



Cities and territories in the developing world facing the challenges of ecological and digital transitions

A South-North perspective

28-29 April 2023

Hammamet-Tunisia

<https://conferencetunisia.weebly.com/>



Framework

The Regional Science Association International (RSAI) and the Faculty of Economics and Management of Sfax (University of Sfax) are organising the first international conference on sustainable regional development in cities and territories in the developing world. The conference aims to bring together leading scientists, researchers and academics to exchange and share their expertise and knowledge on all aspects of sustainable development at the scale of cities and territories. It also serves as an interdisciplinary platform to discuss existing trends and challenges and responses adapted to the context of developing countries.

Call for papers

At the dawn of the 21st century, cities are at the forefront of the development race. They are home to more than half of the world's population. While urbanisation is a widespread phenomenon, it is in the developing world that cities are growing most rapidly¹ and sometimes abruptly. It is estimated that by 2030, around 5 billion people will be living in cities, over 80% of them in developing countries. Such urban dynamics can only produce strong interactions with the major changes affecting the world today, particularly with regard to environmental and social transitions. These interactions bring with them new challenges for socio-economic development policies and territorial planning, which are called upon to be renewed in depth in both the North and the South, regardless of the specific situations that may be encountered on either side².

Given that urbanisation goes hand in hand with economic growth³, it is legitimate to ask whether or not this urban transformation offers the countries of the South a new development opportunity and the promise of a better quality of life. In reality, it can be assumed that this will depend on how the South conceives, governs and manages its cities and territories.

In the South, the particularly rapid growth of cities - which is accompanied by a massive flow of goods, people and information, both tangible and intangible - poses major challenges related to global health, economic, social, ecological and climate issues, especially for city dwellers who live mainly in informal settlements and for people who have migrated from rural areas.

The growth of cities is not just a demographic phenomenon. It is also a fundamental transformation in the nature and scale of economic production, social structures, patterns of interaction and land use, city-nature relationships⁴, etc. Such a transformation has profound impacts on resource, capacity and governance requirements. The densification of cities increases the need for complex systems for water and energy supply, natural environment protection, health, safety, waste management and related infrastructure.

In response to these environmental and societal challenges, cities and territories must reinvent themselves to seize the opportunities that arise. These challenges are expressed in terms of economic development, well-being⁵ and social and institutional change. As a result, new narratives and new specific and contextualised solutions are being expressed in both the North and the South. New ways are emerging to define 'imagined' cities that are more functional, more attractive, more inclusive, more cooperative, more respectful of their environment, less selective and less enclave. The question

¹ Pugh C (2013), *Sustainable Cities in Developing Countries*. London, Routledge

² Lejardins X (2021), *l'aménagement du territoire*. Armand Collin.

³ Banque mondiale (2008)

⁴ Carrière et al. (2021), *Faire nature en ville*. L'Harmattan.

⁵ Bourdeau-Lepage (2022), *Révéler les aspirations des citoyens pour des villes amènes*. L'outil Tell_Me, in *Urbanisme du bien-être. Des initiatives à partager*.

then arises as to how to reconcile the functioning of an "ordinary" economy (capable of meeting basic social and local needs) with the rise of an "extraordinary" economy (technological, innovative, competitive, etc.).

Thinking about sustainability in the cities and territories of developing countries implies broadening our field of investigation and reflection. It is a question of trying to produce development models and alternatives adapted to the socio-economic and environmental epistemology of the cities of the South by relying on their potentialities and their resilience capacities. Fortunately, the economic literature and public policies on innovation have abandoned a restricted vision centred on the technical dimension alone, which is well suited to the countries of the North. Considering innovation and the policies dedicated to it under a broader prism is a promising path for the sustainable development of cities and territories in the South. Whether technological, organisational, societal or institutional, in the North as in the South⁶, innovation becomes the major element that 'forges the territory', fuels local socio-economic development and makes it possible to overcome traditional disciplinary modes, which produce massive nuisances and individual and collective malaise. This suggests - as Pugh (2013)⁷, Barthel and Monkid (2011)⁸ and many others point out - that, against the tide of supposed global convergence, the countries of the South need to invent their own sustainable development systems while drawing on the models, policies and tools of the pioneering sustainability cities.

The aim of this conference is to understand the trends that affect the strong urbanisation of cities in the developing world and to identify the appropriate responses to invent the sustainable city of tomorrow. The various dimensions of transition (economic, social, ecological, digital, institutional, spatial, cultural) will be studied through the prism of innovation in order to understand how it can reorient territorial development trajectories in a context of increased uncertainty and acute inter-territorial competition⁹. While the primary objective of this conference is to better understand the challenges of urban transition in the South, it is also expected that contributions will address the dynamics of transition in the cities of the North and the responses to global challenges (environmental, climatic and societal) that are being made there.

This general theme can be approached from many angles, including but not limited to :

1. Ecological and digital transitions, innovations and the city of the future
2. Entrepreneurship and sustainable urban development
3. Sustainable transport and logistics
4. Local policies, social economy and social innovation
5. Institutional innovations and urban governance
6. Transformation of city-nature relations
7. Industrial and territorial ecology
8. Finance and regional development
9. Climate change and resilience
10. Migration and development of cities in the South

⁶ wd Barthel P-A et Zaki L (2011), Expérimenter la ville durable au sud de la Méditerranée. Chercheurs et professionnels en dialogue, Coll. Villes et Territoires, Edition de l'Aube, La Tour-d'Aigues.

⁷ Pugh C (2013), Sustainable Cities in Developing Countries. London, Routledge

⁸ Barthel P.A et Monqid S. (2011), Introduction. Cairo and sustainability: a provocative issue? Égypte/Monde arabe, 8/2011, document 8, Online since 01 September 2012.

⁹ Hamdouch A., Depret M.-H. et Tanguy C. (Eds.), Mondialisation et résilience des territoires. Trajectoires, dynamiques d'acteurs et expériences, Presses de l'Université du Québec, Québec, 2012, 292 p.

11. Econometric and spatial modelling and city growth
12. Health, education, food security and urban growth

Writing guidelines

Authors are asked to provide the following:

1. Contact details of the author(s) (surname, first name, title, affiliation, e-mail).
2. The title of the proposal
3. An 800 word abstract describing the purpose of the paper, the context, the method used and the expected results.
4. A list of 5 key words
5. Ten or so bibliographical references

Proposals for papers should be submitted by email: rsai.tunisia@gmail.com

For more information, please visit the conference website: <https://conferencetunisia.weebly.com/>

Key date

- 28 February 2023 - Deadline for submission of abstracts
- 15 March 2023 - Notification of acceptance of paper proposals
- 31 March 2023 - Registration deadline
- 28-29 April 2023 - Conference dates

Liaison Committee

- Hans Westlund, President of RSAI
- Andrea Caragliu, Directeur exécutif of the RSAI
- Eduardo Haddad, Immediate Past President of the RSAI
- Salma Mhamed Hichri, Coordinator of the RSAI-Tunisia conference

Local Organizing Committee

- Hanène Ben Ouada Jamoussi, ESCT-University of Manouba, Tunisia
- Karim Kammoun, ISGI-University of Sfax, Tunisia
- Lobna Ben Hassen, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
- Mohamed Ben Amar, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
- Nahed Zghidi, ESC-University of Sfax, Tunisia
- Salma Mhamed Hichri, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
- Slim Mahfoudh, ISAAS-University of Sfax, Tunisia
- Souhir Abbes, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia

Scientific Committee

Abdelaaziz Aitali, PCNS, Morocco
Abdelfetah Ghorbel, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
Abdellatif Khatabi, MRSA, Morocco
Abdelillah Hamdouch, Polytech Tours, France
Abderrazak Chatti, INSAT-University of Carthage, Tunisia
Abderrazak Ellouze, ESC-University of Manouba, Tunisia
Adel Dhif, Tunisia Polytechnic School, University of Carthage, Tunisia
Ahmed Hchicha, ESC-University of Sfax, Tunisia
Alain Safa, CEMAFI International, University of Côte d'Azur, France
Ali Ben Nasr, FSHS- Université de Sfax, Tunisie
Ali Helali, ISTLS University of Sousse
Amine Lahiani, University of Orleans, France
Amor Belhedi, FSHS-University of Tunis, Tunisia
Andrea Caragliu, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
André Torre, Agro Paris, Tech, France
Anis Bouabid, FSEG-University of Sousse, Tunisia
Awil Mahmoud, ADPC, Netherlands
Azzeddine Medani, University of Khemis Miliana, Algeria
Badara Ndiaye, DIADEM, Senegal
Babacar Sène, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal
Bernard Pecqueur, University of Grenoble, France
Chakib Zouaghi, UNDCO, Jordan
Claude Berthomieu, University of Côte d'Azur, France
Corneliu Iatu, University A. I Cuza de Iasi, Roumania
Daniella Constantin, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Roumania
Dhafer Saidane, University of Lille, France
Dina Elshahawany, University of Zagazig, Egypt
Eduardo Haddad, University of São Paulo, Brazil
Fabio Mazzola, University of Palermo, Italy
Faika Skander Charfi, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
Faouzi Sboui, FSEG-University of Monastir, Tunisia
Farouk Kriaa, FSEG-University of Tunis Elmanar, Tunisia
Foued Badr Gabsi, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
Hamadi Tizaoui, FLSH- University of Tunis, Tunisia
Hans Westlund – KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
Hassen Boubakri, University of Sousse & University of Sfax, Tunisia
Jean Bruno, University of Quebec, Canada
Jean-Paul Carrière, Polytech Tours, France
Julie Bulteau, CEARC, University of Versailles -Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines
Kamel Helali, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
Karima Khalil, University of Cadi Ayyad, Morocco
Karima Kourtit, Open University in the Netherlands, Netherlands
Khalid Elkalay, University of Cadi Ayyad, Morocco
Lahcen Oulhadj, University of Rabat-Agdal, Morocco
Lamia Ben Hamida, Haute école de gestion Arc, Suisse
Lina Maddah, LCPS, Lebanon
Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3, France
Lobna Ben Hassen, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia

Louafi Bouzouina, LEAT-University of Lyon, France
Mahmoud Arbouch, PCNS, Morocco
Mehdi Lahlou, INSEA, Morocco
Mohamed Mouloud Haddak, Umrestte-University Gustave Eiffel, France
Mokhtar Kouki, ESSAI-University of Carthage, Tunisia
Mounir Smida, FSEG –University of Sousse, Tunisia
Nabil Jedlane, University Abdelmalek Essaâdi, Morocco
Nadim Farajalla, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Nicolas Babey, Haute école de gestion Arc, Suisse
Nouri Chtourou, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
Peter Nijkamp, Open University in the Netherlands, Netherlands
Roberta Capello, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
Sami Aouadi, FSEGT-University of Tunis ElManar, Tunisia
Sami Hammami, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
Sami Hannachi, INTES-University of Carthage, Tunisia
Samir Trabelsi, Brock University, Canada
Sonia Zouari, ISAAS, University of Sfax, Tunisia
Srdjan Redzpagic, University of Côte d’Azur, France
Thierry Baudasse, Université of Orleans, France
Thierry Feuillet, UMR IDEES, University of Caen Normandie, France
Younes Boujelben, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia
Zouheir Abida, FSEG-University of Sfax, Tunisia