



## Special Session Proposal

### Collective Action and Territorial Transitions

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### Abstract

In order to respond to sustainability challenges, territories are now engaged in a perspective of transition of their economic and social development model. This change takes a wide variety of forms and affects all areas of business and administrative activity, but also the lifestyles of residents. The literature echoes the multiplication of experiments: soft mobility, fight against food waste, circular economy, production of renewable energy, greening of public spaces and housing, sustainable tourism... If this innovative initiatives seem to work towards improvements in modes of production and consumption in favor of greater sustainability, they are not exempt from questions and even criticism.

First of all, they face numerous organizational, technological, social and economic obstacles which slow down their adoption and rapid deployment in the territories.

Secondly, they question the ability to reconcile ecological ambitions and social justice or even cohesion between territories. This raises the issue of economic and cognitive access to the transition, and the social and economic impact of transitions.

Thirdly, they raise questions of governance, and in particular of the organization of debates relating to choices. In other words, they underline the need to develop a transitional democracy.

Finally, at the territorial scale, these initiatives in favor of transitions take multiple forms, more or less innovative, inclusive, ambitious in terms of breaking with

dominant models and the economic actors involved. They are also based on coordination registers, types of organization, and various financing methods.

If some of these initiatives find their place at the heart of the market economy, a growing number of them are also part of alternative logics, questioning the capacities of neoliberal capitalism to initiate transitions and seeking to explore different paths.

This special session proposes to explore the forms of collective action within which these initiatives in favor of transitions take shape. More specifically, we wish to emphasize five aspects of these collective actions:

- the conditions of emergence, governance and the economic model
- the relationship with resources, and in particular the question of the commons
- relations with public action
- the understanding of the concept of transition associated with these initiatives
- the impact and methods of anchoring in the territory

The expected contributions can take different forms: case study, typology, comparative analysis, quantitative work. They can concern the analysis of urban or rural territories, but also citizen or sectoral initiatives that are being implemented there.

## References

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