

# **North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI)**

**San Diego, CA – November 11-14, 2020**

**Call for Papers – Special Session(s)**

**Shocking Events: Institutional Reactions to Abrupt Changes**

**Session Organizers:**

**Giulia Urso (Gran Sasso Science Institute)**

**Luca Storti (University of Torino)**

**Neil Reid (University of Toledo)**

Starting from the crisis of Fordism the western part of the world has been experiencing several events that have questioned the compromise between economy-politics-society built during the ‘glorious thirty’ (1945-1975). This compromise has guaranteed a certain coexistence between economic growth and social cohesion, a pretty stable institutional framework, and a smooth process of gradual changes, even in cases of conflictual experiences. By contrast, in more recent years it seems that unsettling events are more likely to happen than during the first decades since WWII. These events are often conceived as exogenous unpredictable shocks, at least in their magnitude and outcomes. They pertain, among others, to economic and financial crises, political collapses/upheavals, terroristic attacks, natural and climate disasters, or collective health issues such as the outbreak of pandemics. Hence, the concept of shocking events is here conceived in a rather broad sense, as the main focus of the call is to explore the factors affecting institutional reactions and the mechanisms through which these have consequences at the territorial level. These events can have drastic and differentiated outcomes with regard to different territorial areas, both *between* and *within* countries, and to different groups of population, *between* and *within* social classes or age cohorts.

Against this background, these special sessions aim to showcase research which dissects how institutions adapt themselves, resist or fail in facing abrupt and radical changes. More precisely, we look for contributions trying to micro-analyse the reaction of institutions to shocking events, the possible unintended and multiple results that emerge from it and their effect on social networks, ways of living, consumption patterns, productive activities, and financial processes. Institutions can try to counterbalance shocking events, by assuming, for instance, specific policy measures or establishing new ways to regulate economic and social dynamics. In so doing, institutions themselves produce several consequences that are spatially embedded and not necessarily easy to predict. On top of that, following shocking events, new institutions are likely to come into being as a result of emergency processes (e.g., social norms of self-help among residents in local communities, conventions of social interactions, community norms governing local production systems).

We invite papers from a range of perspectives from around the world dealing with a wide range of shocking events and institutional reactions in their multifaceted interconnections emerging at the territorial level.

If you are interested in presenting your research in this special session, please submit an abstract (2,000 to 5,500 characters and spaces) through the conference portal. Information on how to do that can be found [here](#). Upon submitting your abstract, you will receive an abstract ID number (e.g. P12345). Please send your abstract ID number and a copy of your abstract to Neil Reid ([neil.reid@utoledo.edu](mailto:neil.reid@utoledo.edu)) no later than **June 20, 2020**.