Special Session on:

Specialization, Regional Dynamics, and Economic Transformation

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Purpose and Scope

This special session focuses on the role of specialization in shaping regional economic performance, resilience, and long-term development. Building on classic and contemporary theories in regional science, the session invites papers that examine how sectoral, technological, occupational, or knowledge-based specialization influences regional growth trajectories, innovation capacity, inequality, sustainability, and well-being.

In an increasingly globalized yet fragmented world, regions face new challenges and opportunities related to specialization, including global value chain restructuring, digitalization, green transitions, and shifting trade and industrial policies. The session aims to bring together theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented contributions that explore these dynamics across different spatial scales and institutional contexts.

Contributions using diverse methodological approaches—quantitative, qualitative, spatial econometrics, network analysis, or case studies—are welcome. The session is open to studies covering developed and developing regions, with particular interest in comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives.

The main objectives of this special session are to:

1. Advance understanding of how different forms of specialization affect regional economic development, resilience, and transformation.
2. Explore the links between specialization, innovation, productivity, sustainability, and well-being.
3. Examine the role of institutions, policy frameworks, and global shocks in shaping specialization patterns.
4. Foster dialogue between theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented research in regional science.
5. Provide a platform for scholars working on specialization-related topics across diverse regional contexts.

Keywords: Regional specialization; Economic structure; Industrial dynamics; Innovation and knowledge spillovers; Regional resilience; Global value chains; Structural change; Spatial inequality; Sustainability and wellbeing

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