



Micro and Small Enterprises and Urban Development

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Abstract

Entrepreneurs and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and their networks are key actors in the processes of local and regional development, as they introduce new technologies, creatively combine resources and commercialize innovations and create jobs and economic growth. While urban areas have clearly become the central spatial category during the last decades, the entrepreneurship literature seems to have been relatively more concerned with rural entrepreneurship. The proposed special session aims to attract contributions throwing light to aspects of the entrepreneurship – urban development nexus that have not been researched yet by the academic community and offer new ways at looking at the ontologies of MSEs, in relation to urban development, resilience and the production of urban space. More specifically, we welcome contributions that will investigate the emergence and wider impacts of MSEs in a critical urban studies and economic geography perspective, particularly those aiming to: (1) provide a better understanding of the emergence and variations of entrepreneurship and small firms in the context of rising social and economic challenges in cities. (2) critically analyze the impact of entrepreneurship on business owners/ employees and on urban/neighborhood development processes. (3) Explore the various paths through which cities, viewed as complex multiscalar systems and sources of considerable external economies interrelate with the emergence of entrepreneurship. Policy papers are particularly welcome.