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COVID19: Holiday Intentions during a Pandemic

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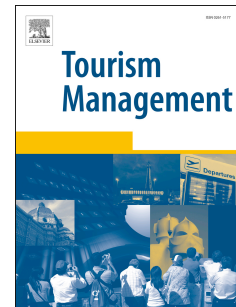
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Title Page

Manuscript Title:

COVID19: Holiday Intentions during a Pandemic

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COVID19: Holiday Intentions during a Pandemic

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Abstract

The travel, tourism and hospitality industries have been the worst affected of the world's major economic sectors during the COVID19 pandemic, which has had a devastating effect on both destinations and organisations. Drawing from a sample (N=385) of adult permanent residents of Athens, Greece, the study examines the impact of COVID19 upon holiday intention. The chaordic systems are evaluated through the use of fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis, whilst the study also used Necessary Condition Analysis for the calculation of the size effects of the examined conditions. The findings reveal two sufficient complex configurations leading to holiday intention: (i) holiday risks, and (ii) impact of COVID19. Based on the results, the article also offers a set of managerial implications. The contribution of the study is to both theoretical and methodological tourism domains.

Keywords: fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis; Necessary Condition Analysis; Coronavirus; holiday intention; Greece

22 **1. Introduction**

23 And then, a pandemic came. A pneumonia of unknown cause was first detected in
24 Wuhan, China, and it was reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Country
25 Office in China on 31st December 2019 (WHO, 2020). Actually, the first case of a 55-
26 year-old man from Hubei province was traced back to 17th November 2019, and the
27 Chinese authorities identified at least 266 cases of Coronavirus (COVID19) before the
28 end of the year (Ma, 2020). In Europe, COVID19 was first detected on 27th December
29 2019 in France (Roberts, 2020), four days earlier than the first case was reported by
30 WHO. Since then, many more European countries have begun to report confirmed
31 cases of COVID19, whilst in the United States the first confirmed case was reported
32 on 19th January (Holshue et al., 2020). The outbreak was declared a Public Health
33 Emergency of International Concern on 30th January, whilst the name ‘COVID19’ for
34 the new Coronavirus disease was announced by WHO on 11th February (WHO,
35 2020). The scientific community has given the strain an interim name of 2019-nCoV,
36 taking into account the year of discovery, its status as a ‘novel’ virus, and its family
37 name (CoV) (Doyle, 2020). On 11th March, WHO declared the novel COVID19
38 outbreak a global pandemic (Cucinotta and Vanelli, 2020). Globally, by the end of the
39 spring (31st May), more than 6.2 million people had been infected with COVID19,
40 resulting in more than 370,000 fatalities, whilst approximately 2.8 million had
41 recovered (John Hopkins, 2020).

42

43 The unprecedented COVID19 health crisis has brought the world to a standstill, and
44 tourism has been the worst affected of all major economic sectors (UNWTO, 2020a).
45 Concerning the aviation industry up until May 2020, estimates compared with figures
46 for 2019 show an overall reduction in seats offered by airlines ranging from 32 to 59

47 percent, an overall reduction in passengers ranging from 1.8 million to 3.2 million,
48 and an overall loss of gross operating revenues for airlines ranging from 240 to 420
49 billion USD (ICAO, 2020). This has led several airlines, including South African
50 Airways, Avianca Holdings, Air Mauritius, Virgin Australia, Miami Air International,
51 BRA, Flybe, RavnAir, Air Deccan, and Trans States Airlines, to declare themselves
52 bankrupt (Madureira, 2020). In tourism for 2020 the estimated fall in international
53 arrivals compared with 2019 figures is expected to reach 30 percent, with financial
54 losses of 450 billion USD in international tourism receipts, almost a third of its global
55 contribution (UNWTO, 2020b). Accordingly, 75 million jobs are expected to be lost
56 in 2020 from the tourism sector (WTTC, 2020). All these aspects illustrate a deep
57 crisis, placing tourism in its darkest hour.

58
59 Nevertheless, even if COVID19 has brought tourism to uncharted waters, our
60 knowledge from previous crises (indicatively please read Cirstea [2014], Gurtner
61 [2016], and Khazai, Mahdavian and Platt [2018]) shows that the industry can quickly
62 recover and return to normality. A precondition of this is to regain the holiday
63 intention of visitors. Tourism-related literature has examined a series of effects
64 generated by disasters and crises. More specifically, several previous studies focused
65 on crises and evaluated numerous issues such as business efficiency (Pearce II and
66 Michael, 2006; Olthetena, Sougiannis, Travlos and Zarkos, 2013), productivity
67 aspects (Mar-Molinero, Menéndez-Plans and Orgaz-Guerrero, 2017; Yépez, 2017),
68 operational ability (Akrivos, Reklitis and Theodoroyiani, 2014; Epstein, Shapiro and
69 Gómez, 2017) competitiveness (Cirstea, 2014; Pappas, 2015), innovation output
70 (García-Pozo, Sanchez-Ollero, and Ons-Cappa, 2016; Naidoo, Ramseook-Munhurrun,
71 and Seetaram, 2011), and enterprising cooperation (Okumus and Karamustafa, 2005;

72 Voltes-Dorta, Rodríguez-Deniz and Suau-Sanchez, 2017). However, the literature is
73 predominantly silent upon the examination of holiday intentions during crises, let
74 alone an unprecedented crisis like COVID19.

75

76 Holiday decision-making is characterised by high complexity levels, especially during
77 periods of rapid change and uncertainty (Pappas, 2019). This study aims to examine
78 the impact of COVID19 upon the holiday intention of the residents of Athens, people
79 living in a country that has successfully managed to minimize the impact of the
80 pandemic, but has been battling with an economic crisis for more than a decade. To
81 do so, the research investigates the psychological impact of COVID19, the economic
82 impact of the pandemic, the recession and COVID19, and the travel, destination and
83 hospitality risks. The theoretical contribution of the study is a better understanding of
84 the formulation of holiday intention during a COVID19 nationwide lockdown.

85 Methodologically, its contribution is twofold. First, it examines the complexity of
86 holiday intentions by using fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis, a method that
87 has only recently been employed in the travel and tourism domain. Second, it
88 progresses to a complementary analysis of the size effects of the examined conditions
89 by using Necessary Condition Analysis, a new method in the service sector.

90

91 **2. The Greek case**

92 On 26th February 2020 the first confirmed case of COVID19 appeared in Greece
93 (APE-MPE, 2020). The Greek government had taken widespread measures (i.e. the
94 closure of educational institutions and non-essential services) in order to prevent the
95 spread of the virus in the very early stages (11th March), and it progressed to a
96 complete lockdown and prohibition of movement on 23rd March (Menshouse, 2020).

97 These decisions were taken because of: the lessons learnt from countries (e.g. Italy)
98 that already had a substantial number of COVID19 fatalities; the shortage of intensive
99 care units (less than 550 beds throughout the country) (Sarris, 2020); the extensive
100 lack of medical and paramedical personnel; and the overall bad shape of the national
101 health system (in the last decade 70,000 beds were lost and 359 hospital departments
102 were closed) due to extensive budget cuts made over more than a decade to tackle the
103 Greek economic crisis (Pigadas, 2020). These early stage measures led to a very low
104 number of fatalities (less than 200) during the first wave (spring 2020) of COVID19.
105
106 Conversely, in terms of handling the socio-economic crisis generated by the
107 pandemic, Greece showed one of the worst performances among EU member states.
108 Indicatively, when most EU countries were subsidising 70 to 100 percent of lost
109 salaries, Greece was only covering 50 percent, the level of financial support for the
110 unemployed (800 €) was one of the lowest in the EU, and there was no protection of
111 collective employment agreements or mechanism for avoidance of redundancies
112 (Kopsini, 2020). It should also be noted that COVID19 had already devastated the
113 Greek tourism and hospitality industry, a sector that contributes approximately 20
114 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Reuters, 2020). According
115 to the IMF (2020), COVID19 will cause Greece to face a 10 percent loss in GDP
116 during 2020, and a 5.1 percent loss in 2021.

117

118 To summarise, during the first wave of the pandemic Greece did not face a health
119 crisis. Due to the effective risk management employed through widespread measures
120 taken at a very early stage, Greece has avoided a crisis pandemic. On the other hand,
121 the national economy, already weakened by a prolonged recession, was severely hit

122 by COVID19, whilst the measures taken to avoid the socio-economic effects of the
123 pandemic were at best inadequate.

124

125 **3. Chaos, complexity and chaordic systems**

126 In recent decades, research has paid considerable attention to chaos control in
127 business systems (Du, Huang and Sheng, 2009). The term ‘chaos’ refers to “a class of
128 dynamic behaviour of deterministic systems characterized by sensitive dependence on
129 initial conditions, diverging but constrained trajectories that imply unpredictability,
130 and complex organisation or structure” (Schuldberg, 2011, p.183). Chaos theory was
131 initially devised in 1963 (Lawrence, Feng and Huang, 2003), and has proved to be
132 particularly useful when analysing complex systems (Mahmoudabadi, 2015). The
133 theory of complexity has developed from the theory of chaos, and is mainly employed
134 for studies researching aspects that include complex characteristics. Complexity
135 theory concerns the systems that include several interacting agents, and even if it is
136 difficult to make predictions, these are structured systems and allow improvement
137 (Zahra and Ryan, 2007).

138

139 The concept of the ‘chaordic-system’ has emerged from the relationship which is
140 strong between complexity and chaos (Fitzgerald and Van-Eijnatten, 2002). Hock
141 (1995) suggested the term ‘chaordic’ term in order to emphasise the character of
142 chaotically-ordered entities and complex systems. It is derived from the amalgamation
143 of the words chaos and order, and creates the technical term ‘chaord’ (Van-Eijnatten,
144 Putnik and Sluga, 2007). The main characteristic of a chaordic system is the dynamic
145 and complex set of specific elemental connections that formulate a unified whole,
146 whilst behaviourally it is at the same time unpredictable (chaos) even if it follows

147 specific patterns (order) (Olmedo, 2011). The main features of these systems are
148 (Olmedo and Mateos, 2015): (i) the impossibility of long-term planning; (ii) their
149 constant change, and their potential to form new complex structures in a spontaneous
150 and endogenous manner; and (iii) their substantial influence based upon unexpectedly
151 dramatic changes. As a result, a chaordic system has long memory (long-range
152 correlational involvement and chaotic oscillations included in time series and in a
153 non-stationery nature [Lahmiri, 2017]), self-organisation (systemically exhibiting
154 emergent properties by internally organising behaviours/operations [Kauffman,
155 Peterson, Samuelsson and Troein, 2003]), asymmetry (no statistical distribution,
156 equivalence or equality with regard to operation, functions and behaviours [Waz and
157 Waz, 2009]), resilience (the system is able to handle the conditions occurred, recover,
158 and react accordingly [Mycek et al., 2017]), and it is sensitive when dealing with the
159 initial conditions (the system has the ability to quickly diverge when the conditions
160 slightly differ [Olmedo and Mateos, 2015]).

161

162 Within a business framework, chaos and complexity theories suggest that when
163 organisations are at the edge of chaos, having to confront the opposing forces of
164 stability and instability, they can disconnect from their previous operations and
165 processes and, based on their ability to organise, accept the emergence of a new order.
166 In this way, they can abruptly move from one state to another in a qualitative manner
167 (Smith and Humphries, 2004). During crises and disasters, there is a dramatic increase
168 in the complexity aspects of a business environment (Coskun and Ozceylan, 2011),
169 hence, complexity theory is also linked to emergency management (Morakabati,
170 2016), creating a need for the examination of the formulated chaordic system (Pappas,
171 2018). At present, forecasting for a long term period of time is unlikely for chaotic

172 systems, and substantial change may occur when it is not expected; hence,
173 “adaptiveness and flexibility are vital for the survival of organisations (Levy, 1994).
174
175 In travel and tourism, destinations and organisations need to gain the highest possible
176 resilience when facing inevitable crises and disasters (Paraskevas, 2006). As Farrell
177 and Twining-Ward (2004) suggest, tourism is a complex, uncertain, and unpredictable
178 system, and the dynamics of tourism anarchy and its non-linear systems of complexity
179 are essential in transitional periods. An analysis of current crisis management in the
180 travel and tourism domain shows the need for a different approach to managing
181 tourism crises due to the likely complex and chaotic nature of these events (Reddy,
182 Boyd and Nica, 2020). Concerning tourists, they are characterised by complex
183 psychology, and their perspectives are difficult to quantify, calibrate, and sometimes
184 justify (Zhai, Zhong and Luo, 2019). Therefore, a complexity-based perspective when
185 evaluating crises in the travel and tourism industries can provide a better
186 understanding of tourism crisis management and planning (Reddy et al., 2020).

187

188 **4. Study tenets**

189 The services research literature uses the word ‘tenet’ to describe testable precepts able
190 to identify some kind of order within chaotic systems (Pappas, 2018) and is
191 connected with complexity theory (Papatheodorou and Pappas, 2017). The metrics of
192 consistency and statistical hypotheses are not likely to be included when we employ
193 outcome scores in order to evaluate the extent to which complex configurations are
194 adequate (Wu, Yeh, Huan and Woodside, 2014). According to configurational theory,
195 when considering factor arrangement, different outcomes may be generated from the
196 same set of causal factors (Ordanini, Parasuraman and Rubera, 2014). This research

197 examines the impact of COVID19 upon the holiday intention of Athenian adult
198 permanent residents. Therefore, the presence or absence of a given condition (binary
199 sets) affecting the holiday intention of the respondents was examined. Along with the
200 socio-demographics of age and monthly income, the six examined attributes were: (i)
201 the psychological impact of COVID19; (ii) the economic impact of the pandemic; (iii)
202 the recession and COVID19; (iv) the travel risks; (v) the destination risks; and (vi) the
203 hospitality risks. Taking into consideration previous research by Olya and Altinay
204 (2016) and Pappas (2018) for the formulation of tenets, the study includes the
205 following six:

206

207 T1: A given attribute is able to determine different effects of COVID19 upon holiday
208 intention in accordance with its configuration/interaction with other attributes.

209 T2: Recipe principle: For the moment that two or more simple conditions formulate a
210 complex configuration, a condition of outcome is able to have a high consistent score.

211 T3: The interactions/configurations that are complex are able to influence the effect of
212 COVID19 upon holiday intention.

213 T4: Within different combinations the simple conditions of interactions/configurations
214 are able to affect in a positive or negative manner the effect of COVID19 upon
215 holiday intention.

216 T5: Equifinality principle: A sufficient effect of COVID19 upon holiday intention
217 cannot always be the result of a high score of outcome.

218 T6: When there are high Y scores, a recipe that is considered given for the effect of
219 COVID19 upon holiday intention is not relevant for all cases.

220

221 As Pappas (2018) suggests, the criteria confirming the above tenets are:

222

223 C1: All eight (two socio-demographics and six attributes) simple conditions must
224 appear in at least one generated solution.

225 C2: A minimum of two out of eight simple conditions must be included in each
226 complex configuration generated by the analysis.

227 C3: Each solution must provide a different pathway for holiday intention.

228 C4: Not even one of the examined simple conditions must be present in all generated
229 sufficient complex configurations.

230 C5: fsQCA must provide at least two sufficient complex configurations for the effect
231 of COVID19 upon holiday intention.

232 C6: No sufficient complex configuration must appear to have a coverage that can be
233 applied in all cases.

234

235 **5. Methods**

236

237 *5.1. Participants*

238 The study area was Athens, Greece. The research sample consisted of permanent adult
239 residents of Athens recruited during April 2020. From 23rd March until 4th May the
240 whole country (including Athens) was in strict lockdown due to COVID19, therefore
241 the research was based on telephone interviews and used structured questionnaires.

242 More specifically, the participants were randomly contacted using the starting

243 landline telephone code of 210 followed by seven more digits. Most Athenian

244 landline telephone numbers follow this pattern. In order to reduce research bias, list-

245 wise deletion was used (the entire record was excluded from the analysis) for partially

246 completed interviews. When handling missing data, list-wise deletion is considered to
247 be the least problematic method (Allison, 2001).

248

249 *5.2. Sample*

250 The perspectives of the examined population were unknown, since the conditions
251 under which this research took place were unprecedented. For this reason, the most
252 conservative response format of 50/50 (50 percent of respondents have a positive
253 attitude and 50 percent a negative one) had to be assumed (Akis et al., 1996). The
254 cumulative probability (Z) for a sample larger than 20 people is 1.96 (Sekaran and
255 Bougie, 2013). Moreover, following Akis, Peristianis and Warner (1996), a minimum
256 95 percent level of confidence and a maximum five percent statistical error were
257 taken into consideration. Hence, the sample size was:

258

$$N = \frac{Z^2(\text{hypothesis})}{S^2} \Rightarrow N = \frac{1.96^2(0.5)(0.5)}{0.05^2} \Rightarrow N = 384.16$$

259

260 According to Aaker and Day (1990) the sample size calculation is independent of the
261 overall size of the population. This is because the sample size determines the error, as
262 also shown in the formula above. Data gathering was complete when 385 useful
263 questionnaires had been collected.

264

265 *5.3. Measures*

266 The questionnaire consisted of 37 Likert scale statements (1: Strongly disagree; 5:
267 Strongly agree) and two socio-demographic (age; income) questions. None of the
268 statements was adopted from previous studies. The research also included two
269 exclusion questions, since the respondents had to be adult Athenian resident

270 permanently residing in the city for at least the last three years. Concerning the
271 examined socio-demographics, the study by Pappas (2019) was followed for the age
272 groupings 18-35, 36-50, and over 50. According to Trading Economics (2020), during
273 2019 the average monthly income in Greece was 1060 €. The research rounded the
274 examination threshold to 1000 €.

275

276 The descriptive statistics and factor analysis were made through 'SPSS' software. The
277 complex statements were evaluated using fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis
278 (fsQCA), by using 'fsQCA' software. The effect size of the examined antecedents
279 was measured using Necessary Condition Analysis (NCA), by using 'R Studio'
280 software. According to Longest and Vaisey (2008), fsQCA is a mixed method, since it
281 combines the empirical testing of quantitative data and the analysis of specific cases
282 through qualitative inductive reasoning. The research also takes into consideration the
283 study by Woodside and Zhang (2013), and estimates the inclusion or not of a given
284 condition (negated sets), indicating the absence of a condition with the symbol "~".
285 Moreover, NCA was used in order to identify the necessary dataset conditions.

286 According to Dul (2020), this method can be employed in a complementary manner in
287 both parametric (i.e. regression) and non-parametric analysis (i.e. QCA). It is
288 important to employ NCA because a necessary condition is considered a vital
289 outcome factor, and without this condition the outcome will not occur (ERiM, 2020).

290

291 According to Skarmeas, Leonidou and Saridakis (2014), fsQCA can be employed
292 only when a general asymmetry is present toward the relationships under evaluation,
293 and the absolute correlated values are less than .6. Table 1 presents the correlation
294 matrix of the examined coefficients, showing the existence of general asymmetry in

295 acceptable values ($<.6$). As Woodside (2013) suggests, these findings indicate that the
296 examined causal conditions can lead to the same outcome. The study aims to
297 investigate the effect of COVID19 on the holiday intentions of adult Athenian
298 permanent residents, by estimating the complex antecedent conditions (causal recipes)
299 of the following antecedents: (i) COVID19 psychological impact; (ii) COVID19
300 economic impact; (iii) recession and COVID19; (iv) travel risks; (v) destination risks;
301 and (vi) hospitality risks. It also examines the effect of the socio-demographics of age
302 and monthly income. Further, it employs NCA in a complementary analysis in order
303 to estimate the size effect of the examined conditions and determine whether they can
304 lead to the desired outcome.

305

306 Please insert **Table 1**

307

308 *5.4. Algorithms*

309 The research calibration was achieved using 38 randomly selected individual cases.
310 To examine the holiday intention of the respondents due to COVID19, 'f_hi', the
311 fuzzy-sets used were: for age 'f_a'; for monthly income 'f_i'; for COVID19
312 psychological impact 'f_pci'; for COVID19 economic impact 'f_cei'; for recession
313 and COVID19 'f_rc'; for travel risks 'f_tr'; for destination risks 'f_dr'; and for
314 hospitality risks 'f_hr'.

315

316 **6. Results**

317 The socio-demographic characteristics of the sample are presented in Table 2. The
318 largest age group was people between 36 and 50 years of age (48.3 percent). There
319 was an almost equal distribution of respondents with regard to monthly income (a

320 slim majority of 51.7 percent of people had monthly incomes higher than 1000 €).

321 Table 3 illustrates the descriptive statistics for the study, including the Likert scale

322 statements for each examined condition.

323

324 Please insert **Table 2**

325

326 Please insert **Table 3**

327

328 As previously mentioned, all statements were formulated for the current research.

329 Therefore, Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was employed for the examination of

330 the loadings (Table 4). The KMO test score was .772, higher than the minimum

331 acceptable (>.6). Following Norman and Streiner (2008), all the rotated component

332 matrix loadings that scored less than .4 were excluded from further analysis due to

333 low commonality. Reliability analysis was conducted using Cronbach's alpha (A).

334 The overall A was .739, whilst in all cases A was higher than .8 (the minimum

335 acceptable value is .7 [Nunnally, 1978]).

336

337 Please insert **Table 4**

338

339 *6.1. Sufficient complex configurations*

340 The results generated three complex solutions able to lead to holiday intention (Table

341 5). The first sufficient configuration (f_a,~f_i,~f_pci,~f_cei,~f_rc,f_tr,f_dr,f_hr)

342 includes the socio-demographic of age and has high membership scores concerning

343 travel, destination, and hospitality risks. This complex statement appears to have the

344 highest consistency (.84921) of all three solutions. The second complex solution

345 (f_a,f_i,f_pci,f_cei,~f_rc,~f_tr,~f_dr,~f_hr) includes both of the examined socio-
346 demographics (age; monthly income), and has high scores in COVID19 psychological
347 and economic impacts. The third solution (~f_a,f_i,f_pci,f_cei,f_rc,~f_tr,~f_dr,~f_hr)
348 embeds the monthly income socio-demographic, and includes high membership
349 scores for COVID19 psychological and economic impacts, and recession and
350 COVID19. This sufficient complex configuration has the highest coverage (.46924)
351 and lowest consistency (.80827).

352

353 Please insert **Table 5**

354

355 *6.2. Size effects*

356 The effect size (d) of the examined conditions was evaluated using NCA. As
357 illustrated in Table 6, ce_fdh and cr_fdh are the ceiling zone in the middle parametric
358 group where the ceiling zone is first displayed, and specify the minimum and
359 maximum values of X and Y (Dul, 2020). As Dul (2020) indicates, most of the time
360 ce_fdh produces a higher ceiling zone than cr_fdh. The results suggest that almost all
361 the examined conditions (COVID19 psychological and economic impact; travel,
362 destination and hospitality risks) show a small effect ($0 < d < .1$). However, recession
363 and COVID19 appears to have no effect ($d=0$), meaning that its inclusion in a
364 generated solution cannot lead to the desired outcome. Therefore, the third solution
365 generated by the fsQCA analysis (~f_a,f_i,f_ci,f_cei,f_rc,~f_tr,~f_dr,~f_hr) should be
366 disregarded. Figure 1 visually presents the NCA results.

367

368 Please insert **Table 6**

369

370 Please insert **Figure 1**

371

372 **7. Discussion**

373

374 *7.1. Confirmation of tenets*

375 Although NCA has excluded the third sufficient complex configuration generated by
376 fsQCA, the evaluation of whether the tenets are confirmed should include all three
377 solutions. This is because NCA was a complementary method used to evaluate the
378 size effects of the examined conditions, and did not affect the generation,
379 combination, and efficiency of complex configurations as they were generated by
380 fsQCA.

381

382 Table 5 presents the coverage of the three sufficient complex configurations, which is
383 high (.43556). Moreover, all eight of the simple conditions are present in at least one
384 of the generated complex sufficient configurations, regardless of the fact that all
385 solutions end up having the same outcome. This shows that each attribute has a
386 contribution in a different way to the formulation of respondents' holiday intention
387 related with the combination with the rest of the simple conditions. Therefore, the first
388 tenet (T1) is confirmed. All three of the solutions include four attributes (more than
389 two simple conditions are needed in order to create a complex configuration), and
390 lead to the same outcome. Previous studies, such as Woodside (2014) and Pappas
391 (2018), highlight this finding, and subsequently confirm the second tenet (T2). As
392 previously mentioned, fsQCA is not based on variables but cases, and their solutions
393 deal with (Ordanini et al., 2014): (i) an outcome concerning the combination of the
394 examined antecedents; and (ii) the way these conditions are related within the specific

395 combination. Therefore, each sufficient complex configuration is generated through
396 the complexity that specific simple antecedents interact, affecting the final outcome
397 (Olya and Altinay, 2016). Thus the third tenet (T3) is confirmed. The inclusion or
398 exclusion of specific attributes (contrarian case analysis) has shown that whether a
399 simple condition is present or absent influences the effect upon the desired outcome,
400 and in our case of COVID19 upon holiday intention. This actually confirms the fourth
401 tenet (T4). As Woodside (2014, p.2499) suggests, “the occurrences of different paths
402 usually do not occur with the same frequency among the set of paths”. The principle
403 of equifinality shows that multiple paths (in our case three) are able to lead to the
404 same outcome. Hence, the findings confirm the fifth tenet (T5). Finally, Table 5
405 highlights that the coverage of the generated solutions varies from .41382 to .46924.
406 According to Olya and Altinay (2016) and Pappas (2018), this finding indicates that
407 no sufficient complex configuration applies in all cases. Each solution only partially
408 covers the examined sample. On the other hand, the sum of solutions significantly
409 covers the examined population of Athenians. This case relevance leads to
410 confirmation of the last formulated tenet (T6).

411

412 *7.2. Complex solutions*

413 Of the three solutions generated using fsQCA, only two should be taken into
414 consideration (the third was disregarded following the evaluation of size effects by
415 NCA). These two sufficient configurations meet the aim of the study by showcasing
416 the effect of COVID19 upon the Athenian residents with regards to their holidays.
417 The first sufficient complex configuration reveals that holiday risks (travel;
418 destination; hospitality) affect the related COVID19 holiday intention of respondents.
419 More specifically, high scores appear for age (f_a), travel risks (f_tr), destination risks

420 (f_dr), and hospitality risks (f_hr). In this solution the socio-demographic of age
421 seems to play an important role in the formulation of holiday intention. This can be
422 explained by the fact that the older people are, the higher the proportion of fatalities
423 from COVID19. More specifically, taking into consideration the USA, the country
424 with most fatalities worldwide, amongst younger adults (aged 18 to 44) the share of
425 deaths was lower than four percent, whilst for people over 75 years of age that share
426 rocketed to almost 50 percent (Worldometer, 2020). As a result, older people are
427 likely to be much more worried about the risks of taking a holiday. With regards to
428 COVID19, these aspects highlight the importance of age when destinations and
429 tourism-related enterprises target specific market segments, and employ their crisis
430 management communications. One more aspect that needs to be taken into
431 consideration is the high susceptibility of tourism to risks and crises. Several past
432 studies (indicatively please read Hajibaba, Gretzel, Leisch and Dolnicar [2015] and
433 Pappas and Papatheodorou [2017]) highlight the vulnerability of the industry to crises
434 and disasters. This is because the sector is characterized by numerous interacting
435 entities and activities critically vulnerable to crises (Cole, 2009) leading to an inherent
436 non-linearity of the respective relationships, which prevents the effective coupling of
437 causes and consequences (Olmedo and Mateos, 2015). As a result, the current
438 sufficient complex configuration confirms findings from previous studies concerning
439 the effect of risks upon holiday intention, provides evidence of the importance of
440 holiday risks related to COVID19, and highlights the crucial age factor with respect to
441 tourism during the current pandemic.

442

443 The second acceptable complex configuration concerns the impact of COVID19 upon
444 holiday intention. More specifically, this solution scores highly for age (f_a), income

445 (f_i), psychological impact of COVID19 (f_{pci}), and the economic impact of
446 COVID19 (f_{cei}). As a result, the study contributes by providing a connection of
447 those aspects in terms of COVID19 impact to travel intention, providing the grounds
448 to destinations and tourism-related enterprises to more effectively assess the business
449 environment, and create sufficient pathways that can lead to the unmentioned
450 travel intention. Once more, the socio-demographic of age in present, as in the first
451 solution, this time alongside monthly income. The latter can be explained, since
452 recent studies reveal that almost three quarters of Greeks (73 percent) perceive that
453 the arrival of COVID19, the lockdown that followed, the devastation of the Greek
454 tourist season that has already heavily affected tourism operations in the country, and
455 a potential second outbreak from the autumn onwards have significantly affected their
456 income (Financial Press, 2020). Monthly income is not something that affects only
457 Greece, considering that a third of the population of the G7 (the seven wealthiest
458 economies in the world) share the same income perspectives (Enikonomia.gr, 2020),
459 whilst it is estimated that worldwide COVID19 will lead between 420 and 580 million
460 people into poverty (UNU, 2020). However, the connection between monthly income
461 and the simple condition of COVID19 economic impact (f_{cei}), and subsequently
462 with the psychological impact of the pandemic (f_{pci}) is justified, since the
463 statements of the latter evaluate a holistic perspective by discussing everyday life,
464 people's way of life, hygiene, and fear and anxiety issues. Therefore, the current
465 sufficient complex configuration provides evidence for the extent of the impact of
466 COVID19 and the respondents' holiday intention, and reveals a reluctance to take
467 holidays at least for the foreseeable future. Hence, it can be presumed that the return
468 from COVID19 to tourism normality is not likely to be as fast as that following crises
469 and disasters the sector has faced in the past.

470

471 The findings actually confirm the complex character of tourism decision making,
472 especially during crisis periods, as also highlighted by previous studies (indicatively,
473 please read Farrell and Twining-Ward, [2004], and Pappas [2019]). They also
474 highlight the need for adopting a complexity-based perspective when evaluating crises
475 in the travel and tourism industries (Reddy et al., 2020).

476

477 *7.3. Managerial implications*

478 The study uses fsQCA to examine the complexity of the effect of COVID19 upon the
479 holiday intention of adults living permanently in Athens. It further progresses to a
480 complementary analysis of the size effect of the examined conditions using NCA.
481 After disregarding one solution based upon the NCA results, the findings reveal two
482 sufficient complex configurations focusing on: (i) holiday risks, and (ii) the impact of
483 COVID19.

484

485 The chaotic systems affecting holiday intention as a result of COVID19 and
486 identified by the research findings create a necessity for collaboration within the
487 tourism industry that is more vital than ever. Safety comes first. Transportation
488 companies (with special reference to the aviation industry) should create grounds for
489 people to feel safe to travel again. These can include several initiatives such as the ad-
490 hoc communication with customers concerning health and safety measures and
491 advancements from travel companies, and relevant press releases focusing on the
492 safety of the transport means (air; land; sea). This is always the case for travel,
493 whether for business or leisure, but is even more relevant to holiday trips, since they
494 are considered to be discretionary activities and are characterized by high elasticity

495 (Papatheodorou and Pappas, 2017). Safety also concerns destinations and hospitality
496 firms. Social distancing is likely to last for a long time, since it is more than likely that
497 there will not be a vaccine in 2021 (Lanese, 2020; Spinney, 2020). Therefore, it is
498 crucial that destinations adopt all the necessary precautionary measures to ensure the
499 safety of, as well as a feeling of safety amongst, their visitors. Destination initiatives
500 can include crisis management communications addressed to both, visitors and tour
501 operators in order to promote the undertaken actions for making a safer environment,
502 the fast destination adaptability to the new reality, the strengthening of the health
503 system and infrastructure in the destination and overall in the country in reference, the
504 progress of confirmed COVID19 cases and related fatalities, the undertaken measures
505 to protect the locals and the visitors, and the reshaped quality levels (with special
506 focus on hygiene aspects) of the provided tourist products and services. The same
507 applies to hospitality firms, whilst pressure for much lower occupancy rates (hence
508 lower profitability) is substantial for both accommodation and service providers.
509 Maybe this is one of the most appropriate times to also start talking about
510 international collaborations and international uniformity of safety measures
511 throughout the components of tourism in order to minimize potential confusion and
512 the subsequent fear and anxiety levels of holidaymakers.

513

514 Another aspect is the extent to which people will be able to go on holiday. It is
515 apparent from national and global forecasts, and supported by the findings of the
516 current research, that a considerable number of people who were used to travelling for
517 their holidays now consider it unlikely that they will be able to do so due to the
518 widespread economic devastation COVID19 has created. This means that the value-
519 for-money aspect is more crucial than at any other time. Travel, tourism and

520 hospitality firms, along with destinations, need to offer much higher quality to their
521 products and services with a parallel reduction in prices. The subsequent reduction in
522 profits can be handled with various ways involving the financial flexibility of
523 enterprises, the restructuring of operations, and collaborative activities with other
524 destinations and firms, even with those that might have been perceived as competitors
525 in the past. COVID19 has violently reshaped the global tourism scenery, rapidly
526 passing from ‘overtourism’ to ‘undertourism’, and especially affecting tourism-
527 dependent economies (Johnston, 2020; Tarlow, 2020). Destinations and tourism-
528 related enterprises do not have the ‘luxury’ they had in the past of depending for
529 profitability on high volumes of tourists. Combined with the austerity in several
530 countries (in our case Greece), it is more than certain that tourism has to face a
531 substantial challenge to recover. Hence, international collaboration and support
532 focusing on further economic development can strengthen tourism potential in
533 national and international level. So as with COVID19 any collaboration cannot be
534 fragmented in national borders.

535

536 Finally, the complex dynamics of the chaordic systems concerning tourism decision-
537 making suggest that the intentions of people can be better examined using methods of
538 non-parametric analysis (such as fsQCA) rather than linear assumptions. Several
539 studies in the service sector (indicatively please read Ordanini et al. [2014], Pappas
540 [2019], and Skarmeas et al. [2014]) have already highlighted that linear analysis is not
541 able to encapsulate the full spectrum of this complexity. However, travel, tourism and
542 hospitality research is still heavily dependent on the reductionist linear (Newtonian)
543 approach. As it is showcased by the findings (also supported by previous studies
544 mentioned above), in an academic context the use of non-parametric analysis in

545 travel, tourism and hospitality is able to provide a more holistic approach of the
546 aspects under examination. Therefore, shifting the research focus on the examination
547 of more complex aspects can further enhance our understanding of tourism-related
548 phenomena and conditions. Especially during crisis periods where complexity
549 substantially increases and several other crises may be triggered by the first (Pappas,
550 2018) (in our case the socio-economic crises initiated by the COVID19 health crisis),
551 the identification of multiple pathways that can lead to the same outcome is of the
552 utmost importance.

553

554 **8. Conclusions**

555 This study has focused on the chaotic effect of COVID19 on the holiday intention of
556 adult permanent residents of Athens, Greece. Theoretically, the research provides a
557 better comprehension of the complexity of holiday intention formulation during a
558 COVID19 pandemic. In the methodological domain, its contribution is based on the
559 examination of complexity through the use of fsQCA, a non-linear mixed method that
560 has only recently been employed in the field of tourism. It also contributes by adopting
561 NCA as a complementary method for measuring the size effects of the examined
562 conditions, which is new (to the best of the author's knowledge) not only in tourism,
563 but generally in the service sector. Based on complex configurations, the findings
564 suggested two different pathways (holiday risks; impact of COVID19) that can lead to
565 the same outcome (holiday intention). The article also identifies several managerial
566 implications related to the research results.

567

568 Despite the theoretical and methodological contribution of the study, several
569 limitations need to be considered. First, this is the first time in the modern era that the

570 travel, tourism and hospitality industries have faced such an extensive and devastating
571 crisis. Therefore, much more research is necessary for a full understanding of the
572 unprecedented conditions the world has to face, and tourism has to confront. This is
573 strengthened by the fact that COVID19 first appeared in mid-November 2019, and
574 within a very short time has violently managed to change the way we think, act, and
575 react. This aspect is also strengthened by the perspective that the travel intentions of
576 tourists may differ due to various reasons such as the preference of domestic or
577 international travel, due to state/government restrictions, the knowledge of language
578 and culture, the perception of feeling more safe near home etc. The second limitation
579 derives from the environment of the current research. The examined population was
580 interviewed during a period of strict lockdown (April 2020), in the capital of a
581 country (Athens, Greece) that has successfully managed to avoid (at least during the
582 first wave of the pandemic) a health crisis, but is heavily dependent on tourism, and
583 has battled for more than a decade with an economic crisis (the most severe on
584 European soil [Pappas, 2018]) whilst COVID19 has further deepened its already
585 devastating socio-economic effects. Therefore, any replication and generalization of
586 the findings should be made with caution. Third, the research only evaluates the
587 holiday intention of permanent adult residents of Athens. A comparison of the
588 perspectives of these people, the destination authorities, and the travel and tourism
589 stakeholders, alongside those of people who select Greece as their holiday destination,
590 would provide a better understanding of the chaotic perspectives generated by the
591 effect of COVID19. Finally, it might be useful to examine several other
592 characteristics of the respondents such as their work environment and status, and job
593 vulnerability. Such analysis could provide further information concerning their
594 decision-making upon holiday intention.

595

596 Extreme times call for extreme measures. COVID19 can be considered not only as a
597 major threat to the travel and tourism industry, but also as a great opportunity to
598 change our way of thinking, and to quickly adapt to the new reality. Unfortunately,
599 regardless of the globally devastating effect of the current pandemic, there are other
600 imminent crises (i.e. climate change) that are likely to be much more destructive than
601 COVID19. The lessons we learn could become pathways to our future, and the way
602 we face the treats might determine our foreseeable survival and prosperity.

603

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841 **Table 1:** Correlation matrix

842

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Psychol. Impact	1						
2 Economic Impact	.018	1					
3 Recession	-.093	.044	1				
4 Travel Risks	.030	-.054	.027	1			
5 Destination Risks	-.029	-.142	-.118	.100	1		
6 Hospitality Risks	.019	-.024	.000	-.079	.070	1	
7 Holiday Intention	.084	.059	-.060	.066	.059	.013	1

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845 **Table 2:** Profile of the respondents

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	N	%
<i>Age</i>		
18-35	126	32.7
36-50	186	48.3
>50	73	19.0
<i>Income</i>		
≤1000 €	186	48.3
>1000 €	199	51.7
<i>Total</i>	385	100

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Table 3: Descriptive statistics

	Statements	Means	SD	Age			Income	
				18-35	36-50	>50	≤1000	>1000
<i>COVID-19 Psychological Impact</i>								
PCI1	COVID-19 has impacted my everyday life.	4.23	.797	4.17	4.40	3.88	4.39	4.08
PCI2	COVID-19 has changed my hygiene standards.	4.43	.751	4.29	4.45	4.64	4.62	4.26
PCI3	COVID-19 has made me fearful.	4.33	.792	3.96	4.47	4.59	4.46	4.20
PCI4	COVID-19 has increased my anxiety level.	4.12	.859	3.76	4.24	4.44	4.18	4.07
PCI5	COVID-19 has made me reconsider my way of life.	3.94	1.120	3.62	4.11	4.07	3.97	3.91
<i>COVID-19 Economic Impact</i>								
CEI1	COVID-19 has changed my consumption patterns.	3.59	.937	3.42	3.68	3.66	3.62	3.56
CEI2	COVID-19 has increased my job vulnerability.	3.61	1.226	3.67	3.98	2.55	3.67	3.55
CEI3	COVID-19 has substantially affected my income.	3.61	1.299	3.44	4.16	2.51	3.68	3.55
CEI4	COVID-19 will substantially affect my income during 2020.	3.77	1.284	3.66	4.28	2.67	3.84	3.71

CEI5	COVID-19 will substantially affect my income in the future.	3.83	1.189	3.60	4.25	3.15	3.96	3.71
<hr/>								
<i>Recession and COVID-19</i>								
RC1	COVID-19 will deepen the current recession.	4.42	.612	4.57	4.39	4.22	4.52	4.33
RC2	COVID-19 has affected me more than the economic crisis.	2.38	.824	2.38	2.46	2.19	2.23	2.53
RC3	COVID-19 has changed my consumption patterns more than the economic crisis has.	2.66	.968	2.76	2.62	2.60	2.58	2.75
RC4	COVID-19 has affected my job more than the economic crisis has.	2.53	1.041	2.64	2.52	2.36	2.39	2.65
RC5	Combined with the current recession, COVID-19 will be devastating for my way of life.	2.65	1.001	2.68	2.76	2.33	2.64	2.67
RC6	Combined with the current recession, COVID-19 will have devastating effects on the national economy.	4.21	.793	4.37	4.18	3.99	4.25	4.17
<hr/>								
<i>Travel Risks</i>								
TR1	I am afraid to travel due to COVID-19.	3.68	.833	3.46	3.71	3.96	3.65	3.70

TR2	I believe that mass transport is not safe due to COVID-19.	3.89	.915	3.72	3.88	4.21	3.89	3.89
TR3	I am reluctant to travel by air due to COVID-19.	3.99	.921	3.89	3.95	4.29	4.02	3.97
TR4	I am reluctant to travel by boat due to COVID-19.	3.93	.933	3.77	3.85	4.41	3.93	3.93
TR5	I am reluctant to travel by land-based means of mass transport (i.e. train; bus) due to COVID-19.	3.98	.873	3.83	3.91	4.42	3.95	4.02
<hr/>								
<i>Destination Risks</i>								
DR1	Considering COVID-19, I believe that Greece is a safe destination.	3.40	.797	3.23	3.44	3.59	3.37	3.42
DR2	Considering COVID-19, I believe that going for a holiday somewhere in Greece is safer than travelling abroad.	3.57	.896	3.41	3.55	3.92	3.54	3.61
DR3	COVID-19 will markedly affect my destination selection for holidays during 2020.	3.67	8.28	3.56	3.62	4.00	3.65	3.69
DR4	COVID-19 will markedly affect my destination selection for holidays in future years.	3.20	.912	3.05	3.24	3.36	3.16	3.24
DR5	COVID-19 will negatively affect the quality of destination	3.59	.917	3.47	3.61	3.77	3.58	3.61
<hr/>								

products and services.

Hospitality Risks

HR1	I would be reluctant to sit and eat in a restaurant due to COVID-19.	3.61	.865	3.56	3.57	3.82	3.57	3.65
HR2	I would be reluctant to sit in a café/bar due to COVID-19.	3.49	.966	3.43	3.44	3.74	3.44	3.54
HR3	Due to COVID-19, during my holidays I would prefer to prepare my own food (meals; drinks etc.)	3.85	.944	3.80	3.82	3.99	3.81	3.88
HR4	I would be afraid to stay in accommodation I had paid for due to COVID-19.	4.02	.963	3.95	4.01	4.16	4.01	4.03
HR5	Due to COVID-19, during my holidays I would prefer to stay in a house that I own.	3.65	1.012	3.59	3.61	3.88	3.62	3.68
HR6	Due to COVID-19, during my holidays I would prefer to stay in a house that my friends/relatives own.	3.47	1.028	3.45	3.46	3.52	3.42	3.51

Holiday Intention

HI1	COVID-19 will affect my decision whether to go for	3.25	.913	2.79	3.42	3.60	3.25	3.25
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	holidays in 2020.							
HI2	COVID-19 will affect my decision whether to go for holidays in future years.	3.06	.978	2.67	3.22	3.36	3.06	3.07
HI3	Due to COVID-19 I would prefer to go for holidays somewhere in Greece rather than abroad.	3.53	1.070	3.23	3.65	3.74	3.55	3.51
HI4	COVID-19 has had a greater impact upon my holiday intention than the recession.	3.30	.897	2.99	3.47	3.38	3.36	3.24
HI5	I intend to go for holidays during 2020.	3.70	1.039	3.38	3.86	3.86	3.65	3.76

Table 4: Rotated matrix loadings and Cronbach's A

	Loadings	Cronbach's A
<i>COVID-19 Psychol. Impact</i>		.850
PCI1	.831	
PCI2	.823	
PCI3	.904	
PCI4	.801	
PCI5	.654	
<i>COVID-19 Economic Impact</i>		.902
CEI1	.538	
CEI2	.886	
CEI3	.944	
CEI4	.933	
CEI5	.852	
<i>Recession and COVID-19</i>		.863
RC1	LC	
RC2	.866	
RC3	.909	
RC4	.864	
RC5	.727	
RC6	LC	
<i>Travel Risks</i>		.947
TR1	.815	
TR2	.933	
TR3	.950	

TR4	.937	
TR5	.888	
<hr/>		
<i>Destination Risks</i>		.913
DR1	.934	
DR2	.908	
DR3	.832	
DR4	.806	
DR5	.807	
<hr/>		
<i>Hospitality Risks</i>		.918
HR1	.903	
HR2	.908	
HR3	.845	
HR4	.770	
HR5	.876	
HR6	.754	
<hr/>		
<i>Holiday Intention</i>		.913
HI1	.935	
HI2	.836	
HI3	.879	
HI4	.850	
HI5	.805	

LC: Eliminated due to low commonality (<.4)

Table 5: Complex solutions for COVID-19

Complex Solution	Raw Coverage	Unique Coverage	Consistency
Model: $f_{hi}=f(f_a,f_i,f_{pci},f_{cei},f_{rc},f_{tr},f_{dr},f_{hr})$			
$f_a,\sim f_i,\sim f_{pci},\sim f_{cei},\sim f_{rc},f_{tr},f_{dr},f_{hr}$.42863	.12278	.84921
$f_a,f_i,f_{pci},f_{cei},\sim f_{rc},\sim f_{tr},\sim f_{dr},\sim f_{hr}$.41382	.11730	.82084
$\sim f_a,f_i,f_{pci},f_{cei},f_{rc},\sim f_{tr},\sim f_{dr},\sim f_{hr}$.46924	.13012	.80827
<i>Solution Coverage: .43556</i>		<i>Solution Consistency: .82375</i>	

f_a: Age

f_i: income

f_tr: Travel Risks

f_pci: COVID-19

f_cei: COVID-19

f_rc: Recession and

Psychological Impact

Economic Impact

COVID-19

f_dr: Destination Risks

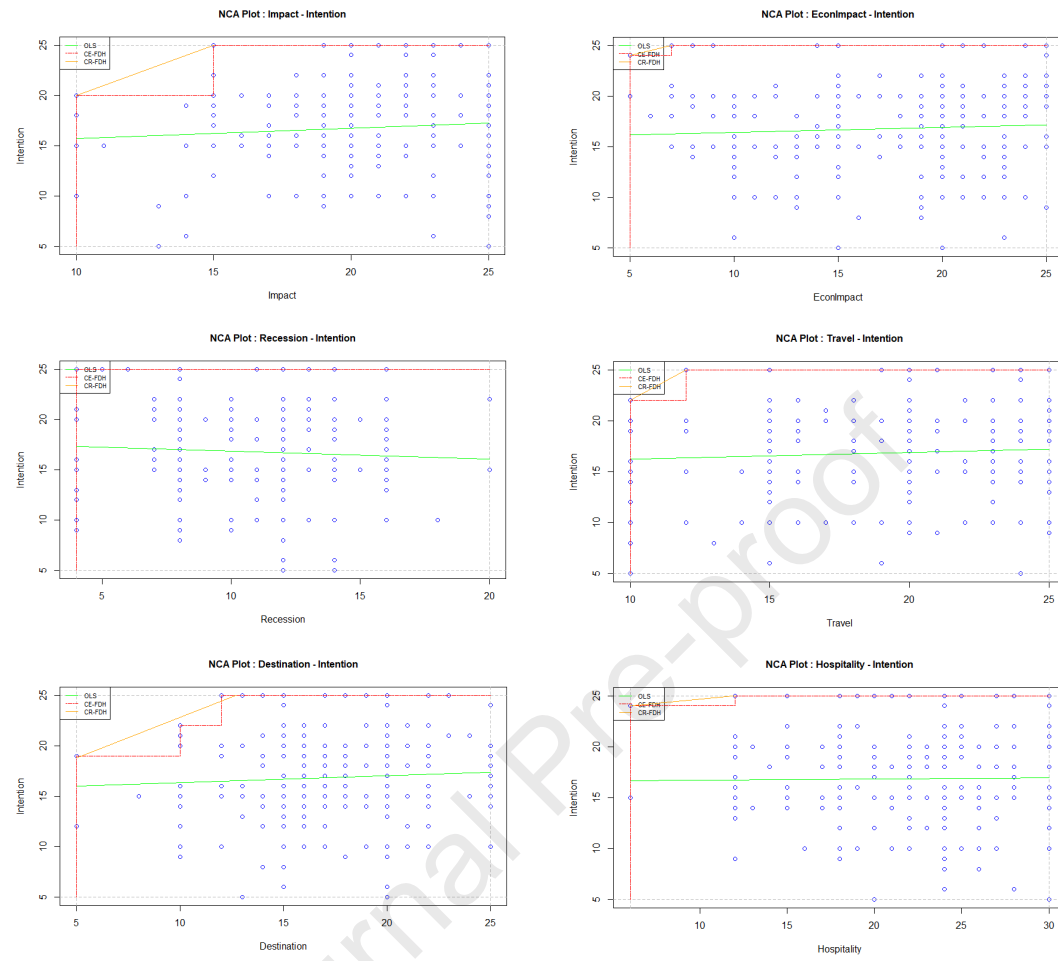
f_hr: Hospitality Risks

f_hi: Holiday Intention

Table 6: Size effect

		ce_fdh	cr_fdh
1	Psychological Impact – Intention	.083	.042
2	Economic Impact – Intention	.005	.002
3	Recession – Intention	.000	.000
4	Travel Risks – Intention	.020	.010
5	Destination Risks – Intention	.090	.060
6	Hospitality Risks – Intention	.012	.006

Figure 1: NCA plots



Author photo



Biographical note

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Impact Statement

This study examines the impact of COVID19 upon the holiday intention of the residents of Athens, people living in a country that has successfully managed to minimize the impact of the pandemic, but has been battling with an economic crisis for more than a decade. The theoretical contribution of the study is a better understanding of the formulation of holiday intention during a COVID19 nationwide lockdown. Methodologically, its contribution is twofold. First, it examines the complexity of holiday intentions by using fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis, a method that has only recently been employed in the travel and tourism domain. Second, it progresses to a complementary analysis of the size effects of the examined conditions by using Necessary Condition Analysis, a new method (to the best of the author's knowledge) in tourism. The article also identifies and discusses several managerial implications related to the research results.