

**Call for Papers:**

Retail Business Location: New datasets, methodologies, and approaches

**Abstract:**

Regional scientists have long been interested in exploring the determinants of retail business location decisions and the locational characteristics that catalyze new business creation and success. In recent years this has become even more important as locally-owned retail businesses face a host of mounting challenges: suburbanization, competition from big box stores, and the rapidly increasing influence of e-commerce. At the same time, several new, large, point-based establishment datasets – such as the National Establishment Time Series (NETS) and InfoUSA – have become available, increasing the capability for researchers to assess the spatial dynamics of retail businesses and to better understand the problems and prospects of locally-owned retailers. However, the idiosyncrasies of these datasets are still not well understood, and there is a substantial need to develop new methodologies that take advantage of the fine spatio-temporal granularity available in these large datasets. Thus, the purpose of this session is to 1) investigate the locational characteristics for new retail business creation and/or success, 2) examine the characteristics of new, large, point-based establishment datasets that can be used to drive future research into retail business location, and 3) explore new methodologies and approaches for studying retail business location using these large datasets. Papers that explore these substantive or methodological questions of interest are welcome from any discipline.

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