



**3rd (online) International Conference on RETHINKING  
CLUSTERS: PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES FOR INCLUSIVE,  
INNOVATIVE AND REFLECTIVE SOCIETIES  
24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November, 2020  
Universitat Politècnica de València & Universitat de València, SPAIN**

Last year in Padova, and previously in Florence, a vibrant community of scholars met for discussing over critical issues and new trajectories of cluster research and the local and global scale of the clusters' sustainability transitions. In 2020, the third edition of the conference will take place in Valencia (Spain) and, besides the main themes which also characterized the previous editions, a special attention will be given to how clusters contribute to inclusive, innovative and reflective societies. The conference focuses on emergent issues related to the evolutionary trajectories of clusters, which encompass the major challenges of the globalization of production, the extension of the value chains, the opportunities of smart technologies in manufacturing and services, the transition towards sustainability and the challenge of the artificial intelligence, but also how clusters produce value for the society.

Due to COVID threat, the III<sup>o</sup> meeting will be held online to keep up with the Rethinking Clusters conversation, join us!!! Why a virtual Conference? Because academic conversation should not stop.

The contents of the conference relate, but are not limited, to these **themes**:

1. Regional development and clusters for inclusion and cohesion: a socioeconomic approach
2. Multinationals, clusters and global value chains
3. Technological change, innovation, networks and ecosystems
4. Cluster life cycle, resilience and evolutionary trajectories of local systems

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5. Clusters' transition towards sustainability and regional development
  6. Entrepreneurship in clusters, local systems and ecosystems
  7. Culture and creative industries in sustainability transitions
  8. Industry 4.0 and digitalization of firms, clusters and regions
  9. Artificial intelligence in clusters and local development
  10. Place-based policies: inclusive, reflexive and innovative initiatives
  11. Sustainability transitions in the energy sector
  12. Complexity theory and sustainable development
  13. Research methods on clusters, industrial districts and local systems

**Innovation is our focus.** We encourage submissions from scholars in the social and scientific sciences, who are forging ahead with innovation strategies to shift towards digitization and sustainability. We welcome contributions that develop innovative approaches in concepts, theory, methods or analysis and have deep or broad implications to inform transitions to digitization and sustainability, and that use observational, experimental or theory-driven modes of inquiry, either at the micro- or meso-level unit of analysis.

## Organizational matters

The conference will take place **online** at the Department of Management (DOE) of the Universitat Politècnica de València and the Faculty of Economics of the University of Valencia on November, 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>-2020. Valencia, Spain.

Interested contributors should send an extended abstract to the email address: [rethinkingclusters@cfp.upv.es](mailto:rethinkingclusters@cfp.upv.es) from July 1<sup>st</sup> till September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Submitters of abstracts are required to select the appropriate track they prefer for the paper, indicating it in the email.

Extended abstracts are encouraged and should contain a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 2500 words. Extended abstracts can contain figures, tables and/or images that are not included in the word count. In case of full papers (optional) should not exceed 8,000 words, inclusive of the abstract (150 words), tables, references, figure captions and endnotes.

In case of being accepted, final submission requires from a short 15-minutes video of the presentation in mp4 up to October 30<sup>th</sup> (sent by WETRANSFER to the same email; the video can be done through Teams, Zoom or whatever, but converted into mp4 (just click on "download video"); in case of internet connection problems or no show up, for any inconvenient, on the corresponding virtual parallel session, the Chair will play that video in the respective slot; live presentation, however, is encouraged to get feedback and fuel academic conversation). After live presentations, as in any parallel session, questions and comments are allowed for discussion, moderated by the Chair of the Session.

Format: 20 minutes presentation; 5-10 minutes discussion;

Members of the community that are willing to organize a **special session** within the conference are kindly invited to send an email to the local organizers ([jose.hervas@omp.upv.es](mailto:jose.hervas@omp.upv.es)) before September 30<sup>th</sup>, including a description of the contents of the session and a list of the participants.

This year a Special Session entitled "Global-South" will be held to get to know better cluster experiences

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in LATAM area, zooming into real experiences from first-hand evidence by selected policymakers and scholars in the region, with the purpose to extend our community world-wide.

The acceptance of the extended abstracts/full papers shall be announced by September 30th, 2020.

**Registration and fee:** 65 Euro. Fees will cover IT infrastructure, webpage and other e-tools and managing tasks during the days of the conference and subsequent diffusion of knowledge through videos or others. Registration will open from September, 1<sup>st</sup> up to October, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All the information will be published on the conference official website from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

**Local organizers:** Jose-Luis Hervas-Oliver (jose.hervas@omp.upv.es) (co-coordinator) Rafael Boix Domènech (co-coordinator) (rafael.boix@uv.es), Carles Boronat Moll (carbomol@upvnet.upv.es), Sofia Estellés Miguel (soesmi@omp.upv.es), Francisca Sempere Ripoll (fsempere@omp.upv.es).

**Co-organizers:** Francesco Capone (francesco.capone@unifi.it), Annalisa Caloffi (annalisa.caloffi@unifi.it), Luciana Lazzeretti (luciana.lazzeretti@unifi.it), and Silvia Rita Sedita ([silvia.sedita@unipd.it](mailto:silvia.sedita@unipd.it)).

**Scientific committee:** Luciana Lazzeretti, Rafael Boix Domènech, Annalisa Caloffi, Francesco Capone, Philip Cooke, Rune Dahl Fitjar, Blanca De Miguel-Molina, Mercedes Delgado, Jose Luis Hervas-Oliver, Leila Kebir, Dieter Kogler, Fiorenza Belussi, Francesc-Xavier Molina Morales, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Jose Antonio Belso, Silvia Sedita, Marival Segarra-Oña, Michaela Trippl, Maria Angeles Montoro, Francisca Sempere Ripoll, Ekaterina Turkina, Enrique Claver, Carles Boronat-Moll, Davide Parrilli, Isabel Díez

DOE-Departamento de Organización de Empresas (Universitat Politècnica de València) Departament d'Estructura Econòmica (Universitat de València)

### Important dates

- Submission starting: July, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Submission deadline: September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Notification of acceptance: September, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Registration opening: September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Registration deadline: October, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Notification of special sessions acceptance: October, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Video of the presentation submission (15 min.): October, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Conference dates: November, 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Publications opportunities

We believe that the dissemination of topics and discussions of Rethinking Clusters are valuable to the academic community and policy makers. For this reason, we are organizing a selection of journals (*Scopus* and *WOS-Clarivate*) and edited books of international publishers (Routledge, Springer, etc.) in order to offer publications opportunities to those papers selected.

VISIT THE WEBSITE: <https://www.rethinkingclusters.org/>



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