

Special Session on:
Regional Science at the
Earth's Core: Ecuador,
RECIR



Organizers

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Purpose and Scope

This special session brings together interdisciplinary research that examines how regional contexts shape economic performance, access to essential services, and political attitudes. By combining firm-level analysis, spatial accessibility modelling, and subjective measures of social mobility, the session highlights the central role of territorial conditions in shaping development outcomes and societal well-being.

One of the papers explores the effect of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on firm performance, with particular attention to the economic, regional, and sectoral contexts in which firms operate.

Another contribution presents a Spatial Accessibility Index to Health Services, designed to measure effective access by integrating supply capacity, population demand, and travel friction. Using a two-step methodology, the index first estimates provider-to-population ratios within catchment areas defined by travel times and then aggregates these ratios for each population zone using distance-decay functions. The index provides a robust tool for territorial comparison, identification of operational gaps, and simulation of planning scenarios, making it highly relevant for regional health system diagnostics and policy prioritization.

A third paper examines the relationship between perceived social mobility and political attitudes. Using more than two decades of Latinobarómetro data, the study analyzes how self-perceived economic status relative to one's parents and children influences dissatisfaction with democracy. It further shows how these perceptions vary across levels of urbanization, highlighting the politically salient role of subjective stagnation in rapidly growing urban areas. This special session shows how regional and spatial dynamics condition economic behavior, service accessibility, and democratic legitimacy, offering valuable insights for scholars and policymakers interested in inclusive, sustainable, and territorially grounded development strategies. This special session demonstrates the ongoing research at the Earth's core: Ecuador in varied thematics of regional science.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT