

European Planning Studies Special Issue Call for Papers

Deadlines:

- Abstracts: August 15, 2020
- Papers: January 1, 2021

Regional innovation policies in the era of grand societal challenges

There are increasing demands that innovation policy should not only promote technological innovation for economic growth and competitiveness but should also result in enhanced capacities to tackle grand societal challenges such as climate change, the ageing society, health, digitalisation, or growing social and territorial inequalities. Vivid discussions about smart specialization (Foray, 2015), new industrial policies (Rodrik, 2004, Kitson, 2019), new mission-oriented and transformative innovation policies (Mazzucato, 2018; Schot and Steinmüller, 2018), modern forms of governance (Sabel and Zeitlin, 2012) and calls to rethink the role of the state (Mazzucato, 2013; Morgan, 2017) reflect these concerns in apparent ways. While recent work has highlighted the importance of a geographic perspective on innovation policies for grand challenges and particularly the need to address innovation system failures (Coenen, Hansen & Rekers, 2015), an explicit focus on regional innovation policy and meso-level implications from the intensification of grand challenges has been missing (Tödting & Trippel, 2018). Taking a regional perspective and adopting a broad understanding of innovation, the special issue seeks to advance our understanding of what can be termed ‘new generation of innovation policies’ in and for regions.

The goal of the special issue is to a) highlight cutting-edge research around the question how regional innovation policies can address grand challenges, b) bring together the most important findings from scholars in diverse fields such as innovation studies, geography, transition studies, urban and regional planning, regional studies, economics, etc., and c) advance understanding of the role of the regional perspective in addressing challenges that are interrelated at the global scale.

We invite contributions that provide theoretical advances and novel empirical evidence on one of the following topics:

- Policy strategies and policy mixes for different types of regions, industrial paths and/or grand societal dynamics
- New generation of innovation policies: what roles and tasks for policy makers? For entrepreneurs? For other stakeholders and civic society at large?
- How to balance new path development and old path destabilization policies?
- What is the role of the regional policy level in multi-level governance settings?
- Directionality of change and the role of policy: In what ways can “mission-oriented innovation policies” be designed at the regional level?
- Different forms of innovation (social, technical, public sector innovation, etc.) and in different contexts (rural, urban, transnational, etc.) and their implications for regional innovation policies
- Specific regional innovation policies that address specific grand challenges and how they manage to address the interrelatedness of scales
- Covid-19 and new forms of regional innovation policies that address health-related grand challenges

Submission Guidelines:

Please send your abstract (max 500 words) to one of the guest editors by August 15, 2020. Notification about further consideration of contributions will be given by September 15. Full papers should be submitted by January 1, 2021. We plan to finalise the review process by June 30, 2021.

Editorial information:

- Arne Isaksen, University of Agder (arne.isaksen@uia.no)
- Heike Mayer, University of Bern (mayer@giub.unibe.ch)
- Michaela Trippl, University of Vienna (michaela.trippl@univie.ac.at)

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