

Special Issue

Social Sustainability of Smart Cities–Current Debates and Future Challenges

Message from the Guest Editors

Smart Cities have evolved in scope over time beyond their initial techno-centric focus to encompass a diverse array of topics. However, while environmental and green issues have traditionally dominated discussions on sustainability, significant challenges remain with regard to the social and cultural sustainability of smart cities, especially as rising global trends in social inequality have largely mirrored demographic growth in urban areas. In spite of this, our understanding of the complex challenges faced by smart cities in this context from the perspective of social and cultural sustainability remains in its infancy. Amidst today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, it is necessary to redefine social sustainability in order to future-proof smart cities beyond considerations of environmental resilience. This Special Issue invites contributions of an interdisciplinary nature focusing on the social and cultural sustainability of smart cities. Submissions related to urban planning, social and cultural challenges, the visitor economy, local communities, and the role of entrepreneurship and social innovation in smart cities will be considered.

Guest Editors

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2025)



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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As urban environments continue to evolve, Smart Cities serves as a key platform for sharing innovative research that addresses the complexities of modern urban life. Our journal provides a space for interdisciplinary dialogue and knowledge exchange on the latest advancements in smart city technologies and practices. We prioritize research that not only pushes the boundaries of scientific understanding but also has practical implications for improving urban living, sustainability, and governance. We welcome contributions from diverse fields that bring fresh perspectives to urban challenges, from smart infrastructure and IoT integration to data-driven decision-making and sustainable development. Through a combination of rigorous peer-review and rapid publication, we aim to disseminate impactful research that fosters the development of smarter, more resilient cities.

Editor-in-Chief

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manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 26.8 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.5 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).