

Special Issue

Bridging the Rural-Urban Divide: Towards Universally Sustainable Regional Economic Development

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue aims to provide fresh insights into how rural and urban areas can collaborate and complement each other economically to the benefit of both. A core principle to this initiative is that individual global states and regions are each in unique positions to become leaders in building innovative bridges between rural and urban regions. Economic development is often considered a zero-sum game, where one region's gain is another's loss. In the U.S. case, urban areas have grown rapidly since the Great Recession. Urban areas also appear to be recovering more quickly from the COVID-induced recession, leaving rural areas further behind. We seek frontier research that can illuminate current and potential economic bridges across the rural-urban divide. We are hopeful the papers from this issue will help to frame the diverse potential roles of the private, public, academic, and philanthropic sectors in one of the new millennium's critical issues, based on the analytical expertise of the contributors.

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