

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

San Diego, CA – November 11-14, 2020

Call for Papers – Special Session(s)

Local Economic Development – The Role of Locally Owned Businesses

Session Organizers:

Isabelle Nilsson (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)

Neil Reid (University of Toledo)

Small businesses have long been recognized as important engines of regional economic growth and innovation. Small, locally owned businesses have been shown to be important contributors to job creation, innovation, consumer choices, place-making, etc., while keeping money in the community by paying wages and benefits to local residents, profits earned by local owners, sourcing inputs locally, and through contributions to local nonprofits. They can also provide support for larger businesses and help reduce environmental impacts. In this session we explore the role of locally owned business in local economic and community development, and factors affecting the performance of small, independent business. Papers may be theoretical or applied and possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Economic benefits and impacts
- Innovation and productivity
- Entrepreneurship
- Sustainability and resiliency
- Rural and urban economic development
- Policy and practice
- Tourism
- Community investment and charitable contributions
- Commercial gentrification and neighborhood change
- Policy responses to COVID-19 and its impact on small businesses

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 Isabelle Nilsson (inilso1@uncc.edu) no later than **June 20, 2020**.

Depending upon the focus and composition of papers that are presented at the meetings, we will explore the possibility of a special issue of a journal.