The popular Hindu Himalayan “Char Dham” pilgrimage in India draws more and more travellers to its four-temple circuit every year. While prior research has focused on the development of the pilgrimage’s infrastructure and single-sited significance of place, this study takes a mobilities approach that highlights the phenomenological experience of pilgrims as they travel the whole route, including their strategies using a range of infrastructures and services. Based on three months of multi-sited participant observation travelling alongside groups of pilgrims, the study includes interviews with tour operators and pilgrims en route in addition to sound recordings of the natural, vehicular, and social environments that comprise the aural atmosphere of the pilgrimage. Preliminary findings suggest that the utilization of infrastructures of convenience (such as organized tours, horse-riding instead of trekking, strong network reception) effect the phenomenological experience of pilgrimage in the high-mountain region and impacts the intimate connection between experiencing the joys and challenges of nature and powerful religious experience.

Themes:

Check (highlight) the most applicable theme according to the abstract.

| Innovation and Technology | Health and Wellness | xCulture and Society | Sustainability and Conservation |

Comments:

This sounds like an amazing research project – I encourage the presenter to think about how to be more specific in conveying the findings of the research to the audience – it is almost like you are keeping them secret when the point is to share them! Try to use more precise language to convey what you learned from your research experience.