



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

## Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



### Special Session Proposal

#### The geographies of hate, violence and intolerance against vulnerable groups

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#### Abstract

There is growing concern regarding the rising of violent behaviour targeting minorities and disempowered groups across all age groups. US and Europe have high numbers of hate crime (OSCE-ODHIR, 2019). School bullying is increasingly driven by racial motivations (OECD, 2017; Southern Poverty Law, 2019). During COVID-19, reported anti-Asian hate crimes sharply increased (OSCE-ODHIR, 2021). Gender-based violence is another relevant example of non-decreasing high volumes of violent acts against disempowered groups (González & Rodríguez-Planas, 2020; Miller & Segal, 2019).

Figures on the magnitude and the cost of violent behaviour targeting minorities convey the extensive social, economic and ethical implications and invoke major policy responses.

Contrary to common belief, violent acts against minorities mainly come from people unrelated to any organised hate group. Experimental evidence shows that the majority of perpetrators is influenced by the spatial environment rather than by specific personality traits (Gerstenfeld, 2017). On this, researchers are increasingly acknowledging that contextual features play a role in triggering these behaviours.

Recent studies provide evidence on the association between violent acts against minorities and several socioeconomic spatial features, such as unemployment (Anderberg, Rainer, Wadsworth, & Wilson, 2016; Anderson, Crost, & Rees, 2020), pandemic and migration shocks (Denti, 2021; Lu & Sheng, 2020), inequality and job precariousness (Denti & Faggian, 2021), local cultural norms (Alesina, Brioschi, & La Ferrara, 2020; Denti, Crociata, & Faggian, 2022; Tur-Prats, 2019), political narratives (Müller & Schwarz, 2021). This evidence suggests that space and its socioeconomic outlook matter in shaping this type of

behaviours. Quantitative research on the socioeconomic determinants of violent behaviours targeting minorities is relevant in policy terms. If some characteristics of places have some influence, then policy should also target these features for an effective countering.

How do socioeconomic features influence violent behaviours targeting minorities across and within EU countries?

The goal of this special session is to cast more light on the evolution and patterns of behaviours violating human rights relating them to economic, social and cultural outlook of places. In doing so, it is possible to contribute to evidence-base for effective policy design and to assess whether there are common patterns across Europe.

This session will bring together work that may include (but is not limited to):

- Analysis of socioeconomic determinants and risks factors associated with violent acts and attitude towards minorities
- New measurement and analytical approaches relating to these topics
- The effect of socioeconomic shocks (such as COVID-19 and Ukraine conflict) on the proliferation of violent behaviours against minorities.
- Impact analysis of policy interventions aimed at contrasting violent behaviours against minorities.
- Network effects and violent behaviours against minorities.

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