

Special sessions proposal ERSA -Lyon

Conveniors : Leïla Kebir, Frédéric Wallet, Artur Ochojski and Adam Polko

Title : Collective action, commons and commoning : towards the emergence of new forms of territorial development processes ?

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The concept of common goods is not new and is at the heart of abundant research in many fields of social sciences and law. Emerging explicitly in territorial development and in particular in European urban areas (urban commons), common goods raise several questions. Indeed many initiatives, projects, symposiums, conferences, are structured today around this notion. Crystallizing various current issues, mobilizing local communities, they have to do with energy transition, sustainable urban planning, management of natural resources, public spaces, the establishment of circular economy or urban ecosystems, etc. Moreover there is a multitude of common goods in contemporary society. More or less inclusive / excluding, phenomena such as community gardens, social solidarity economy, collaborative or sharing economy, some short food supply chains, shared consumption, creative commons movements, etc. now participate in the « making » of territories and in their development.

These phenomena question the way in which the development of territories is conceived today. The economic and competitiveness dimensions (creation of knowledge, productive resources, etc.) now also combine societal and non-economic aspects (improvement of well-being and quality of life, resilience, etc.). It tends to become increasingly explicit in development strategies. These phenomena are also signs of an evolution of our society towards more collective and participative modes of exploitation and management of territorial resources in which stakeholders and in particular users are involved. These approaches seem today to reflect an aspiration towards a more localized, inclusive, sustainable and equitable development model; without ignoring the tensions and conflicting dimensions of development. In this context, several questions emerge:

- What are new "territorial" commons, how do they develop across Europe, and how do they contribute to innovation and territorial development?
- How do these common goods mobilize the territory, its resources, its actors and its proximities?
- What implications do they have in terms of actors and governance? In particular, regarding equity (risks of exclusion phenomena and free riders), long-term management of the good (management of negative externalities, rivalries) and associated potential conflicts?
- What are the research approaches and specific methodology challenges targeting the commons and commoning that need further mastering?
- How do these phenomena question territorial development? How do they contribute to the renewal of models, methods and approaches?

This special session is open to papers from all disciplines of regional science, whether they present theoretical reflection and/or empirical results.

Contacts :

Leïla Kebir - leila.kebir(at)unil.ch (University of Lausanne, Switzerland) ; Frédéric Wallet - frederic.wallet(at)agroparistech.fr (INRA – University Paris Saclay, France) ; Artur Ochojski, artur.ochojski(at)ue.katowice.pl (University of Economics in Katowice, Poland) and Adam Polko, adam.polko(at)ue.katowice.pl (University of Economics in Katowice, Poland)