

The impact of tourism on crime in Italy

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The presence of tourists in destinations interferes with criminal activities changing the incentives towards certain types of crime (street crimes, robberies, car thefts, violent crime, and so on). Despite its relevance, the impact of tourism activity on crime has received little attention by scholars. The purpose of this study is twofold. On one side, it analyses the state of the art of the research in this field. On the other side, it proposes an empirical application to the Italian case.

This paper empirically investigates the relative contribution of tourism to various types of crimes throughout the 103 Italian provinces for the year 2005. It tests also the hypothesis according to which a different type of tourism destination - i.e. urban, mountain, marine etc.- produces different criminal activities. Moreover, “spillover effect” of crime is taken into account introducing spatial lags. Finally, the model controls for socio-demographic and economic variables, along with the South-North differences.

The results partially confirm the initial hypothesis.

Keywords: Crime, tourism, spillover effect.

JEL: L83; K0; R0.