ANTECEDENT AND MEDIATOR OF ACTUAL VISIT BEHAVIOR AMONGST INTERNATIONAL

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AYED AL MUALA

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ABSTRAC

Actual visit behavior has been for many years an area of ongoing interest in fields that span both tourist behavior and international marketing. Despite the growth of the tourism industry, hotel industry is facing fluctuating tourist revisit intention provoked by dissatisfaction, high travel risk, mediocre hotel service, or negative Jordan image. Moreover, considerable fragmentation and inconsistency in empirical findings has limited theory development. This thesis, which is based on the concepts of Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), has the following objectives: (1) to identify the direct influence of (perceived risk, revisit intention and perceived behavior control) on actual visit behavior. (2) to identify the direct influence of (tourist satisfaction, tourist attitude, subjective norm and perceived behavior control) on revisit intention. (3) to identify the direct influence of (perceived risk, Jordan image and service climate) on tourist satisfaction. (4) to examine to what extent revisit intention and tourist satisfaction mediate the relationship between perceived risk and actual visit behavior. (5) to determine the mediating effect of revisit intention on linkage of perceived behavior control with actual visit behavior. (6) to determine how the underpinning theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) can be used to explain actual visit behavior in Jordan. The measurement for the latent variables is adopted from past studies as follows: tourist satisfaction (10 items); perceived risk (7 items); Jordan image (11 items); service climate (10); revisit intention (5); tourist attitude (6 items); subjective norm (6 items); perceived behavior control (6 items); actual visit behavior (5 items). From 850 samples, 494 usable responses were returned representing a 59% response rate. Using Structural Equation Modelling (SEM), the Generating (MG) achieved model fit as shown in the GOF index: Ratio (CMIN/df) =1.186; GFI=0.973; RMSEA= 0.019; TLI=0.991; P-value=0.096. The SMC = 0.703 which means that the predictors explain 70.3% variance in actual visit behavior. The findings highlight five direct significant antecedents of actual visit behavior: revisit intention (β = .264, CR=2.720 p=0.007), perceived risk (β = -.318, CR= -2.197 p=0. 028), subjective norm (β =.199, CR=2.112 p=.035), Jordan image (β =.504, CR=2.653 p=.008) and service climate (β =.226, CR=3.020 p=.003); three direct significant antecedents of intention: tourist satisfaction (β =.373, CR=5.400 p=***), tourist attitude (β = .182, CR= 2.734 p=.006), subjective norm (β = .262, CR= 4.178 p=***); three direct significant antecedents of satisfaction: Jordan image (β = .356, CR=2.407 p=.016), subjective norms (β =173, CR=2.343 p=.019) and perceived behavior control (β =.159, CR=2.117 p=.034). The study found two insignificant direct antecedents to actual visit behavior PBC and satisfaction; one insignificant direct antecedents of intention i.e. PBC; three insignificant direct antecedents of satisfaction i.e. service climate and attitude. The finding supports eleven hypotheses (H1, H2, H3, H4, H7, H9, H4a, H9a, H10a, H4b, and H5a) and rejects six hypotheses (H5, H6, H8, H10, H2a, and H3a). Satisfaction and intention were found to be non-mediators.

Keywords: Actual visit behavior, TPB, intention, satisfaction, image, attitude, tourism, service climate, perceived risk, subjective norms, perceived behavior control, Jordan

PUBLICATIONS FROM THIS RESEARCH

The following conferences papers have been produced from the research reported in this thesis:

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LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	Number of Tourists Arrivals to Jordan during (2002 - 2009)	38
Table 2.2	Classification of Jordanian Hotels	45
Table 2.3	Number of Hotels in Regions of Jordan	45
Table 2.4	Unclassified Number of Hotels in Jordan	46
Table 2.5	Tourist Activities and Investments through 2007-2008 (After Petra)	49
Table 3.1	Antecedents of Actual Behavior	56
Table 3.2	Previous Studies Predicting TRA in Tourism	62
Table 3.3	Previous Studies Predicting (TPB) in Tourism	73
Table 3.4	Previous Studies Predicting TPB in Different Areas	78
Table 3.5	Previous studies using TPB suggested additional external variables	81
Table 3.6	Antecedents of Behavior Intention	86
Table 3.7	Intention and Actual Behavior	91
Table 3.8	Perceived Behavior Control and Actual Behavior	96
Table 3.9	Perceived Risk and Actual Behavior	101
Table 3.10	Satisfaction and Intention	109
Table 3.11	Attitude, subjective norm, perceived behavior control and Behavior	122
	Intention	
Table 3.12	Antecedents of Satisfaction	124

Table 3.13	Perceived Risk and Satisfaction	126
Table 3.14	Image and Satisfaction	131
Table 3.15	Service and Satisfaction	138
Table3.16	Operational Definitions of Variables	142
Table 5.1	Number of Jordanian Hotels	171
Table 5.2	Determining Sample Size of a Given Population	172
Table 5.3	Determining of Sample Size Based on Confidence Level Interval and Margin	173
	of Error (Accuracy)	
Table 5.4	Statistical Techniques with Minimum Sample Size Requirements	174
Table 5.5	Seven Point Numerical Scale	177
Table 5.6	Reliability Coefficient for Multiple Items in Pilot Study (n = 30)	179
Table 5.7	Scale for Actual Visit Behavior	181
Table 5.8	Scale for Revisit Intention	182
Table 5.9	Scale for Tourists' Satisfaction	183
Table 5.10	Scale for Tourist's Attitude	184
Table 5.11	Scale for Subjective Norm	185
Table 5.12	Scale for Perceived Behavior Control	186
Table 5.13	Scale for Perceived Risk	187
Table 5.14	Scale for Jordan Image	188

189	Scale for Service Climate	Table 5.15
190	Summary of Variables, Dimensions and Total Number of Items	Table 5.16
196	Cohen's Guideline of Correlation Strength	Table 5.17
211	Recommendation Values of Measurement all Exogenous and Endogenous	Table 5.18
	Variables	
217	Summary of Response Rates	Table 6.1
218	Descriptive Statistic of All Principle Constructs (N= 494)	Table 6.2
222	Test of Response Bias	Table 6.3
227	Testing for Multicollinearity on Assessment of Tolerance and VIF Values	Table 6.4
228	Correlations for Independent Variables and Dependent Variables	Table 6.5
229	Reliability Results of Study Constructs after Transformation	Table 6.6
230	Composite Reliability of Exogenous Latent and Endogenous Variables	Table 6.7
231	Variables and Number of Measured Items in the Research Model	Table 6.8
237	Factor loading results of constructs	Table 6.9
240	Variance Extracted for Latent Variables (VE)	Table 6.10
241	Average Variance Extracted (AVE) Matrix of Exogenous Variables	Table 6.11
241	Correlation & Correlation Square Matrix among Exogenous Variables	Table 6.12
242	Exogenous Model (Goodness-Of-Fit indices)	Table 6.13
244	Goodness-Of-Fit indices of Endogenous Model	Table 6.14

Table 6.15CFA of All Measurement and Structured Model (Goodness-Of-Fit indices) (N247= 494)

Table 6.16	Hypothesized Model (Goodness-Of-Fit indices)	250
Table 6.17	Model Generating (Goodness-Of-Fit indices)	251
Table 6.18	Direct Hypotheses Testing Result of Generating Model	253
Table 6.19	Mediating effect of tourist satisfaction and revisit intention	256
Table 6.20	New Direct (paths) Hypotheses Testing Result of Generating Model	257
Table 6.21	New Mediating Effect of Actual Visit Behavior	259
Table 6.22	Goodness-Of-Fit indices of Planned Behavioral Theory (TPB)	261
Table 6.23	Regression Weight for Hypotheses Testing Results of TPB Theory	262
Table 6.24	Comparison between Hypothesis, TPB, and GM Models	264
Table 6.25	Comparison of Goodness-of-fit between Hypothesis, TPB, and GM Models	265
Table 6.26	Summary of the Direct Significant Relationships	267
Table 6.27	Summary of the Direct Insignificant Relationships	267
Table 6.28	Summary of the Indirect Relationships Hypotheses Results	268

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Research Structure of Thesis	29
Figure 3.1	Theory of Reasoned Action Model (TRA) by Fishbein & Ajzen, 1975	61
Figure 3.2	Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) by Ajzen (1991)	64
Figure 3.3	Antecedents of Behavior Intention by Um et al (2006)	88
Figure 3.4	Antecedents of Behavior Intention by Han et al. 2010	88
Figure 3.5	Image and Satisfaction by Bigne et al (2001)	130
Figure 4.1	Research Framework	148
Figure 4.2	Conceptual Relationship between Revisit Intention and Actual Visit	151
	Behavior	
Figure 4.3	Conceptual Relationship between Tourist Satisfaction and Revisit Intention	152
Figure 4.4	Conceptual Relationship between Tourist Attitude and Revisit Intention	154
Figure 4.5	Conceptual Relationship between Subjective Norm and Revisit Intention	
Figure 4.6	Conceptual relationship between Perceived Behavior Control and Revisit	156
	Intention	
Figure 4.7	Conceptual Relationship between Perceived Behavior Control and Actual	158
	Visit Behavior	
Figure 4.8	Conceptual Relationship between Perceived Risk and Actual Visit Behavior	159
Figure 4.9	Conceptual Relationship between Perceived Risk and Tourist Satisfaction	160

Figure 4.10:	Conceptual Relationship between Jordan Image and Tourist Satisfaction	
Figure 4.11	Conceptual Relationship between Service Climate and Tourist Satisfaction	162
Figure 4.12	Conceptual Relationship of mediating effect of intention	164
Figure 4.13	Conceptual Relationship of mediating effect of satisfaction and intention	
Figure 5.1	Hypothesized Model	208
Figure 5.2	A SEM Model with an Example of Direct and Indirect Effects	215
Figure 6.1	Exogenous Model with Standardized Estimates	243
Figure 6.2	gure 6.2 Endogenous Model with Standardized Estimates	
Figure 6.3	Figure 6.3 Hypothesized Models (SC) with Standardized Estimates	
Figure 6.4	Generating Model with Standardized Estimates	252
Figure 6.5	New Path Hypotheses	255
Figure 6.6	Alternative Model of TPB theory with Standardized Estimates	262

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CT Actual Visit Behavior	ACT
FI Adjusted Goodness-Of-Fit Index	AGFI
M Alternative Model	AM
OS Analysis of Moment Structures	AMOS
T Tourist Attitude	ATT
FI Comparative Fit Index	CFI
Degree of Freedom	DF
D Jordanian Dinner	JOD
IT Revisit Intention	INT
P Gross Domestic Product	GDP
FI Goodness- of- Fit Index	GFI
1L Maximum likelihood	ML
G Model Generating	MG
A Ministry of Tourism	ΜοΤΑ
N Population	Ν
n Sample Size	n
FI Normed Fit Index	NFI

Perceived behavior control	PBC
Perceived Risk	RISK
Root Mean Square Error of Approximation	RMSEA
Tourist Satisfaction	SAT
Service Climate	SER
Squared Multiple Correlations	SMC
Structural Equation Modeling	SEM
Subjective Norms	SN
Theory of Reasoned Action	TRA
Theory of Planed Behavior	ТРВ

LIST OF APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A	SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE (English Version)	343
APPENDIX B	SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE (Arabic Version)	351
APPENDIX C	DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS	358
APPENDIX D	TEST OF RESPONSE BIAS	363
APPENDIX E	OUTLIERS	364
APPENDIX F	NORMALITY	370
APPENDIX G	LINEARITY, NORMALITY AND HOMOSCEDASICITY	378
APPENDIX H	RELIABILITY OF CONSTRUCTS	383
APPENDIX I	CONFIRMATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS (CFA)	390
APPENDIX J	MODIFICATION INDICES	441

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 **PREAMBLE**

This chapter introduces the background of the research study. It then presents the statement of the problem, justification of study, research questions, and research objectives. The chapter will then outline the significance of the study, definition of key terms, and scope of the study. Finally, it will conclude with a presentation of the research structure used to meet the main objectives.

1.2 INTRODUCTION

Jordan a country in the region of Middle East is rich with a wide range of tourist attractions yearly. Tourism is Jordan's most promising and vital sector of the economy of the whole country. Jordan has a developed tourism infrastructure with a plethora of luxury hotels and resorts, advanced transport infrastructure, a wide range of activities and cultural events, spas and numerous tour operators operating in the country to serve the main needs of different types of international tourists.

More specifically, this research intent to investigate the predictors of actual visit behavior among international tourists by using theory of planned behavior (TPB). This study also examines the mediating effect of revisit intention and tourist satisfaction in the relationship between (perceived risk and perceived behavior control) with actual visit behavior.

The contents of the thesis is for internal user only

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APPENDIX