



Special Session Proposal

Twin Transition and its Unequal Geography

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Abstract

This session explores the spatial implications of the Twin Transition, focusing on how green and digital transformations are reshaping economies, labor markets and communities. As new digital technologies and sustainable solutions emerge, they are profoundly altering the nature of work, industries and regional economies. The impacts of these transformations, both immediate and in the long run, will differ depending on regional and social contexts. Understanding the interconnected dynamics of the green and digital transition is crucial for designing policies that can mitigate negative outcomes, such as job displacement and widening inequalities, while fostering inclusivity in this new era. The session will explore how these shifts impact urban and rural areas differently, creating new spatial, economic, and social divides.

We invite contributions that investigate the geographical implications of the twin transition, with particular attention to the labor market, regional inequalities, and policy responses. Empirical studies that highlight regional disparities, theoretical contributions proposing new frameworks for understanding the unequal geography of transformation, and case studies from regions undergoing rapid change are all welcome. Papers that analyze the intersection of local and global factors shaping regional resilience, policy interventions designed to manage transition effects, or strategies to equip workers with the skills required for green and digital jobs are encouraged. This session aims to deepen our understanding of how

regional science can guide the development of policies that promote inclusive and balanced growth amid rapid technological and ecological change.

The session will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers to discuss strategies for ensuring that the benefits of the Twin Transition are distributed equitably across regions. Discussions will focus on creating ecosystems that foster local entrepreneurship, sustainable industry, and resilient infrastructure. The goal is to identify opportunities for ensuring that the benefits of the Twin Transition reach diverse regions and groups, fostering a balanced and inclusive approach to spatial development in an era of rapid technological and ecological change.

Key Topics:

- **Green and Digital Innovations Driving the Twin Transition:** Exploring technologies that are at the intersection of sustainability and digitalization, and how these are shaping regional labor markets and development trajectories.
- **Integration of Digital and Green Solutions:** Examining synergies between digital technologies and green innovations, such as smart grids and eco-friendly transportation systems, and their implications for regional economic sustainability..
- **Equitable Access to Green and Digital Technologies:** Addressing the barriers faced by underserved regions in adopting green and digital innovations and exploring strategies to bridge the urban-rural divide.
- **Best Practices for Sustainable Innovation Ecosystems:** Sharing successful case studies of regions that have effectively integrated green and digital innovations into their economic strategies, promoting balanced and inclusive growth.