

Title: The politics of local and regional development

Convenors: Tasos Kitsos, Davide Luca, Yannis Psycharis

For many years, regional research has largely overlooked politics. We know a lot about the factors of regional growth such as human capital, certain characteristics of industrial structures, geography and distance as well as trade openness and leadership. However, the effects of political cleavages and ideologies on local economic development remain largely underexplored.

Too frequently, the effective delivery and implementation of policies across cities and regions fail not simply because of wrong policy tools, but also because of institutional and political inefficiencies. In particular, regions and localities, often face political bottlenecks and institutional cleavages which hinder effective service delivery among politicians and bureaucrats. Thus, political institutions can play a significant role on local and regional economies by increasing state effectiveness, and by solving distributional conflicts which may reduce public good provision and divert resources from investment to inefficient redistribution.

This special session aims to bring together cross-disciplinary research at the intersection of politics and regional development with a particular focus on:

- Electoral politics and their impact on the geographical targeting of public goods;
- The effects of distributive politics on regional development;
- The effects of political ideologies and polarisation on development strategies and the evolution of regional economies;
- The politics of fiscal devolution;
- The politics of financialization of sub-national governance levels.

The selection of papers will follow the procedures set by the ERSA Organizing Committee. Our intention is, first, to attract novel and empirically rigorous papers and organize an interesting thematic session and, second, to publish a special issue in a refereed scientific journal or to publish a selection of papers in a collective volume.