



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



Special Session Proposal

Territorial Capacity for Sustainability-Oriented Innovation and Transformative Change

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Abstract

Sustainability transformations are crucial to address the crises across the globe in light of continuous structural challenges, external shocks and pressing environmental issues. Research on spatial dimensions of sustainability transformations, including innovation aspects, has been a growing field in the last decades. This special session aims to establish a platform for interdisciplinary discussions focusing on the drivers and dynamics of sustainability-oriented innovation and transformative change in cities and regions. It is intended to bring together scholars who study how sustainability-oriented innovation and transformative change can be understood, conceptualized, assessed and compared in geographic contexts. The session devotes considerable attention to the state-of-the-art approaches designed to interpret differential regional capability to produce sustainability-oriented innovation, as well as to analyze urban and regional capacity to initiate and accelerate transformative change. Innovation shall be understood here in broad terms, ranging from technological to social and institutional innovation. Fresh arguments, new cognitive approaches as well as methodological–empirical developments that rely on the wise exploitation of local and regional assets and potentials are welcome. Researchers who partially or fully integrate the concept of territorial capital and / or transformative capacities in their paper are highly encouraged to apply. Topics of interest include but are not limited to sustainability transitions in cities and regions, transformative innovation, territorial capital, agility and response capability or cities and regions, urban and regional capacity development.