



Special Session Proposal

Socioecological Transitions from the Global South: Anticipatory Urban Futures, international Cooperation

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Abstract

This special session proposes a comparative discussion on socioecological and digital transitions in the Global South from the perspective of anticipatory urban and regional studies. Drawing on the concept of cities as anticipatory systems, the session frames urban regions as socio-ecological and socio-technical configurations in which future imaginaries, governance arrangements, and collective action intersect to shape long-term transformation pathways. This approach allows for examining how regions respond to climate risks, environmental degradation, territorial inequalities, and the rapid expansion of digital infrastructures that reconfigure urban–regional relations, labor dynamics, and modes of citizenship.

From a regional studies perspective, the session emphasizes how socioecological and digital transitions in the Global South are embedded in uneven development, multi-scalar governance, and historically contingent territorial structures. Across Latin America and other regions of the Global South, anticipatory practices emerge around waste management, environmental health, climate adaptation, data governance, digital inclusion, and food systems. These practices reveal that transitions are spatially differentiated and politically contested processes, requiring comparative frameworks capable of capturing regional specificities while enabling cross-regional learning.

The session builds on insights generated through the Campus Internacional de las Transiciones, a binational France–Mexico initiative that promotes interdisciplinary research, hybrid eco-citizenship laboratories, and applied territorial methodologies.

Its methodological framework is designed as a transferable platform to incorporate and compare experiences from Latin America, other Global South regions, and selected international cases, fostering dialogue between urban and regional scales.

The primary objective of the session is to present and critically discuss project findings with colleagues from Latin America and international contexts, while actively strengthening research and collaboration networks in regional studies, urban futures, and socioecological transition research. By creating a space for comparative dialogue, the session seeks to advance shared analytical tools and collaborative agendas for anticipating and governing transformative transitions in the Global South.