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Spiritual Entrepreneurship in a Northern Landscape: Spirituality, Tourism and Politics

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Abstract

A cultural turn in the economy has led to growth in what might be called 'spiritual entrepreneurship'.1 This term refers to entrepreneurs inspired by a New Age philosophy marketing spiritual values such as 'self-development', 'holism' and 'deep values'. To shed light on this type of enterprise, the article examines one of its practitioners; Esther Utsi at Polmakmoen Guesthouse in northern Norway. My focus is on how New Age spirituality is here localized, wrapped in local indigenous culture and landscape, and turned into a commodity with market value for both tourists and conference participants. The staging of spirituality simultaneously involves marketing a vaca- tion destination to outsiders, and is also linked to the formation of a reimagined local identity, and incorporated into the redefinition of

images and dreams about the northern region.

Keywords: spiritual entrepreneurship, New Age, tourism, indigenous spirituality, local reinvention

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PDF			
Published 2013-01-07			

How to Cite

Fonneland, T. (2013). Spiritual Entrepreneurship in a Northern Landscape: Spirituality, Tourism and Politics. *Temenos - Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion*, *48*(2). Retrieved from https://journal.fi/temenos/article/view/7510

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Issue <u>Vol 48 No 2 (2012)</u>

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ISSN: 2342-7256

Temenos - Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion is peer reviewed open access journal published by the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion.

The journal is supported by Nordic Board for Periodicals in the Humanities and the Social Sciences.

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