Communication Model: The Development of Performing Arts through Empowering Cultural Art-Based Tourism", proposes a novel model of arts communication that integrates traditional and contemporary art forms. This model is aimed at revitalizing and promoting cultural tourism. The performances, which are designed to entertain, engage, and educate both locals and tourists, contribute to enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of the community.

While Liu (2023), in "Propagating 'Chinese invention' through landscape performing art: sublimating the arts to nationalism", critically examines the utilization of landscape performing arts (LPA) in China as a tool for nationalistic propaganda. Liu analyzes how the Chinese government uses LPA to both claim cultural superiority and control over creative expressions, framing these performances as 'Chinese inventions' to foster national identity and cultural pride. This study highlights the contradictions inherent in promoting creativity while imposing ideological constraints. Yang et al. (2023) present an empirical study examining the social impacts of cultural tourism towns featuring tourism performance industries. The study uses BP neural network and fuzzy comprehensive analysis methods to evaluate social impacts, showing significant influence on the social outcomes of the tourism towns. This study highlights the potential of quantitative methods in assessing the social impacts of cultural tourism.

A study by Binson et al. (2024) titled "Keeping It Alive - Mapping Bangkok's Diverse Living Culture", provides an extensive overview of the diverse cultural sites in Bangkok, aiming to enhance the city's image beyond a hub for sex tourism by showcasing its rich cultural diversity. This is achieved through the mapping of performing arts, rituals, crafts, and other cultural activities across all 50 districts. The research emphasizes Bangkok's multicultural makeup and discusses the challenges of preserving cultural sites that are threatened by modernization and the lack of successors. To improve Bangkok's cultural tourism appeal, the study proposes the use of a digital platform to promote these cultural sites. This qualitative study is part of a larger initiative by Chulalongkorn University, aimed at documenting and promoting Bangkok's local cultures to foster better cultural representation and tourism. The findings suggest the need for more integrated efforts between local governments and communities to sustain these cultural heritages. It highlights the potential benefits of cultural tourism for economic sustainability.

Finally, the article titled "The Kebo Ketan ritual art as a communication process in delivering the message of social cohesiveness in the Sekaralas village community, Ngawi, East-Java" by Parani et al. (2024) presents the Kebo Ketan ritual as a vital cultural practice that not only preserves traditional arts but also actively fosters community bonding and social harmony. It emphasizes the ritual's communicative power in conveying values of unity and collective identity among villagers.
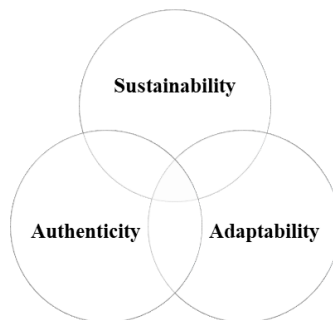
DISCUSSION

Figure 3 The Central Theme of Performing Arts in the Context of Cultural Tourism

These themes reflect the dynamic nature of cultural tourism and its multifaceted impacts on communities and destinations. Notably, four articles specifically emphasize sustainability (Jaeni, 2023; Lee et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2023; Zifkos, 2015), highlighting how sustainable practices within cultural tourism not only preserve environmental and cultural resources but also enhance the social and economic well-being of local communities. These articles collectively advocate for a tourism model that supports long-term ecological balance and cultural integrity.

On the other hand, a larger group of six articles addresses adaptability (Binson et al., 2024; Liu, 2023; Muhamad & Destianto, 2022; Parani et al., 2024; Shahnaz & Muhamad, 2022; Zhang, 2021), underscoring the importance of cultural tourism sectors ability to respond to changing environmental, social, and technological contexts. This adaptability is crucial for destinations to maintain relevance and competitiveness in the global tourism market, ensuring they can quickly adjust to both global trends and local needs.

Lastly, the analysis of authenticity in tourism, discussed in one article (L. Li & Li, 2022), probes into the significance of authentic experiences in shaping tourist satisfaction and the overall image of the destination. This discussion points out that authenticity is a key determinant in the value perception of tourist experiences, influencing both the attractivity of the destination and the satisfaction level of the visitors. This focus on authenticity highlights its role in enriching the tourist experience and enhancing the genuine cultural exchange between visitors and host communities.

From the entirety of the discourse, it becomes evident that our understanding of the role of performing arts in cultural tourism remains limited. This observation is consistent with previous studies which have highlighted that cultural tourism, despite being a significant component of mass tourism, predominantly involves the visitation of historical sites and the large-scale consumption of local cultures by numerous individuals. The emphasis on these aspects often overshadows the potential contributions and implications of performing arts within the sphere of cultural tourism.

In conclusion, this paper has illuminated the intricate roles that sustainability, adaptability, and authenticity play in the realm of cultural tourism, with a special emphasis on the indirect contributions of performing arts. Through a synthesis of diverse perspectives across various scholarly articles, we have enriched our understanding of how these themes dynamically interact to shape tourist experiences and destination images. This exploration reveals that while performing arts significantly contribute to cultural tourism, their explicit roles and impacts often remain underexplored in the academic discourse. By tracing the threads that connect performing arts with broader tourism themes, this discussion highlights the profound yet subtle influence these arts have on the cultural and economic landscapes of tourism destinations.

The gap identified through this review suggests a promising avenue for further research: a more direct investigation into how performing arts specifically influence tourist perceptions and behavior in relation to sustainability, adaptability, and authenticity. Future studies could benefit from a focused empirical analysis that examines the mechanisms through which performing arts foster community engagement, cultural preservation, and sustainable tourism practices. Such research could provide deeper insights into the strategic integration of performing arts within tourism development plans, potentially guiding policymakers and practitioners in crafting culturally enriched, sustainable tourism models. This direction not only promises to broaden academic understanding but also to offer practical strategies for leveraging cultural resources in tourism.

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DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest

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CONCLUSION

In conclusion, saving literacy and knowledge transfer is vital in enhancing microenterprises' ability to repay debt effectively. Building a strong foundation in saving literacy gives entrepreneurs essential skills for budgeting and planning future financial obligations. Additionally, educational interventions focused on knowledge transfer equip micro entrepreneurs with transferrable management skills that positively influence their capacity to meet loan repayment requirements responsibly. By supporting these aspects within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, policymakers can contribute towards fostering sustainable economic growth at the grassroots level.

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