



## Special Session Proposal

### The Geography of Innovation: Advancing Knowledge on Industrial Districts and Clusters

Organiser:

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#### Abstract

Industrial districts have been extensively researched in the last decades, with seminal authors' contributions paving the way for understanding how collocation and networking in space pay off by better innovation. Exploration of new topics, however, is required to keep working and learning on that industrial socio-economic complexity. New challenges point out that specific research programs are needed. Specifically, the most interesting topics are:

- Understanding better innovation in place at the *micro-level*, that is, firms in place. Firm heterogeneity and firm agency should be explored further
- Extending our knowledge of sustainability in place. Drivers, boundary conditions and effects require additional research on the firm, network and cluster level for sustainability innovation.
- Radical innovation: extensive research is devoted to innovation. What about radical innovation in place? Drivers, mechanisms, boundary conditions, performance, case studies.
- Other topics to advance innovation in place, such as digitization and Industry 4.0 in industrial districts; global value chains, collective initiatives, etc.

This Special Session welcomes other topics and perspectives for understanding much better innovation in industrial districts and clusters.

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