



UGI-IGU Paris – 18-22 July 2022

Call for Abstracts

Session “Drastic Territorial Changes”

Reference for abstracts submission: **A101442TB**

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Description of the Session

Change has become the protagonist of our times: many are the factors that can trigger it, some of which absolutely unexpected, as the case of the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrates. Those factors, of different nature and origin, in turn are able to transform, sometimes drastically, the territories that are involved. Geography, like the other social disciplines, is called to respond to the challenge posed by these changes, relying on its long tradition of studies, in continuous renewal.

In the wake of the post-structuralist turn, geography is effectively increasingly interested in intercepting and examining change, that is what is happening to territories, places and landscapes. From an epistemological point of view, this interest marked the transition of the discipline from the causal description to the teleological interpretation, with the growing aim of actively participating in the construction of spaces for collective life and action inspired by environmental and social justice.

The subject of interest in this session consists of the relevant changes that have radically transformed (or are radically transforming) territories and landscapes. Migration dynamics, depopulation, industrialization processes, gentrification, projects related to the so-called *creative industries*, recovery and conversion of abandoned industrial areas, political changes,

environmental changes and natural disasters, innovative planning and smartness, conflicts and wars are just some examples of factors capable of triggering drastic territorial changes. But probably new factors are affecting the radical transformation of territories, places and landscapes that this session intends to collect and examine.

Starting from the idea of territory as a process of social construction inspired by environmental sustainability, social equity, participatory decision-making processes, and aimed at the constant improvement of the living conditions of human and non-human components, the session welcomes contributions, based on specific case studies, able to answer the following questions: what factors have affected / are affecting the radical transformation of the territory? Are these processes developed “from the top” (institutions and traditional decision makers) or “from the bottom” (movements, associations, groups)? Which actors are the protagonists of such change? What kind of relationships exist between the involved actors (competitive, collaborative, etc.)? What spatial and relational dynamics triggered / brought about these changes? What projects are underway and what could be the alternative solutions?

The aim of the session is to contribute to the discussion on the most relevant changes of our time that have triggered significant transformations in the organization of territories and / or in the configuration of landscapes, with the ultimate aim of identifying and understanding recent or current trends in the management of situations of extreme change, with reference to both the risks and the opportunities they offer to settled communities.

Submission guidelines

As of November 16, a submission platform will be open on the website of the Conference (<https://www.ugiparis2022.org/>) to receive proposals (abstracts), until January 11, 2022 (included, no extension possible).

A drop-down list will be proposed and you will have to indicate the session to which you are submitting your abstract. Abstracts can be submitted in English.

We specify that our session will take place remotely. The reduced fee for online participants is due by 11 January, 2022 (<https://www.ugiparis2022.org/en/registration/11>).

If you are thinking of submitting an abstract to our session, we kindly ask you to send your abstract also to our e-mail addresses: tiziana.banini@uniroma1.it and oana.ilovan@ubbcluj.ro

Thank you,

Tiziana and Oana