

Call for Papers

Temporary geographical proximity – actors, places, and interactions

Special issue of the journal

Raumforschung und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning

In knowledge-based economies, the competitiveness of firms rests in first instance on their ability to generate new knowledge and exchange it with external partners. For a long time, research has focused on permanent agglomerations of different actors – such as regional clusters – and their role in exchanging knowledge. In this context it was emphasized that a high diversity and variety of (potential) interaction partners support corporate innovation processes. Recent work, however, has shown that the exchange of knowledge does not necessarily require spatial proximity. In particular, research on field configuring events or temporary clusters suggests that actors from distant locations often only come together at short notice in specific locations, usually within cities. Such temporary spatial proximity allows for the exchange of knowledge and thus supports incremental innovation processes at the different firm locations. Conferences, exhibitions, meetings, leading international trade fairs and workshops as places of co-creation or collaboration in projects as well as other events can play an important role in this context.

Even though research on temporary forms of knowledge exchange has significantly increased over the past few years, only little research has dealt with the conditions under which actors benefit from temporary spatial proximity, with the places apt for the implementation of temporary settings and with the deliberate creation or design of such places. This special issue therefore addresses the state of research on knowledge exchange in temporary proximity and seeks to discuss selected temporary actor constellations and their significance for corporate or regional development processes.

Particular attention will be paid to the following and related questions:

- Where (locations, especially in urban areas) do organized meetings take place that support the exchange of economically relevant knowledge? Why (criteria) are these locations selected?
- Which measures can be taken to intensify interactions in temporary spaces?
- Which functions do the actors have in their firms and how do the actors contribute to the exchange of knowledge over geographical distance?
- What motivates actors to create temporary proximity?

We would like to invite papers that deal with these or similar issues. In particular, we encourage studies related to the following aspects:

- Case studies on spatial anchor points of economically relevant temporary interactions (e. g. papers on trade fairs, exhibitions, conferences, hotel lobbies).
- Empirical work on relevant actors (e. g. international business travellers) and on the interface between technology-based exchanges and face-to-face meetings.

- Papers that conceptualize proximities and distances in temporary meetings.
- Papers that elaborate recommendations for municipal economic development agencies on how to design places that host temporary meetings, as well as
- papers that discuss methodological questions related to the analysis of temporary spaces, e. g. access to the field.

Important information

This Call for Papers for a special issue of the journal “Raumforschung und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning” invites researchers and practitioners interested in the above mentioned or similar issues to submit a paper. All contributions will undergo the usual review procedure.

Papers may be submitted until 30 September 2018 through the website of the journal: (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/rara/default.aspx>)

Please consult the instructions for authors:

http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/geography/journal/13147?detail-sPage=pltcj_2632443

It is planned to complete the review procedure by the beginning of 2019; the publication of the papers is scheduled for the second half of 2019.

In case you have any questions related to contents or want to discuss ideas and draft versions, please contact Prof. Dr. Sebastian Henn (sebastian.henn@uni-jena.de) and Jun.-Prof. Dr. Anna Growe (anna.growe@uni-heidelberg.de). Please direct any other question to the journal’s editors in chief, Prof. Dr. Andreas Klee (klee@arl-net.de) and Prof. Dr. Heiderose Kilper (heiderose.kilper@leibniz-irs.de).