

Regional Science Dialogues for Peace  
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## Special Session Proposal

### Digital Geographies: Spacelessness, or New Mode of Space-Making and Space Relations

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#### Abstract

Digital technologies have transformative and/or disruptive impacts on geographies. It is not only mediating but also changing the relations between society and space, self and space, self and spatial identities, capital and space, labour and space, culture and space, and citizen and state relations. This disruption is generating new geographies impregnated with many possibilities. Digitalization has disrupted the usual spatial imaginations of social and cultural communities to make them trans-local, creating digital societies and digital neighbourhoods. Invisibly networked, Digital capitalism has given birth to a new mode of expansionary capitalism to reap the surplus values and profits from peripheries and drain the same to the core. Digitalization has made it possible for enterprises to operate from a virtual space with strong spatial networks. Amazon, Google, Facebook (now Meta), Twitter (X), Flipkart, and OTT platforms like Netflix, are some examples of the same and together control a trillion-dollar economy. However, they have massive consequences for the digital labour and welfare of consumers diffused in space. The hybridization of virtual and real spaces is producing new sanitized or disruptive imaginaries of geographies, creating new loyalties and belongings. The virtual spaces, created by GIS, photoshopping, games, etc., have become an area of interest for many as they produce spatial imaginaries having social, political and individual consequences. States are taking pride in the digitalization of the state and its services (DIGISERV) to the citizens with massive consequences on the welfare of those facing digital divides. The state is moving into virtual spaces putting citizens at the margin to connect and negotiate with it.

This session invites theoretical and empirical papers examining the impacts of digital technologies or digitalization on society, economy, labour relations, community relations, democracy, and governance. Especially, though not limited to, the session welcomes papers on,

1. Digital platforms, self and socio-political relations
2. Digital labour and gig-workers
3. E-commerce and consumers
4. Digitalization, democracy, and welfare of citizens
5. Virtual space and their spatial imaginations
6. Digital culture, creativity, and cultural industries
7. Smart cities, citizens and digital imageries
8. Digital divides and welfare

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