

Urban Challenges
and Sustainable Technological Revolution

Special Session Proposal

Global disruptions and their local labor market impact. An investigation into the spatial drivers of productivity and growth.

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Abstract

The last years are marked by profound transformations in the world of work. Global disruptions such as Brexit or the recent COVID-19 pandemic have left a major footprint on the labor market. In many cases, the impact of recent crises reinforces but sometimes also transforms many of the norms of the past. For example, pandemics such as COVID-19 strengthened the process of labor-displacing technological change; however, the working-from-home potential developed as a response to the pandemic may lead to a paradox, comprising the de-globalization of capital and a higher globalization of labor. In turn, this “death of distance” concept is expected to affect business dynamism trends at the local level. In essence, global phenomena have radically altered the sub-national geography of labor and are bound to increase regional disparities, with major implications for local output and productivity.

Against this uncertain environment, the recently unfolding debate needs to build on strong academic knowledge to better inform future research and more effectively serve the decision-making process by policy analysts. For this, the current special session provides a platform to discuss and shed further light on how global disruptions shape the prevailing labor market phenomena, potentially aggravating regional disparities. This special session adopts a wide perspective and welcomes submissions that are related to issues such as:

- A taxonomy of the prevailing labor market trends at the regional level
- How do regional conditions shape the local impact of the global disruptive forces
- Worker- and firm-level drivers of spatial productivity
- Novel empirical methodologies, data, and tools to capture the heterogenous effects of shocks on regional labour markets.