

REGION

The Journal of ERSA

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue: DIGITAL DISRUPTIONS OF SPACE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONS AND CITIES

Overview

This special issue delves into the transformative impact of digital technologies on urban and regional environments, highlighting both challenges and opportunities across four key areas. First, it examines how digital transition and spatial connectivity enhance regional integration, improve mobility, and bridge the urban-rural divide, thereby fostering more balanced economic development. Second, the economic and social impacts of digitalization are explored, focusing on how digital technologies reshape local economies by driving innovation, enabling new business models, and influencing job markets. While digitalization improves access to services and quality of life, it also raises concerns about equitable access and social inequality. Third, the issue addresses environmental and sustainability considerations, emphasizing the role of digital technologies in promoting sustainable urban development through innovations like smart grids and IoT. However, it also underscores the need to manage the carbon footprint of digital infrastructure and adopt green ICT practices. Finally, the issue emphasizes the importance of policy and regulation in managing digital disruptions. It underscores the necessity of robust policy frameworks to guide inclusive and equitable digital transformation, ensuring that all communities benefit from digital advancements while addressing challenges such as data privacy and cybersecurity.

The following topics are connected to this special issue:

- How does the adoption of digital technologies influence the development of regional connectivity and economic growth in urban and rural areas?
- What are the impacts of widespread digital transition on various forms of mobility, such as physical transportation, telecommuting, and the distribution of goods and services, across different regions?
- In what ways does digital transition contribute to bridging the urban-rural divide, and how does it affect economic opportunities and spatial dynamics in rural areas?
- How does digitalization influence the creation and sustainability of new business models and startups in urban areas, particularly within the gig economy?
- What are the impacts of digitalization on job markets and traditional industrial landscapes, and how do these changes affect economic resilience in urban versus rural areas?
- How does digital inclusion or exclusion, driven by disparities in digital skills and resources, impact social inequality and access to services in digitally advanced regions?
- How can digital technologies be leveraged to balance the trade-offs between urban development and environmental sustainability, particularly in the context of real-time environmental monitoring and sustainable manufacturing practices?

- How can policy frameworks be designed to foster inclusive digital transformation, particularly for marginalized communities, while balancing the need for innovation and regulation?

Methodological Approaches

Researchers, practitioners, and policymakers are invited to contribute original papers that address the themes and topics outlined above. Submissions should offer novel insights, practical implications, and forward-looking perspectives on the digital disruptions of space. Both theoretical explorations and applied research are encouraged. More specifically, we welcome a diverse range of methodological approaches, including but not limited to:

- Empirical studies and case study analyses
- Quantitative and qualitative research
- Comparative studies across different regions and cities
- Theoretical and conceptual papers
- Interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research

Submission Guidelines

- Manuscripts should be between 5,000 and 7,000 words, excluding references and appendices.
- All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review process.
- Papers should adhere to the journal's formatting and citation guidelines.

Important Dates

- Abstract Submission Deadline: 15 March 2025
- Notification of Acceptance: 31 March 2025
- Final Manuscripts Due: 30 November 2025
- Publication Date: August 2026

Editors and Contact Information

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