

## Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



### Special Session Proposal

#### Perceived discontent, inequalities and the city

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#### Abstract

The recent decades have been characterized by a sharp rise in the discontent perceived by individuals, with disruptive consequences on their social behavior (Albada et al., 2021) and political preferences (Dijkstra et al., 2020).

The origin of the rising discontent has been identified mostly in the inequalities in the economic prospects and opportunities provided by economically growing communities (typically urban) compared with those left behind (typically rural and peripheral).

However, some recent studies showed that the relationship between space and discontent is more complex. While interregional inequalities certainly matter, intraregional disparities seem equally important (Lenzi and Perucca, 2021). Increasing income inequalities, the polarization of income and the skyrocketing cost of housing are all phenomena that, especially in large cities, generated a huge divide in the discontent of people at the top of the social scale compared with those at the bottom.

At the same time, other territorial characteristics are associated to individuals' perception of discontent (Ferrante and Pontarollo, 2022).

In spite of the relevance of this topic, still few studies focused on this issue.

Our special session welcomes all contributions aimed at studying the geography of perceived discontent and its determinants, with a particular focus on the role of any form of socioeconomic inequality on this phenomenon. The multidisciplinary nature of this topic makes the ERSA conference an ideal forum in which to debate these issues. Economists, geographers, sociologists and planners are invited to submit their own ideas and studies.

## References

Albada, K., Hansen, N., & Otten, S. (2021). Polarization in attitudes towards refugees and migrants in the Netherlands. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 51(3), 627-643.

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Ferrante, C., & Pontarollo, N. (2022). The Populist Outbreak and the Role of Institutional Quality in European Regions. *Scienze Regionali*, 22(3), 337-366.

Lenzi, C., & Perucca, G. (2021). People or places that don't matter? Individual and contextual determinants of the geography of discontent. *Economic Geography*, 97(5), 415-445.