



***Special Session (SS01) on:  
Alternatives for integrating development with infrastructure  
provision in the global South***

**Organizers:**

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**The aim and scope:**

Contemporary urbanization is a process associated with the countries of the global South, where spatial disparities are prevalent and growth remains decoupled with infrastructure provision. Spatial disparities is the concentration of population and infrastructure in certain regions at the cost of the periphery. This concentration of population in large cities, one on hand leads to congested amenities (both natural and manmade), and on the other hand to outward expansion of large city-regions at the cost of arable land and water bodies. The government policy to concentrate infrastructure often comes at the cost of small and medium order settlement leading to their underdevelopment.

Spatial disparities is an under researched aspect of development and remains a concern for policy makers. Over the years, it has become crucial to integrate infrastructure with growth to prevent degradation of natural resources and for socioeconomic developments in these regions. Several policy measures backed in theories have been adopted to reduce spatial disparities at different scales. With regard to transportation, at regional level transportation corridor strategy, and at the metropolitan and city level transit oriented development have been prevalent. More recently, smart city initiatives have been adopted by the governments in the global South. However, the success of these initiatives have been questioned, as disparities remain a persistent development trend.

The lack of integrated socio-economic and spatial data, and the resulting deficits in the current methodological approaches makes analysis and elucidation of the growth characteristics as well as informed policy advice difficult. There is a need of new data sources, as well as of new approaches and methods, which can enable better analysis and policy advice. Given the advancement in the Geographical Information Systems and satellite data use, it is now possible to integrate socio-economic, geographical and infrastructure information for research purposes.

In light with the above background, this session focusses on looking at the problems and solutions for resolving disparities and coupling development with infrastructure in the global South. All relevant submissions are invited, covering both theoretical and empirical contributions to the topic.

**[SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT](#)**