

Special Session Proposal

New Work Horizons: Geographical, Social, and Economic Dimensions of Collaborative Working Spaces

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Abstract

Recent years have brought enormous changes in the organization of work structures. Particularly in the places where work is carried out intrinsically linked to changes in production and service provision processes, as well as the transformation of traditional work structures and relationships. These changes emphasize flexibility, adaptability, and autonomy, corresponding to a variety of new work arrangements, increased mobility, and specialized skills. As a result of these changes, work has been become more hybrid and has been performed from home, recreation and entertainment areas, and collaborative spaces. Therefore, an upsurge of new workspaces, such as coworking spaces, makerspaces, hackerspaces, and creative hubs has been notable. In addition, the number of digital nomads is increasing, and activities combining leisure with work are gaining popularity, leading even to 'workations'. Furthermore, the above-mentioned changes and workspaces contribute to the transformation of city landscapes. They can also lead to changes in real estate dynamics, potentially increasing the value of properties and rents in surrounding areas, and even fuelling gentrification processes. There are also some signs of the growing importance of suburban, rural, and appealing tourist areas in attracting employees to new workspaces. The main aim of this Special Session is to gather current research on the changing spatial distribution of workplaces and its dynamics, the underlying and resulting policies, and opportunities and challenges in different political, social, and economic contexts and consequences of these spatial dynamics.