

***Special Session on:***  
***Indigenous Social Capital and  
Local Economic Development:  
Identifying New Pathways to  
Success***



**Organizers**

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**Purpose and Scope**

This session offers a unique opportunity to re-evaluate local economic development through an Indigenous lens. For decades, standard government interventions have often failed by "crowding out" the very kinship networks and customary institutions that sustain Indigenous communities. This special session seeks to move beyond critiques of past failures to identify new pathways to success. We welcome theoretical and empirical papers exploring the "cultural match" in governance, the measurement of relational wealth versus conventional economic outcomes, the role of digital tools in bridging markets, and the impact of rapid technological change. By synthesizing research from the Americas, Oceania, and beyond, this session aims to demonstrate how Indigenous social capital can be mobilized—rather than displaced—to serve as the primary driver of resilient local economies. Presented papers will be considered for publication in a proposed special issue of *Regional Science Policy & Planning*.

**SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT**