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Towards a Comprehensive Justice Tourism Framework: Integrating Multidimensional Justice

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ABSTRACT

The concept of justice in tourism has garnered increasing scholarly attention, yet its practical enactment remains underexplored. This study addresses three critical questions: What constitutes justice tourism? How can it be realized? And who bears responsibility for its implementation? Employing a meta-synthesis of the existing literature, the study develops a comprehensive framework that integrates the core processes, substantive dimensions, and enabling conditions of justice tourism, while also identifying the roles of key stakeholders. Justice tourism is conceptualized through the lenses of recognition, interactional, procedural, distributive, and restorative justice, with its substantive dimensions encompassing economic, social, political, cultural, environmental, and spatial justice. The study also interrogates the consequences of injustice within tourism systems. It highlights institutional, social, and individual capacities as foundational prerequisites for advancing justice in tourism. Moreover, it delineates the responsibilities of governments, public and private sectors, and civil society in fostering more equitable and inclusive tourism futures. By bridging theoretical insights with practical guidance, this research offers a structured and actionable approach for embedding justice into tourism planning and governance.

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1. Introduction

The concept of justice is often examined within the context of social contracts and fair treatment of all members of society, grounded in freedom and equity (Dorjsuren & Palmer, 2018). Harvey (1973) defines justice as a set of principles aimed at resolving conflicts arising from social interactions motivated by individual benefits. Central to these principles are the distribution of benefits and responsibilities resulting from these interactions. He posed two guiding questions to elucidate these principles: "What should be distributed?" and "Among whom should it be distributed?" The pursuit of justice and the mitigation of social and political tensions have long been central to societal development. Durant (1954) postulated that injustice and discrimination are fundamental causes of societal decline. However, contemporary societies still grapple with injustices, making justice a primary concern. These injustices manifest in various forms, including religious, ethnic, gender, economic, social, and racial injustice. Intergenerational and intragenerational justice are key goals of sustainable development.

Similar to other fields, justice, fairness, and equity are widely acknowledged as foundational principles for sustainable tourism development, but their implementation remains superficial and inconsistent in practice (Jamal & Camargo, 2013; Rastegar, 2025). Despite the increasing focus on sustainable tourism by scholars, planners, and policymakers, the persistence of injustices at tourism destinations highlights a significant gap between theory and practice. This discrepancy underscores the deeply entrenched power imbalances and systemic inequalities that often favour the interests of tourism developers and affluent tourists over the needs of local communities (Rastegar & Ruhanen, 2021). Barton and Leonard (2010) critique the tourism industry's tendency to exacerbate pre-existing social and economic inequalities, where benefits such as job opportunities and increased income are unevenly distributed, often excluding marginalized groups. The economic pressures from tourism, such as rising property prices and the cost of goods, disproportionately impact residents who are not directly involved in tourism, further entrenching socio-economic disparities. The protests in Spain's Canary Islands against mass tourism (Euronews, 2024) and in Iran's Qeshm Island against the privatization of local resources for tourism (ISNA, 2019) illustrate the growing resistance to these injustices. These protests are not isolated incidents but are indicative of a broader global trend where tourism development prioritizes profit over people, leading to social unrest and deepening inequalities. Research by Cole (2012) in Bali reveals how tourism's mismanagement of natural resources, particularly water, not only leads to environmental degradation but also fosters social conflicts and unequal access to essential resources. This pattern of exploitation and exclusion is further echoed by Higgins-Desbiolles et al. (2013), who argue that environmental degradation and habitat destruction caused by tourism are significant indicators of underlying systemic inequalities. In the case of Yazd city in Iran, Rastegar et al. (2020) demonstrate how the inequitable distribution of benefits from its designation as a World Heritage Site has marginalized poorer residents, forcing them to relocate due to unsustainable rises in property values. These examples highlight a recurring theme: the failure to incorporate justice into tourism policies perpetuates exclusion, undermines local well-being, and exacerbates livelihood challenges.

The call for justice tourism, as advocated by Higgins-Desbiolles (2018), represents a critical push to rectify these injustices by ensuring a more equitable distribution of tourism's benefits. Justice tourism mitigates the inequalities and harms caused by tourism and contributes to a more just and equitable global order (Isaac & Hodge, 2011). However, the ongoing struggles faced by local communities suggest that the concept of justice tourism has yet to be fully realized or operationalized. While scholars like Scheyvens (2002) and Isaac and Hodge (2011) emphasize the potential of justice tourism to foster solidarity and empower communities, the systemic barriers to achieving these goals remain formidable. Rastegar et al. (2023) argue that tourism activities should be conducted more equitably and sustainably, particularly concerning marginalized and oppressed groups in developing countries. According to Tops and Lamers (2024), justice tourism fosters sustainability. They propose that incorporating justice into tourism governance can mitigate tensions and enhance the theoretical contribution of sustainable tourism literature. The literature, including works conducted by Lee and Jamal (2008), Barton and Leonard (2010), points to participatory and community-based approaches as essential strategies for advancing justice tourism. Yet, as Jamal and Higham (2020) assert, the theoretical frameworks supporting justice tourism remain underdeveloped, necessitating deeper

research and the development of practical solutions that can challenge and transform the structural inequalities embedded within the tourism industry. The complexity of tourism and the multiplicity of stakeholders make implementing justice tourism challenging. Harvey (1973) suggested that practical justice requires clear definitions of what is to be distributed, to whom, and how. On the other hand, Torabzadeh and Sajadieh (2011) argued that realizing justice requires three sequential steps: defining justice, establishing prerequisites, and developing an action plan. Therefore, realizing justice tourism involves understanding what it is, how it can be implemented, as well as determining the roles of different stakeholders.

To develop a comprehensive and practical framework for justice tourism, it is crucial to define indicators of justice, identify the consequences of unjust tourism, outline the prerequisites for its development, and delineate stakeholder roles. Addressing these elements can create a holistic framework that ensures the fair distribution of tourism benefits. While existing studies have explored various components of justice, such as social and spatial justice, particularly within geography (Ghaderi Hajat, 2014; Roknaldin Eftekhari et al., 2012; Zyari et al., 2020), fewer studies have directly engaged with justice tourism (Camargo & Vazquez-Maguirre, 2020; Higgins-Desbiolles et al., 2013; Lee & Jamal, 2008; Rastegar & Ruhanen, 2023). These studies often focus on specific aspects rather than adopting a comprehensive approach. Given the complexity of justice as a concept, examining isolated dimensions is unlikely to yield a holistic understanding or effective strategies for implementation. To address research gaps and research questions, this study will not only seek to define justice tourism but also to identify its prerequisites and delineate stakeholder roles in its development.

A comprehensive examination of justice in tourism must encompass the processes and substance of justice tourism, the consequences of unjust tourism, the prerequisites for its development, and the roles of stakeholders in its realization. Despite the complexity of justice as a concept, no systematic review of justice tourism literature has been conducted to date. To address this gap, this study employs a meta-synthesis approach, integrating qualitative findings from existing research to identify knowledge gaps, reveal overlooked dimensions, and guide future research and practice. This method is particularly suited for complex concepts such as justice, offering deeper insights and a more holistic understanding. Through this synthesis, the study develops an integrative framework for justice tourism, providing destination managers with a clearer understanding of stakeholder responsibilities. Additionally, by enhancing understanding among planners and decision-makers, the framework fosters a stronger commitment to justice principles in tourism planning and policy.

2. Methodology

This study employs a meta-synthesis approach to review and interpret the existing literature on justice tourism. The research is qualitative and adopts a descriptive-analytical method to fulfill its objectives. Meta-synthesis, as a technique, allows for the creation of new interpretations by integrating the findings of prior studies (Sandelowski and Barroso, 2007). Given that this method synthesizes results from previous research, the data used is secondary, with the body of studies on justice tourism serving as the statistical population. The study follows the seven-step model proposed by Sandelowski and Barroso (2007). These steps, visually represented in Figure 1, are detailed in the subsequent section.

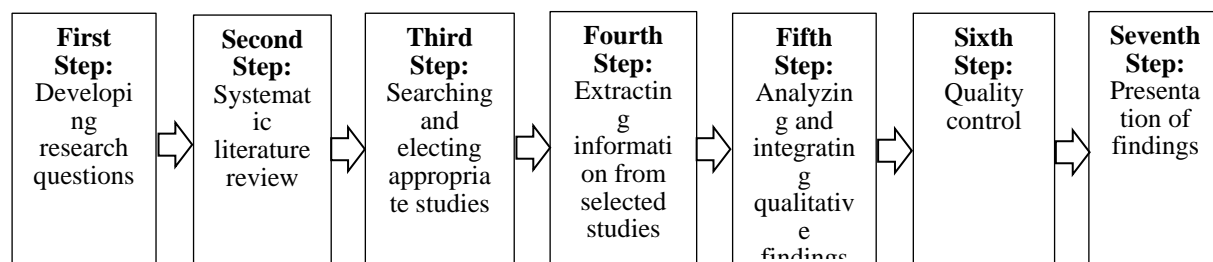


Fig. 1. The Process of Performing Meta-Synthesis (Sandelowski & Barroso, 2007)

2-1. Developing Research Questions

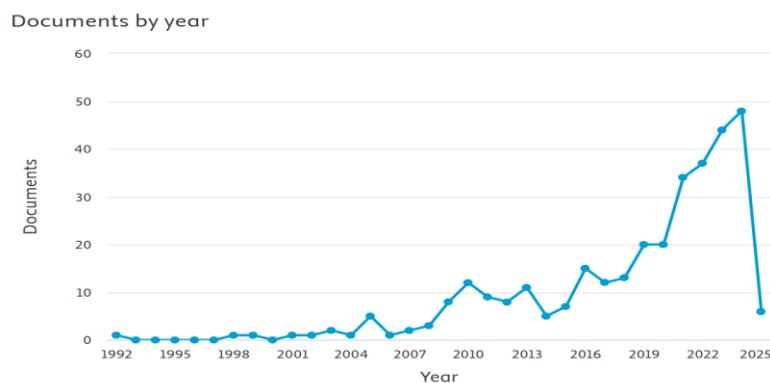
According to the purpose of the research, the following research questions were formulated:

- What is the process of justice tourism?
- What is the substance of justice tourism?
- What are the consequences of injustice tourism?
- What are the prerequisites for justice tourism development?
- What are the roles of stakeholders in justice tourism development?

2-2. Systematic Literature Review

A systematic literature review was conducted using a range of relevant keywords across several academic databases in both English and Persian, including Scopus, Taylor & Francis Online, Google Scholar, the Iranian Research Institute for Information Science and Technology (IranDoc), the Islamic World Science & Technology Monitoring & Citation Institute (ISC), and the Scientific Information Database (SID). The selected keywords included "social justice," "spatial justice," "environmental justice," "justice," "equity," "inequality," and "good governance," in combination with the term "tourism" to refine the search results. Boolean operators such as "AND" and "+" were utilized to enhance the precision of the search queries. This approach ensures comprehensive data collection.

A search within the Scopus database, using the terms 'justice' and 'tourism,' indicates that the topic has received scholarly attention since the early 1990s (Figure 2), consistent with Rastegar's (2022) observations. Figure 2 clearly indicates that the number of publications remained limited during the 1990s, and a marked expansion followed after the year 2000. Therefore, the review focused on peer-reviewed articles, theses, and dissertations published between 2000 and 2024.



**Fig. 2. Number of Articles Published by Year
Scopus Database (2025)**

2-3. Searching and Selecting Appropriate Studies

Four criteria were considered for screening the literature, and additional relevant studies were selected for an in-depth review.

The criteria employed are as follows:

- Whether the title included any of the keywords?
- Whether the abstract referred to justice?
- Whether the findings addressed justice tourism, the consequences of unjust development, the prerequisites of justice, and the role of stakeholders?
- Whether the study was of sufficient quality based on the Critical Appraisal Skills Program (CASP)?

Based on these four criteria, a screening process was conducted. The number of studies included at each stage is presented in Figure 3.

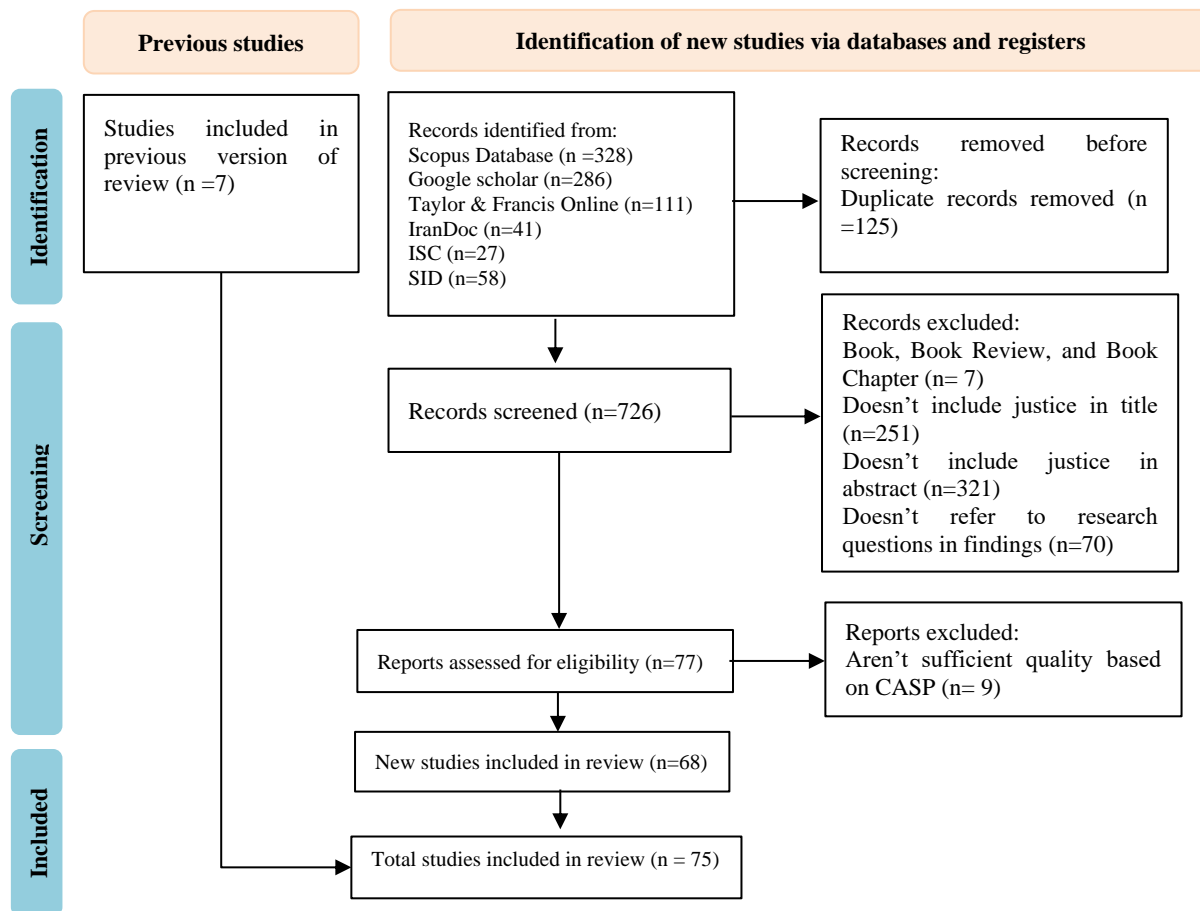


Fig. 3. The Process of Selecting the Studies

As indicated in Figure 3, following duplicate removal, 726 studies remained. First, 7 books, book reviews, and book chapters were excluded. Second, 251 studies that did not include the relevant keywords in their titles were removed. Third, the abstracts of the remaining 475 studies were reviewed, resulting in the exclusion of 321 studies that did not mention justice. Then, the full text of the remaining 154 studies was reviewed to ensure relevance to the research questions. Finally, the quality of the 77 studies was assessed by applying the CASP to ensure the validity and reliability of the research findings. The CASP provides a set of 10 indicators for qualitative assessment of selected studies, with each indicator scored on a scale of 1 to 5 points. The indicators include a clear statement of the aims of the research, appropriateness of qualitative methodology, appropriateness of design to address the aims of the research, appropriateness of recruitment strategy to the aims of the study, collecting data in a way that addressed the research issue, adequate consideration of the relationship between researcher and participants, consideration of ethical issues, sufficient rigor of data analysis, clear statement of findings, and overall value of the research (CASP, 2024; Long et al., 2020). According to the CASP, 9 studies scored less than 25 points and were excluded, and the remaining 68 studies scored 25 or more points and were selected for content analysis and coding. The quality assessment revealed that 12% of the included studies scored “excellent” (40 to 50 points), 63% scored “good” (30 to 39 points), and 25% scored “average” (25 to 29 points). Subsequently, the 7 studies included in the previous version of the review were added to the 68 qualified studies, and the content analysis was applied to 75 studies.

2-4. Extracting Information from Selected Studies

Information from selected studies—including author(s), year of publication, title, purpose, methodology, and findings—was extracted and is presented in Table 1. Since this is a meta-synthesis study, the content of the selected studies was analyzed and categorized by subject area. A brief

description of the literature and the research gap is also provided. Table 1 and its description are presented in the findings section.

2-5. Analyzing and Integrating Qualitative Findings

The 75 selected studies encompass both quantitative and qualitative research. It should be noted that the majority of English-language studies were qualitative. In this step, the qualitative findings were extracted from the selected studies. Specifically, the literature was reviewed with a focus on assumptions such as the process and substance of justice tourism, the consequences of injustice tourism, the prerequisites of justice tourism, and the role of stakeholders in realizing justice tourism were considered through a literature review. Then, the full text of the selected studies was analyzed and coded in three stages. First, concepts were extracted; second, concepts were categorized into subcategories; and third, the subcategories were grouped into main thematic categories.

2-6. Quality Control

As explained in the third step, the selected studies were evaluated using the CASP indicators in terms of quality, and only those scoring 25 or more were included in the coding processes. One author conducted the initial code extraction, and subsequently, it was reviewed by the co-authors to ensure accuracy, consistency, and alignment with the study objectives. This collaborative review process helped refine the coding framework and enhance the reliability and validity of the analysis. Furthermore, in this step, the extracted concepts were placed into subcategories and main categories by two experts who have conducted in-depth research in the tourism field. Ultimately, consensus was achieved between the authors and experts through discussion on the final coding structure, as presented in Table 2.

2-7. Presentation of Findings

Building upon the coding developed in preceding stages, a comprehensive framework for justice tourism development was constructed. This framework is elaborated upon in the discussion section and visualized in Figure 4.

3. Findings

Following the fourth meta-synthesis stage, the 75 studies chosen for content analysis were reviewed and, subsequently, grouped into thematic categories, as presented in Table 1.

Reviewing Table 1 reveals that most studies have narrowly focused on specific aspects of justice in tourism. While these contributions are valuable, they reflect a fragmented approach to understanding justice in the tourism context. For instance, Rastegar and Ruhanen (2023), Rastegar (2022), and Rastegar et al. (2021) have examined the justice dimensions within tourism in a process, while Jamal and Camargo (2013) explored justice tourism from the residents' perspective. Dangi and Petrick (2021), Giampiccoli and Mtapuri (2019), and Dangi (2016) emphasized the role of community-based tourism in achieving justice. Conversely, Zarehzadeh and Rastegar (2023) identified factors contributing to gender inequality in leisure access, whereas Zhang and Zhang (2020) argued that tourism can promote gender equality.

Environmental justice in tourism has been a focal point for scholars such as Lee and Jamal (2008) and Morea (2021), while Camargo (2011), Fortenberry (2020), and Jamal et al. (2010) have linked sustainable tourism with cultural justice. Researchers such as Mousavi and Modiri (2015), Razghi Rami (2015), and Zyari et al. (2020) have highlighted social injustice, while Ghaderi Hajat (2014), and Uwayezu and De Vries (2018) have uncovered spatial injustice within urban management. Moreover, Roknaldin Eftekhari et al. (2012), Taleshi et al. (2018), and Ziaee and Asadian Ardakani (2021) have explored the nexus between good governance and justice, underscoring its importance. Capacity, as a prerequisite for justice development, has been identified by Kazemian et al. (2013), Mika and Scheyvens (2022), and Zapata and Bates (2017). The role of stakeholders in justice development has been addressed by Camargo and Vázquez-Maguirre (2020) and Taghvae et al. (2015).

Table 1. Categorization of Selected Studies in Terms of Justice Focus

Justice focus	Findings	Studies
Justice in tourism	Tourism can contribute to the realization of justice, and approaches such as social tourism, pro-poor tourism, community-based tourism, and participatory planning can accelerate its development. The process of justice, including recognition, interactional, procedural, distributive, and restorative justice is emphasized sequentially in the context of justice tourism.	Dangi & Petrick (2021), Dangi (2016), Dorjsuren & Palmer (2018), Everingham et al. (2021), Farnaki & Stergiou (2021), Giampiccoli & Mtapuri (2019), Goudarzi & Jomehpour (2015), Guia (2020), Higgins-Desbiolles et al. (2021), Higgins-Desbiolles (2008), Higgins-Desbiolles (2018), Higgins-Desbiolles (2020), Jamal & Camargo (2014), Jamal & Higham (2021), Kinyondo & Pelizzo (2015), Luh Sin et al. (2015), Picciotto (2019), Rastegar et al. (2023), Rastegar & Ruhanen (2021), Rastegar & Ruhanen (2023), Rastegar & Ruhanen (2022), Rastegar et al., Higgins-Desbiolles, & Ruhanen (2021), Rastegar, Zarezadeh & Gretzel (2021), Rastegar (2020), Rastegar (2022), Scheyvens & Hughes (2019), Schilcher (2007), Seyfi et al. (2022), Zarezadeh & Rastegar (2023)
Gender equality in tourism	Tourism can have a positive impact on gender equality.	Zhang & Zhang (2020)
Environmental justice in tourism	Environmental justice can contribute to both sustainable tourism and justice tourism.	Lee & Jamal (2008); Morea (2021)
Cultural justice and tourism	Sustainable tourism development can promote cultural justice, and cultural justice, in turn, can support sustainable tourism development.	Camargo (2011), Fortenberry (2021), Jamal et al. (2010)
Social justice in urban management	Urban development across different regions is unbalanced and social justice has not been fully achieved.	Azizi et al. (2019), Joghataei et al. (2017), Khastou & Yahaghi (2018), Mousavi & Kahaki (2017), Mousavi & Modiri (2015), Razghi Rami (2015), Zyari et al. (2020)
Spatial justice in urban management	Tourism and urban facilities have not been distributed fairly and there is unequal access to them, so spatial justice has not been realized in the studied cases.	Abbaspur (2015), Alizadeh (2018), Fekri (2019), Ghaderi Hajat (2014), Ghaderi Hajat & Hafeznia (2019), Mashhour Afag (2015), Uwayezu & De Vries (2018)
Good governance and justice	There is a significant relationship between good governance and the realization of justice.	Azimi Amoli (2011), Khaledi (2015), Mousavi et al. (2018), Rajabi & Khastoo (2019), Rezaei & Shamsoddini (2019), Roknaldin Eftekhari et al. (2012), Taleshi et al. (2018), Ziaee & Asadian Ardakani (2021)
Capacity and justice	Institutional, social, and individual capacities are prerequisites for advancing justice.	Hamidi (2018), Kazemian et al. (2013), Mika & Scheyvens (2022), Zapata & Bates (2017)
Consequences of injustice development	Mismanagement and the growth of injustice have caused negative social, cultural, environmental, economic, spatial, and political consequences.	Cole (2012), Fanni et al. (2015), Firouznia et al. (2013), Hafeznia & Ghaderi Hajat (2014), Jafari & Bagheri (2018), Karimi Rastegar (2016)
The role of stakeholders in justice development	In order to realize justice, the roles of stakeholders were identified.	Camargo & Vázquez-Maguirre (2021), Taghvaei et al. (2015)
The perceived justice of customers, residents, or employees	Interactional, procedural, and distributive justice, respectively, influence the perceived justice of residents regarding tourism development.	Chang & Chang (2017), Hezarjaribi (2011), Liu & Tan (2010), Nikpour (2018), Sviri et al. (2010), Wang et al. (2022)

However, despite these contributions, the literature on justice tourism lacks a comprehensive analysis that addresses the essential elements, such as the prerequisites for justice, and the role of stakeholders in its realization. The complexity of justice necessitates a comprehensive framework that addresses the "what," the "how," and the "who" of justice in tourism. Therefore, this meta-synthesis study aims to integrate the findings from existing literature to develop a more holistic understanding of justice. This includes the process and substance of justice, the consequences of unjust tourism, the prerequisites for justice tourism, and the roles of tourism stakeholders. This approach is critical for advancing a more nuanced and effective discourse on justice in tourism. Therefore, content analysis was conducted on these 75 studies.

Table 2 presents the main categories, subcategories, extracted concepts, and the corresponding studies from which these concepts have been derived. Each main category is aligned with the research questions. The analysis addresses both the process and substance of justice tourism, as well as the consequences of injustice tourism. This is done in response to the question, "What constitutes justice tourism?" Additionally, the prerequisites for justice tourism development address the question, "How can justice tourism be realized?" Lastly, the roles of various stakeholders in the development of justice tourism are examined to determine "Who bears responsibility for its implementation?"

Table 2. Coding the Extracted Concepts

Main Categories	Subcategories	Extracted Concepts	Studies
Process of justice tourism	Recognition Justice	Identifying the stakeholders affected or harmed by tourism; Identifying the needs and rights of the affected or harmed stakeholders	Rastegar & Ruhanen (2022), Rastegar & Ruhanen (2023), Rastegar, Higgins-Desbiolles & Ruhanen (2021)
	Interactional Justice	Accuracy and transparency of tourism-related information; Sharing information; Polite and respectful behavior by government sector; The efforts of the government sector to resolve administrative problems; Fair treatment by the government sector; Honest and ethical treatment by government sector	Hezarjaribi (2011), Nikpour (2018), Svavi & et al. (2010), Wang & et al. (2022)
	Procedural Justice	Transparency in legal and administrative procedures; Stability and consistency in legal and administrative bureaucracy; Legal and rights-based treatment of clientele in tourism institutions; Participation of individuals from different values, and ideas in decision making; Timely consideration of stakeholders' requests; Adoption of a community-based approach; Fair distribution of power among stakeholders	Hezarjaribi (2011), Lee & Jamal (2008), Rastegar, Higgins-Desbiolles & Ruhanen (2021), Rastegar (2022), Svavi et al. (2010), Wang et al. (2022)
	Distributive Justice	Benefits for individuals based on their participation in tourism; Equitable access to natural and tourism resources for individuals; Fair distribution of drinking water between residents and tourists; Fair allocation of water between tourism and other sectors; Fair distribution of tourism costs and benefits; Fair distribution of tourism job opportunities; Access to recreational and tourism services for low-income groups	Dangi & Petrick (2021), Dangi (2016), Hezarjaribi (2011), Jamal & Camargo (2014), Lee & Jamal (2008), Rastegar & Ruhanen (2022), Rastegar, Higgins-Desbiolles & Ruhanen (2021), Rastegar (2022), Razghi Rami (2015), Wang et al. (2022)
	Restorative Justice	Restoration of tourism capacities; Restoring misappropriated natural and cultural sites; Compensating for the negative impacts of tourism; Preventive measures to mitigate potential damages; Protecting cultural heritage; Redressing cultural domination	Camargo (2011), Farmaki & Stergiou (2021), Rastegar & Ruhanen (2022), Rastegar, Higgins-Desbiolles & Ruhanen (2021), Rastegar (2022)
	Economic Justice	Fair distribution of tourism economic benefits; Economic participation of the locals in tourism; Average income of rural and urban households from tourism; Average rate of tourism employment in rural and urban areas; Fair opportunities for different groups to benefit from natural resources; Equitable share of individuals in the economic opportunities of tourism	Dangi & Petrick (2021), Dangi (2016), Joghataei et al. (2017), Mousavi & Kahaki (2017), Mousavi & Modiri (2015), Rajabi & Khastoo (2019), Taleshi et al. (2018), Wang et al. (2022)
Substance of justice tourism	Political Justice	Participation of marginalized groups in tourism planning; Creating and strengthening civil society institutions related to tourism; Providing the necessary conditions for participation in tourism activities	Azimi Amoli (2011), Camargo (2011), Farmaki & Stergiou (2021), Jamal & Camargo (2014), Mousavi et al. (2018), Roknaldin Eftekhari et al. (2012)
	Social Justice	Fair distribution of tourism-related job opportunities; Fair access to recreational facilities; The rate of women's employment in tourism; The employment rate of native and non-native individuals in tourism; Residents' satisfaction with the quality of life; Security of public and recreational spaces; Hygiene of recreational spaces for people with disabilities; Fair access to recreational spaces; Tourism training for locals and tourists; Fostering a sense of belonging among residents; Fair access to tourism training programs	Azizi et al. (2019), Dangi & Petrick (2021), Dangi (2016), Fanni et al. (2015), Khastou & Yahaghi (2018), Mousavi & Kahaki (2017), Mousavi & Modiri (2015), Rajabi & Khastoo (2019), Rezaei & Shamsoddini (2019), Zyari et al. (2020)
	Environmental Justice	Incorporating environmental considerations into tourism activities; Training various stakeholders to reduce the environmental impacts of tourism; Fair access to public health (water and air quality); Fair distribution of environmental costs and benefits	Lee & Jamanl (2008), Mousavi & Kahaki (2017), Mousavi & Modiri (2015), Zyari et al. (2020)
	Spatial Justice	Developing a balanced land use plan; Recreational space per capita in different regions; Access to recreational spaces; Fair access to public spaces and natural resources	Ghaderi Hajat (2014), Jamal & Camargo (2014), Khaledi (2015), Khastou & Yahaghi (2018), Mousavi & Kahaki (2017), Mousavi & Modiri (2015), Zyari et al. (2020)

Table 2.

Main Categories	Subcategories	Extracted Concepts	Studies
Consequences of injustice tourism	Cultural Justice	Protection of historical monuments; Preservation and revitalization of traditional customs; Preventing cultural decline, such as increasing mistrust and self-alienation; Fair access to cultural services; Fair allocation of funds to cultural festivals; Recognition and respect for cultural groups and minorities; Acknowledging and valuing cultural heritage and assets; Strengthening the self-esteem of marginalized groups; Strengthening mutual understanding and respect between residents and tourists	Camargo (2011), Dangi (2016), Fanni et al. (2015), Goudarzi & Jomehpour (2015), Jamal & Camargo (2014), Mousavi & Kahaki (2017), Mousavi & Modiri (2015)
	Economic Inequality	Inequitable distribution of tourism job opportunities; Exploitation of labor in tourism; Uneven distribution of tourism investment across regions; Economic leakage; Inflation of land prices due to tourism	Dangi (2016), Farmaki & Stergiou (2021), Firouznia et al. (2013), Karimi Rastegar (2016)
	Political Inequality	Marginalization of certain groups in tourism decision-making; Conflicts arising from differing interests among tourism stakeholders; Lack of transparency in tourism decision-making; Exclusionary decision-making processes in tourism; Power asymmetries between tourism stakeholders	Farmaki & Stergiou (2021)
	Social Inequality	Aggravation of poverty; Weakening of national coherence; Increasing immigration due to tourism-related economic opportunities; Misallocation of specialized human resources in tourism; Increasing marginalization of vulnerable or underrepresented groups; Reduction of security in recreational and public spaces; Cultural and behavioral duality arising from the clash of local and tourist values	Firouznia et al. (2013), Hafeznia & Ghaderi Hajat (2014), Jamal & Camargo (2014), Karimi Rastegar (2016)
	Environment Inequality	Noise pollution affecting inhabitants; Harmful environmental impacts; Increase in waste generation; Increase in traffic congestion; Destruction of natural resources due to tourism development	Azizi et al. (2019), Fanni et al. (2015), Jamal & Camargo (2014), Karimi Rastegar (2016)
	Spatial Inequality	Land use change for tourism activities; Uneven distribution of recreational spaces; Privatization of public spaces and unequal access to natural resources; Displacement of residents	Ghaderi Hajat (2014), Karimi Rastegar (2016), Lee & Jamal (2008)
	Cultural Inequality	Changes to or loss of indigenous culture; Lack of recognition for indigenous culture; Destruction of cultural heritage; Cultural exploitation	Camargo & Vázquez-Maguirre (2021), Camargo (2011)
Prerequisites of Justice Tourism	Institutional Capacity	Access to resources for providing tourism infrastructure; Operational capacity for the development of justice tourism; Government perception of resources and structures for justice tourism; The perception of government officials in decision making about justice tourism; Human resource capacity of institutions (in terms of skills, experience, motivation, commitment, creativity); Purposefulness of institutions (establishing clear goals, visions and performance evaluation system) for justice tourism; Developing both financial and non-financial incentive systems; Mutual trust among institutional employees; Flexibility of institutions in decision-making and implementation; Cooperation and collaboration among regional institutions; Institutional knowledge of the region; Use of local knowledge by institutions; Use of accumulated institutional experience; Legal flexibility of institutions; Transparency of regulations; Political system; Management of regional and local systems; National development policy-making; Experiential accumulation of management; Institutionalized centralism; The status of justice within the administrative and executive systems; The dominance of security-oriented approaches over development planning; The efficiency of upstream documents	Camargo (2011), Dangi (2016), Hamidi (2018), Ghaderi Hajat & Hafeznia (2019), Giampiccoli & Mtapuri (2019), Kazemian et al. (2013), Zapata & Bates (2017)

Table 2.

Main Categories	Subcategories	Extracted Concepts	Studies
The role of stakeholders in justice tourism development	Social Capacity	Residents' capacity in governance issues; Residents' capacity to manage local affairs; Residents' capacity to protect the environmental and cultural heritage; Promoting the skills of human resources in local community; Residents' compliance with rules; Trust between different tourism stakeholders; Residents' hope for improving the quality of life through justice tourism; Collective effort of tourism stakeholders towards justice tourism; Tourism stakeholders' perception of their role in justice tourism; Stakeholders' willingness to share knowledge and information; Economic capacity of marginalized groups; Social norms; Cultural traditions; Empowerment; Justice as a public demand; Social participation; Self-sufficiency of the local community	Camargo & Vázquez-Maguirre (2021), Camargo (2011), Dangi (2016), Fortenberry (2021), Ghaderi Hajat & Hafeznia (2019), Giampiccoli & Mtapuri (2019), Hamidi (2018), Kazemian et al. (2013), Mika & Scheyvens (2022), Rastegar & Ruhanen (2021), Zarezadeh & Rastegar (2023)
	Individual Capacity	Individuals' capacity for claiming justice; Individuals' capacity to control their surroundings and political participation; Individuals' capacity for entrepreneurship; Training individuals to acquire management skills; Individuals' ability and desire to share indigenous knowledge	Camargo & Vázquez-Maguirre (2021), Camargo (2011), Dangi (2016), Hamidi (2018), Kazemian et al. (2013), Rastegar (2022)
	Government Sector	Facilitating processes for the realization of justice tourism; Developing justice tourism policies; Specifying responsibilities and authority; Administrative and political decentralization; Coordinating different levels of monitoring the performance of tourism stakeholders; Supporting vulnerable and marginalized groups; Promoting community-based tourism businesses; Providing facilities for fair competition between businesses; Implementing agreements and laws that support residents' right; Including natives in tourism governance; Respecting the natives' desires regarding their participation or non-participation in tourism development; Supporting non-native institutions that protect the independence of natives; Identifying potential threats to economic, cultural and environmental patterns; Developing cultural projects related to the cultural heritage; Advancing programs that promote global-local perspectives; Balancing tourism benefits among different groups; Empowering locals to participate in tourism decision-making; Coordinating among government institutions	Camargo & Vázquez-Maguirre (2021), Camargo (2011), Farmaki & Stergiou (2021), Rastegar (2020), Taghvaei et al. (2015), Ziaee & Asadian Ardakani (2021)
	Public Sector	Creating a participatory process; Establishing close relationship with tourism stakeholders; Fostering convergence and cooperation in local management; Acting as an intermediary between stakeholders	Taghvaei et al. (2015)
	Private Sector	Reinforcing investment in tourism; Establishing relationships with different institutions; Monitoring the performance of government and public institutions; Reinforcement of financial resources in deprived areas; Employing natives; Adhering to labor laws; Promoting local businesses; Respecting the local community's choice to accept or reject tourism projects; Incorporating the elements of indigenous culture in tourism businesses; Promoting respectful relations with the local community; Recognizing natives as key partners in tourism planning; Promoting cultural products in the tourism market; Recognizing natives as legal beneficiaries	Camargo & Vázquez-Maguirre (2021), Camargo (2011), Taghvaei et al. (2015), Ziaee & Asadian Ardakani (2021)
	Civil Society	Raising awareness, encouraging competition, and fostering sensitivity towards justice tourism; Promoting environmental awareness; Identifying the general benefits of justice tourism; Facilitating social and political interaction among groups to participate in tourism planning; Demanding accountability from public, government, and private sectors regarding their duties and obligations towards justice tourism	Camargo & Vázquez-Maguirre (2021), Taghvaei et al. (2015)

As outlined in Table 2, the first three main categories—the process and substance of justice tourism and the consequences of injustice tourism—seek to address the question, "What constitutes justice tourism?" The identified process of justice tourism includes recognition, interactional, procedural, distributive, and restorative justice. According to Rastegar and Ruhanen (2022, 2023) and Rastegar et al. (2021), recognition justice is the foundational step in realizing justice, as it involves identifying tourism stakeholders who are affected or harmed by tourism, and acknowledging their needs and rights. Studies by Hezarjaribi (2011), Sviri et al. (2010), and Wang et al. (2022) emphasize transparency in tourism information, along with fair treatment and polite interaction, as essential components of interactional justice. Treating beneficiaries fairly and sharing relevant information is essential for achieving perceived justice among stakeholders.

Procedural justice, as discussed by Sviri et al. (2010), and Wang et al. (2022), involves ensuring transparency, consistency in legal and administrative processes, and inclusive decision-making. This dimension of justice amplifies the voices of direct and indirect tourism beneficiaries and is regarded as a prerequisite for distributive justice, as emphasized by Rastegar and Ruhanen (2023). Distributive justice focuses on the equitable distribution of tourism's costs and benefits, access to recreational and public spaces, job opportunities, and natural resources (e.g., Jamal & Camargo, 2013; Lee & Jamal, 2008; Rastegar et al., 2021). Lastly, restorative justice addresses the need to compensate for the harm caused by tourism. According to Rastegar and Ruhanen (2022), compensating affected beneficiaries and restoring tourism-related assets is the final step in achieving justice.

The substance of justice in tourism, the second main category, includes economic, political, social, environmental, spatial, and cultural justice. These components serve as indicators for assessing justice in tourism destinations. For instance, economic justice can be measured by indicators such as the average rate of employment in tourism sector in rural and urban areas, and the rate of economic participation of locals (Dangi, 2016; Mousavi & Kahaki, 2017; Wang et al., 2022). Political justice, as discussed by scholars such as Camargo (2011), Farmaki and Stergiou (2021), and Jamal and Camargo (2013), emphasizes the participation of marginalized groups in decision-making. Social justice indicators include access to recreational and public spaces, fair access to tourism training, and employment opportunities for locals (Dangi, 2016; Dangi & Petrick, 2021; Zyari et al., 2020). Environmental justice involves fair distribution of environmental costs and benefits due to tourism activities, and fair access to public health (the quality of water and air) (Lee & Jamal, 2008; Mousavi & Modiri, 2015; Zyari et al., 2020). Spatial justice, according to researchers such as Ghaderi Hajat (2014) and Jamal and Camargo (2013) can be evaluated through the fair distribution of public spaces and balanced land use. Cultural justice indicators include the protection and revival of cultural heritage, enhancing the self-esteem of marginalized groups, and respecting cultural diversity (Camargo, 2011; Dangi, 2016; Goudarzi & Jomehpour, 2015; Jamal & Camargo, 2013). It should be noted that some of the indicators of the process and substance of justice often overlap. For example, economic justice primarily deals with distributive justice but also intersects with restorative and procedural justice, while political justice is closely tied to procedural justice.

The third main category refers to the consequences of unjust tourism, which include economic, political, environmental, spatial, and cultural inequalities. These consequences highlight the urgent need for justice tourism. Economic consequences, such as the unfair distribution of job opportunities and labor exploitation in tourism, are discussed by Dangi (2016) and Farmaki and Stergiou (2021). Political consequences, including lack of transparency, exclusive decision-making, and power asymmetries among stakeholders, are also emphasized by Farmaki and Stergiou (2021). Social consequences of unjust tourism include exacerbating poverty, weakening national cohesion, increasing migration, reducing security in public spaces, and fostering cultural and behavioral duality (Firouznia et al., 2013; Hafeznia & Ghaderi Hajat, 2014; Jamal & Camargo, 2013). Environmental consequences such as pollution, increased waste, and the destruction of natural resources are identified by Azizi et al. (2019), Fanni et al. (2015), and Jamal and Camargo (2013). Spatial consequences include the unbalanced distribution of recreational spaces, privatization of public spaces, and the displacement of residents (Ghaderi Hajat, 2014; Karimi Rastegar, 2016; Lee & Jamal, 2008). Cultural consequences, such as the loss of indigenous culture and cultural exploitation, are emphasized by Camargo and Vázquez-Maguirre (2020) and Camargo (2011).

After establishing what constitutes justice tourism, the next step is determining how to develop it. The fourth main categories address the question, "How can justice tourism be realized?" by identifying prerequisites. Understanding these elements is crucial for destination managers to create the necessary conditions for justice tourism. Prerequisites for justice tourism include institutional, social, and individual capacity. Scholars such as Camargo (2011), Dangi (2016), Kazemian et al. (2013), and Zapata and Bates (2017) emphasize the importance of institutional capacity, which includes government access to resources, transparency in rules, and the capacity of institutions to act. Social capacity focuses on residents' capacity for environmental and cultural heritage protection, and the willingness to share knowledge. Individual capacity involves empowering individuals to claim justice, develop entrepreneurial skills, and share indigenous knowledge.

Finally, the last main category addresses the question, "Who bears responsibility for its implementation?" by outlining the roles of government, public sector, private sector, and civil society in realizing justice tourism. Camargo and Vázquez-Maguirre (2020), and Taghvaei et al. (2015) emphasize that developing a practical plan requires clearly defining the responsibilities of each stakeholder. The government's role includes facilitating justice tourism, developing policies, involving locals in governance, empowering locals to participate in tourism decision-making, coordinating between government institutions, and supporting marginalized groups (Camargo, 2011; Farmaki & Stergiou, 2021; Rastegar, 2020; Ziaee & Asadian Ardakani, 2021). The public sector is expected to foster cooperation among stakeholders and promote local management aligned with justice tourism (Taghvaei et al., 2015). The private sector's duties include adhering to labor laws, respecting local communities' choices regarding tourism projects, and treating locals as key partners in tourism planning (Camargo, 2011; Camargo & Vázquez-Maguirre, 2020). Civil society is tasked with raising awareness, fostering competition, and demanding accountability from the government and private sectors to promote justice tourism (Taghvaei et al., 2015). It is important to note that some of these elements, particularly those related to prerequisites and stakeholder responsibilities, have been adapted from studies on geography and urban management and interpreted for application in tourism. This cross-disciplinary approach is essential to develop a robust and practical framework for justice tourism.

4. Discussion

This study aimed to develop a comprehensive and practical framework for justice tourism. However, realizing justice tourism in practice requires more than merely identifying various aspects of justice, as justice is an intricate and multifaceted concept. Harvey (1973) emphasized that justice in practice requires a clear understanding of what should be distributed, to whom, and how. Similarly, Torabzadeh and Sajadieh (2011) argued that the path to justice begins with defining the concept, followed by identifying the prerequisites for justice and, finally, formulating an actionable plan. Drawing on these perspectives, this study posits that the realization of justice tourism necessitates a sequential approach: first, defining justice tourism; second, identifying the prerequisites; and third, formulating a detailed action plan that delineates the roles of tourism stakeholders. Consequently, the research questions—"what," "how," and "who"—were devised to guide the development of a comprehensive framework for this concept.

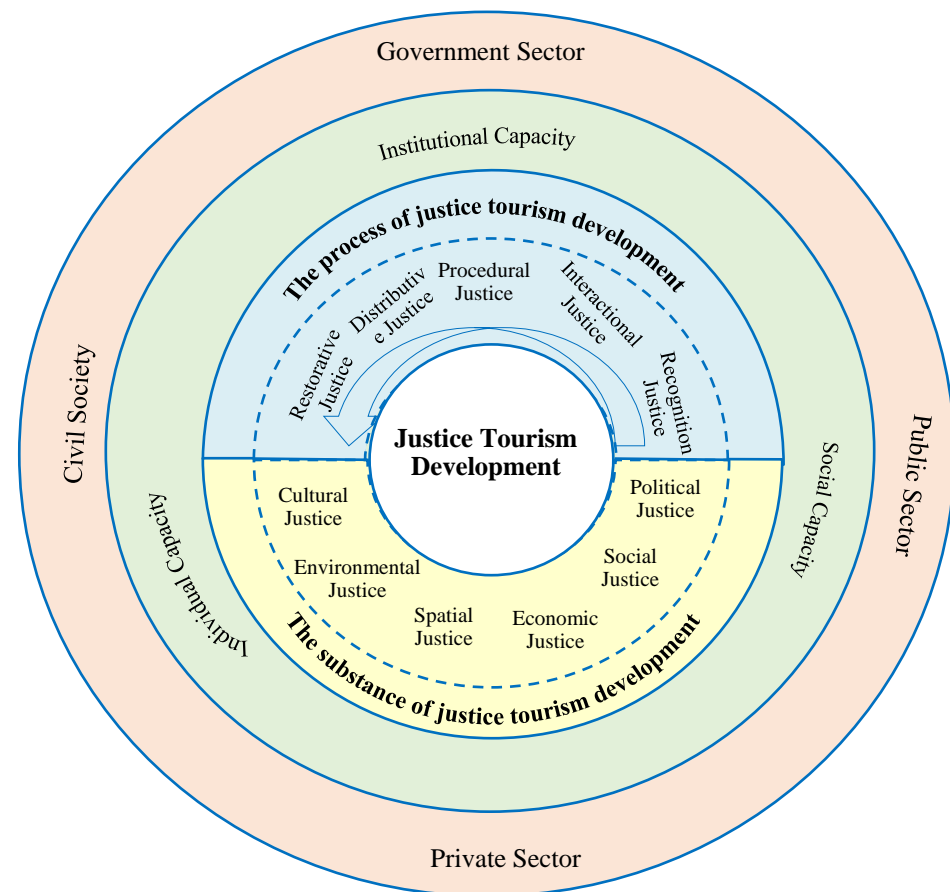
This paper draws inspiration from Yiftachel's (1989) typology of planning theory, primarily focusing on the explanatory dimension, while also addressing the prescriptive dimension. In other words, this study not only seeks to explain the existing state of tourism through a justice lens but also aims to offer practical solutions for its development by identifying the prerequisites and clarifying the roles of stakeholders. Existing studies, such as those by Rastegar et al. (2023), Rastegar and Ruhanen (2023), and Lee and Jamal (2008), have laid the groundwork by focusing on various justice dimensions and components. These contributions have highlighted the inadequacy of traditional approaches in addressing the complex, multifaceted challenges facing tourism. For instance, Rastegar et al. (2021) argued that a justice framework, which prioritizes the recognition of rights, needs, and local spaces, as well as the active participation of vulnerable groups in decision-making processes, is essential for achieving justice tourism. Farmaki and Stergiou (2021) have developed a justice tourism framework for sustainable peace, which emphasizes distributive, procedural, and restorative justice to reduce inequalities and to realize sustainable peace. They have pointed out how weak governance can lead to political, social, and economic inequality. Lee and Jamal (2008) presented a framework,

focusing on environmental justice that emphasizes the fair distribution of water and natural resources, the fair distribution of environmental costs and benefits, as well as the participation of locals in tourism decision-making. Each of the conducted studies focused on aspects of justice. While these frameworks are valuable, they fall short of offering a comprehensive and practical approach that addresses all justice concerns and types in tourism. Existing frameworks in justice tourism primarily focus on defining the concept, yet practical implementation remains underexplored. Given the inherent complexity of justice and tourism, along with the broad consequences of tourism in destinations, a comprehensive framework is necessary. This framework must go beyond the mere application of the justice concept to tourism and offer an operational approach for achieving justice tourism. Hence, this study addresses this gap by examining the prerequisites and stakeholder roles essential for developing justice tourism. To bridge theory and practice, it builds on Torabzadeh and Sajadieh's (2011) justice realization model and integrates urban management principles for justice-oriented city development, offering a more actionable and structured approach.

This study has developed a holistic and practical framework for justice tourism, depicted in Figure 4. Rooted in a rigorous coding process (as outlined in Table 2), the framework is circular, with "justice tourism development" at its core. The first layer consists of two semicircles, that together define both the process and substance of justice tourism. The upper semicircle refers to the process of justice tourism development. Building on the work of Rastegar et al. (2021) and Rastegar (2022), the framework adopts a sequential approach to justice: recognition, procedural, distributive, and restorative. This study expands the conceptualization of procedural justice to include both structural and social dimensions, the latter aligning with "interactional justice" as defined by Greenberg (1993). This differentiation between interactional and procedural justice is also supported by scholars such as Sviri et al. (2010) and Rastegar and Ruhanen (2021). As a result, the development process proposed in this study considers five sequential dimensions: recognition, interactional, procedural, distributive, and restorative justice. The lower semicircle reflects the substance of justice tourism development, encompassing political, social, economic, cultural, environmental, and spatial justice. While prior studies have often focused on specific aspects, this research integrates all of them into a cohesive framework that addresses the multidimensional nature of tourism. Given the complexity of tourism and its multifaceted cultural, political, economic, social, and other consequences in destinations, this study outlines a comprehensive approach to justice. Although the consequences of injustice tourism (such as inequality across political, social, economic, cultural, environmental, and spatial components) are not visually depicted in the framework, they directly correspond to the identified components of justice tourism's substance.

The second layer of the framework outlines the prerequisites for developing justice tourism. This study emphasizes the importance of institutional, social, and individual capacities as highlighted by Kazemian et al. (2013), Hamidi (2018), and Mika and Scheyvens (2022). These scholars argue that justice cannot be practically realized without a foundational understanding of justice, the necessary skills, and sufficient motivation. Notably, Kazemian et al. (2013) underscored the role of institutional capacity in achieving sustainable regional development, while Hamidi (2018) links institutional and social capacity directly to spatial justice. Although some justice tourism studies have briefly mentioned capacity building and empowerment, this study identifies institutional, social, and individual capacities as essential prerequisites for justice tourism development.

The third layer of the framework highlights the roles of stakeholders—including the public sector, government, private sector, and civil society—in facilitating and accelerating justice tourism. This perspective draws on the works of Camargo and Vázquez-Maguirre (2020) and Taghvaei et al. (2015), who explored the contributions of these sectors to justice in tourism and urban contexts. Ziaee and Asadian Ardakani (2021) referred to the roles of the government and private sector in achieving justice as one of the criteria of good governance. Taghvaei et al. (2015) defined responsibilities for all stakeholders in developing a just city. Building on these insights, this study adapts and applies stakeholder responsibilities from the context of just cities to the domain of justice tourism.



The Guidance of Figure 4.

The process of justice tourism development



The substance of justice tourism development



The process of justice tourism development in sequence



Prerequisites of justice tourism



The role of stakeholders in justice tourism



Fig. 4. Developed Framework for Justice Tourism Development

Each academic study seeks to contribute theoretically, in terms of management, and practically. As the first meta-synthesis study in the field of justice tourism, this paper offers a comprehensive review of existing literature, identifying theoretical and research gaps and, in doing so, helping to advance the field of tourism studies. The development of a comprehensive framework—achieved by integrating prior findings—represents a significant theoretical contribution, notably because some codes were adapted from non-tourism studies and applied to the context of tourism.

By addressing both the process and substance of justice tourism, destination managers can identify affected groups and their specific needs and rights, and monitor the overall state of justice in tourism destinations. Scholars such as Rastegar and Ruhanen (2022, 2023) and Rastegar et al. (2021) emphasize the importance of determining the justice process to identify the affected and harmed

beneficiaries, compensate for the costs, and fulfill their needs and rights. Likewise, Dangi (2016), Camargo (2011), Lee and Jamal (2008), and Ghaderi Hajat (2014) believe that addressing the indicators of justice components can serve as a tool for monitoring the state of justice in tourism. This understanding is crucial for reducing the harms caused by unjust tourism and fostering a more equitable approach to tourism development. Moreover, recognizing the detrimental effects of unjust tourism underscores the importance of prioritizing justice tourism in policy and planning. As such, the framework enables decision-makers to assess the current status of destinations, identify the challenges to justice tourism, and create actionable plans that specify the duties of stakeholders involved, as outlined by Camargo and Vázquez-Maguirre (2020) and Taghvaei et al. (2015). This holistic approach ensures that tourism development is not only fair but also sustainable in the long term.

Identifying the prerequisites for justice in tourism enables governments to build institutional, social, and individual capacities through targeted action. In practical terms, the government sector can play a pivotal role by offering empowerment programs for residents and entrepreneurs, facilitating participatory tourism planning, developing justice tourism policies, supporting marginalized groups, and ensuring equitable distribution of tourism benefits. Additionally, respecting the preferences of native populations regarding their involvement in tourism development and supporting institutions that safeguard their independence are essential (Camargo, 2011; Farmaki & Stergiou, 2021; Rastegar, 2020). Civil society can raise awareness, advocate for justice in tourism, and hold both public and private sectors accountable (Camargo & Vázquez-Maguirre, 2020; Taghvaei et al., 2015). As pointed out by Camargo (2011) and Ziaee and Asadian Ardakani (2021), the private sector can contribute by employing locals, respecting community choices, promoting cultural products, adhering to labor laws, and monitoring the actions of public institutions. Finally, Taghvaei et al. (2015) refer to the public sector, which can act as an intermediary, fostering collaboration among stakeholders and ensuring that local governance structures are conducive to justice tourism. By addressing these multifaceted aspects, the framework offers a critical and practical tool for advancing justice tourism, ensuring that tourism development is inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of all stakeholders.

5. Conclusion

In recent years, the concept of justice in tourism has attracted increasing academic interest, with scholars examining various aspects of justice. However, translating justice tourism from theory to practice raises critical questions such as: “What constitutes justice tourism?”, “How can it be realized?”, and “Who bears responsibility for its implementation?” This study addresses these foundational questions by developing a comprehensive and practical framework for justice tourism, employing a meta-synthesis approach. Through the systematic coding of selected studies in line with these research questions, the framework was formulated.

The framework is designed to be both comprehensive and actionable. It addresses recognition, interactional, procedural, distributive, and restorative justice as the justice tourism process. It also incorporates various justice components—including economic, political, social, environmental, spatial, and cultural justice—as the substance of justice tourism. Furthermore, it identifies the consequences of unjust tourism, which manifested in various forms of inequality across economic, political, social, environmental, spatial, and cultural aspects, thereby providing a nuanced response to the question of what justice tourism entails. In addition, the framework outlines the necessary prerequisites, such as institutional, social, and individual capacities. This identification of the process and substance of justice, along with the consequences of unjust tourism, and its prerequisites, offers destination managers critical insights into the challenges and tensions associated with injustice in tourism.

The framework serves as a practical guide for tourism planners, policymakers, and destination managers, assisting them in formulating tourism development programs with a focus on justice. A significant contribution of this framework lies in its practical implications regarding the responsibilities of tourism stakeholders, including government entities, the public and private sectors, and civil society. This ensures that the framework not only conceptualizes justice tourism but also offers a clear pathway for its implementation.

This study acknowledges the inherent limitations inherent in meta-syntheses. Feasibility considerations led to the exclusion of certain studies, including book chapters, books, conference papers, and those lacking sufficient quality scores. While necessary, this selective approach represents

a limitation in scope. Moreover, this study focused on local societal perceptions of justice in tourism destinations for code extraction. As a result, concepts such as climate justice, ecological justice, tourists' perceived justice, and the inherent justice of nature were not integrated into the data analysis.

A primary contribution of meta-synthesis studies is the identification of research gaps, thereby directing future inquiry. While quantitative research is prevalent in spatial and social justice studies within urban management and geographical sciences, justice tourism research remains largely qualitative. This gap highlights the need for quantitative investigations to offer new perspectives and establish measurable metrics for understanding justice in tourism—a field characterized by its complexity and multifaceted nature.

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