



Social Innovation in Urban and Rural Areas: Empowerment, (Disruptive) Transformative Processes and Impact on Community Development

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Gabriela Christmann

1. Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, 15537 Erkner, Germany
2. Department of Sociology, Technical University of Berlin, 10623 Berlin, Germany

Prof. Dr. Ariane Sept

Department of Applied Social Sciences, Munich University of Applied Sciences, 81243 München, Germany

Dr. Ralph Richter

Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, 15537 Erkner, Germany

Deadline for manuscript submissions:

30 September 2024

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Urban and rural regions face diverse and complex challenges. Many actors involved in community development and spatial planning are therefore looking for novel solutions. In increasingly unfolding societal and scientific discourses on the topic, high hopes are placed on the potential of social innovations. It is typically assumed that socially innovative initiatives can bring empowerment to the actors involved, generate transformative—if not disruptive—dynamics, and bring about beneficial community development. However, this has not been systematically reflected so far.

The Special Issue aims to address these gaps. The focus will therefore be on how the empowerment of people, (disruptive) transformative processes, and the impact on community development can be understood in the context of social innovations. Spatially, the Special Issue will consider both urban and rural communities, including villages and small- and medium-sized towns.





Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Gregor Wolbring

Community Rehabilitation and
Disability Studies, Cumming
School of Medicine, University of
Calgary, Calgary, AB T2N 4N1,
Canada

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Societies (ISSN 2075-4698) is an interdisciplinary journal that brings together different scientific approaches to engage with societal questions to enhance our understanding of the social realm throughout history. The journal publishes original empirical research papers, literature reviews, and conceptual papers. Our aim is to publish papers that have a significant impact on addressing present and emerging societal questions. Therefore, we encourage researchers to publish their results in as much detail as possible. For empirical research papers and literature reviews, all experimental details must be provided, so that the results are reproducible. We also encourage the publication of timely theoretical pieces on topics of interest to existing and emerging societal questions. Papers are either published in the open journal or in Special Issues devoted to specific topics of interest to the field.

Author Benefits

Open Access : free for readers, with [article processing charges \(APC\)](#) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility: indexed within [Scopus](#), [ESCI \(Web of Science\)](#), [RePEc](#), [EconBiz](#), and [other databases](#).

Journal Rank: CiteScore - Q2 (*General Social Sciences*)

Contact Us

Societies Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
www.mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/societies
societies@mdpi.com
[X@Societies_MDPI](#)