



Special Session Proposal

Special Session: Human mobility, Migration and Stay-in-Place Patterns and Changes During Pandemic Times

Organisers:

Francisco Rowe, University of Liverpool

Alessandra Faggian, Gran Sasso Science Institute

Rachel Franklin, Newcastle University

Abstract

Currently the world faces an unprecedented challenge to tackle and understand the spread and impacts of COVID-19. Compounded with social distancing and lockdown restrictions, changes in social behaviour have led to large-scale changes in mobility and migration patterns: international holiday and business travel have declined precipitously; international student migration has been discouraged; internal migration away from cities to rural and coastal areas has been reported; local travel has shifted from intense patterns of commuting to working from home and short-distance mobility to green spaces based on sustainable means of transport, such as walking, cycling and scooting. While these patterns have prevailed across the wider population, distinctive patterns have been identified across various segments of society. For example, reports abound of affluent segments of the population fleeing cities and relocating to holiday home in lower-density areas. Less affluent workers have continued to travel locally to deliver essential services, and less protected and most vulnerable migrants and refugees have remained stranded. While these patterns and changes evidence the short-term impacts of mobility restrictions and COVID-19, the medium- and long-term consequences for individuals and places have remained less well understood.

This Special Session aims to bring together cross-disciplinary research on the impacts of pandemics on human mobility, internal migration, international migration, and their implications for places, households, and individuals. We welcome contributions addressing the questions below (or related):

- How has the extent of working from home differed across cities and populations?
- What has been the local effectiveness of lockdowns on changing the local patterns of mobility?
- To what extent has internal migration increased/decreased during the pandemic?
- How has COVID-19 influenced residential and locational living preferences?
- What lessons can be learnt from previous pandemics in relation to changes in mobility and migration patterns?
- To what extent has COVID-19 intensified return migration?
- How has low growth in COVID-19 cases in Asia changed students' choices for international education?
- How durable will the current adoption of green means of transportation be?
- To what extent will home working become a permanent habit?
- What gaps (data, methodological, or theoretical) have emerged that hamper our understanding of the impacts of the pandemic on human mobility?