



SPECIAL SESSION PROPOSAL

1. Title

Circularities and proximities : stakeholders, scales, ressources

2. Key-words

Territory, circular economy, short local food systems, ressources

3. Description

The scientific literature on the spatial concentration of specialized productive activities in a business sector (industrial districts, clusters and other productive systems) is abundant. More specifically, many researchers have focused on studying Local Productive Systems as locally anchored organizational forms and responding to a territorial logic of proximity.

This widely debated issue of locally rooted activities is gaining renewed interest because of the development of initiatives aimed at linking the production and consumption activities in the territory (ie. short local food systems, circular economy). These public and private initiatives highlight their potential economic, social and environmental virtues, strengthening geographical proximity and sustainability. Whether they are food or non-food circuits of proximity or circular economy approaches, their purpose is to build circulations and circularities in the territories to promote the relocation of economic activities or even achieve territorial autonomy in certain areas. They also have two points in common: that of linking stakeholders/activities that did not necessarily have links before and that of using the circulation of flows and physical resources (food, wood, biomass, energy ...) as a vector for structuring these new coordinations. We can therefore wonder how these initiatives reconfigure (or not) the mechanisms and dynamics of local anchoring, inter-territoriality and spatial distribution of activities, as well as the analytical frameworks in this area.

Questions:

TERRITORIAL ANCHORAGE AND LOCAL AUTONOMY: What territorial resources are mobilized or created locally? What factors explain the mobilization of territorial resources and the search for "extraterritorial" resources? How and by whom are they mobilized? How do they circulate? To what extent is there a search for local autonomy or a desire for hybridization with more global sectors and why?

TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE AND PROXIMITIES: What proximities are at work in "proximity" circuits and circular economy approaches? How are they activated? What territorial governance of these circuits, short local food systems and circular economy approaches? Do these approaches lead to a redefinition of the role of public actors?

CIRCULARITIES, CIRCUITS OF PROXIMITIES AND SCALES: What spatial deployment of these new approaches ? How far can territorial resources be mobilized in these approaches? What convergence between relevant territories (scale of actors) and territories of public policies (institutional perimeter/scale)? How do the perimeters of these projects (stakeholders, initiatives and resources mobilized) evolve according to their dynamics?

METHODOLOGY: How to analyze these moving objects, under construction? What methods of analysis make it possible to reveal the emergence of such objects, to characterize their dynamics and to compare the transformations made in the territories?