

Regional Science Dialogues for Peace
and Sustainable Development
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Special Session Proposal

Crime, Institutions, and Local Economic Policies

Organisers:

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Abstract

Crime and violence negatively impact local development in various ways. They deter investment and economic activity. They create fear and insecurity, eroding social cohesion and reducing the overall quality of life, and they can lead to a 'brain drain', as talented individuals seek safer environments. Additionally, the strain of crime and violence can divert public funds from other domains. Policy efforts to combat crime and improve public safety are crucial for mitigating these impacts.

The Special Session on "Crime, Institutions, and Local Economic Policies" aims to provide a platform for researchers to explore the complex relationship between crime, violence, local institutions, and policy. We invite submissions that focus on empirical analyses and employ methods to identify causal effects in the field of the economics and the geography of crime and violence. This session offers an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the various policy issues surrounding crime and the local dimension.

Topics of interest for this session include, but are not limited to:

1. The economic impact of crime and violence on local communities and regional development
2. The role of local institutions in shaping rates and patterns of crime and violence
3. The impact of policy affecting the local provision of services on crime and violence (e.g. austerity, levelling up, agglomeration of peripheral services and institutions)
4. Analysis of policies and interventions aimed at reducing crime and violence
5. The relationship between crime, violence, territorial inequality, and social cohesion
6. The influence of local economic policies on criminal and violent behaviours
7. Quasi-experimental methods for causal inference in crime research

We encourage submissions that employ rigorous empirical methodologies, such as quasi-experimental designs, natural experiments, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity designs, or other counterfactual methods to identify causal effects and shed light on the complex dynamics of crime and its interaction with institutions and local economic policies. Accepted papers will be presented during the *in-person* special session, providing authors with an opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions and receive feedback from experts in the field.