



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

## Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



### Special Session Proposal

#### **Regional Differences in Gender Equality: Determinants and Consequences**

Prof. Dr. Alina Sorgner [asorgner@johncabot.edu](mailto:asorgner@johncabot.edu), John Cabot University, Rome, Italy

Dr. Korneliusz Pylak [k.pylak@pollub.pl](mailto:k.pylak@pollub.pl), Lublin University of Technology, Poland

#### **Abstract**

Achieving more gender equality and empowering women is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations, along with such goals as reducing poverty, combatting the impacts of climate change, and promoting strong institutions. Gender inequality throughout the world is declining in all major domains, such as labor market participation, financial inclusion, educational attainment, and health. This decline is occurring across diverse religious and cultural traditions. In some areas, however, progress toward gender equality has been limited. Consequently, a better understanding of the determinants of gender equality is needed so that appropriate policies can be designed.

Recent research highlighted an important role of the regional environment in promoting gender equality in various domains. This research clearly indicates that the level of gender (in)equality varies strongly not only across countries, but also across regions within countries and within different sectors and markets. In addition, the existence of persistent regional gender inequalities may significantly hamper regional development. Possible reasons for the variation in the levels of gender equality within countries vary in nature and origin, often going beyond the realm of a single academic discipline and a tangible temporal scope. Hence, understanding the determinants of regional differences in gender equality and their effects on regional development is crucial, in order to design appropriate policies that aim at fostering social inclusion and

regional development. This call invites paper submissions from a variety of disciplines, including interdisciplinary ones, to address the following (but not limited to) research questions:

- What are the drivers of regional differences in gender equality?
- To what extent does gender inequality persist over time? What is the role of ethnic, religious, cultural, and political divisions in this process?
- To what extent do regional industrial and occupational structures shape gender inequalities?
- How do evolving economic structures combined with historical events, changes in the gender contract and forms and degrees of patriarchy affect gender inequality?
- What is the role of formal and informal institutions in reducing gender inequalities, especially in relation to social institutions, family-friendly infrastructure, regional and local social norms, female education, health care and child mortality, fertility rates, etc.?
- How have major events, including pandemics, i.e., Covid-19, affected gender inequalities in the short to medium run?
- What are the consequences of regional levels of gender inequality for regional economic outcomes? To what extent do these processes influence each other? Does only gender inequality hamper regional development, or does regional development influence these inequalities? What contribution do market processes, increasing competition and innovation make to gender inequalities?
- What possible policies may successfully promote gender equality in regions?