



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

## Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



### Special Session Proposal

#### Peripheral regions and the geography of innovation

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#### Abstract

There is long-established research focused on analysing the links between innovation and its potential benefits on national, regional and local economies as well as individual or firm level outcomes. Researchers have found that innovation and/or activities contributing to it, such as investment in R&D, have a significant and positive effect on economic performance indicators like, for instance, income, productivity and other labour market measures.

However, there is a great heterogeneity in terms of R&D investment between countries, regions and within regions; and not all places have the absorptive capacity to benefit from innovation due to their own socioeconomic conditions. Specifically, 'core' territories concentrate a greater investment effort, and can also capitalize better this greater expenditure in R&D, while peripheral territories, on the other hand, show some socioeconomic and institutional deficiencies that break the link between investment, innovation and productivity growth. This distortion could be a possible source of the economic inequalities within and across regions, and to the phenomena of social discontent.

This session welcomes papers that explore the links between regional characteristics and innovation performance, specially focusing on the differences concerning peripheral/lagging-behind regions and core/thriving ones. We welcome both theoretical and empirical papers on the matter.