

Special Session Proposal

News and Geography

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Abstract

All of us consume newspapers, watch TV, listen to the radio, and absorb information from a range of media channels. The frequencies and ways information is presented does not only make us aware of events and places, we have not directly experienced, it also enriches our set of available information (sometimes even too much of that) and shapes our perception of events and places that we know. This role of the media has been recognized for long in human geography and regional science with the media being considered an important factor shaping knowledge diffusion, mental maps, regional brands, etc. The emergence of new data sources and methodologies has revitalized this field of study. It moves from a rather qualitative research tradition to more quantitative and big-data approaches. Besides adding new perspectives, the new possibilities particularly encourage a more co-evolutionary conceptualization, i.e., seeing the news media as shaping force on socio-economic developments in space (e.g., agenda setting, selective reporting, etc.) as well as being shaped by those developments.

The special session “News and Geography” aims at bringing together scholars from different disciplines to exchange their perspectives on the news as novel data source and as research subject in the context of socio-economic processes in space. Consequently, it invites all contributions that investigate the relationship between media and spatial developments, whereby, it particularly welcomes two types of contributions: Studies that investigate the relationship between socio-economic features of space and news (media) and those that utilize the vast amounts of information found in the news (text, visualizations, toponyms etc.) in a quantitative manner to analyze socio-economic phenomena from a spatial perspective.