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4th online International Conference on

RETHINKING CLUSTERS

SUSTAINABLE AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS IN A NETWORK SOCIETY

22-23 September 2021, University of Florence

The fourth edition of the international conference “Rethinking clusters” will be digital, and the organization will be back in Florence, where everything started in 2018.

Besides the typical themes of the conference, which also characterized the previous editions, this year the conference will focus on the technological and sustainable transitions that clusters, regions and countries are facing and will have to face in the near future. These transitions change the nature of production and exchange and create new modalities to embark in inter-organizational and inter-personal relationships and help contrasting inequalities. The conference will discuss the ways in which these changes are occurring, and the consequences they are likely to have on different places and societies, in advanced, emerging and developing market economies.

We welcome contributions that are related, but not limited, to the following themes:

- Smart cities: between digital technologies and social inclusiveness
- Industrial districts, clusters and regions in sustainability transition
- Artificial intelligence, big data and places
- 4.0 manufacturing and the transformation of work
- The local/international dimension of Innovation networks
- Sustainable entrepreneurship and ecosystems
- Place sensitive industrial innovation and policy
- Culture and creative industries in sustainability transitions
- The transition to sustainable tourism
- Resilience and sustainability of places in a post pandemic scenario
- The local/global dimension of economic, gender, and digital inequalities.

We encourage submissions from scholars, practitioners, innovators and leaders who are forging ahead with strategies to shift towards sustainability and technological change. We welcome contributions that develop innovative approaches in concepts, theory, methods and/or analysis and have deep or broad implications to inform place sensitive strategies for sustainable and technological transitions in a network society.

Organizational matters

Due to COVID restrictions, also this year, the Rethinking cluster conference will be held online. Interested contributors are invited to send an extended abstract or a full paper to the email address info@rethinkingclusters.org by **June 10th, 2021**.

Extended abstracts should contain a minimum of **500 words** and a maximum of **1.500 words**. Extended abstracts can contain figures, tables and/or images, which are not included in the word count. Full papers (optional) should not exceed 8000 words, inclusive of the abstract (maximum 250 words), tables, references, figure, etc.

Members of the community that are willing to organize a special session within the workshop are kindly invited to send an email to the local organizers before the **14th of May**, including a description of the contents of the session and a list of the participants.

The acceptance of the extended abstracts/full papers will be announced by **June 25th, 2021**.

Registration and fee: Fee will cover the organization of the conference, including the digital platform and the technical support team. Authors of contributions accepted for presentation must register by **July 11th**. All the information will be published on the conference website.

Local organizers: Luciana Lazzeretti, (luciana.lazzeretti@unifi.it), Francesco Capone (francesco.capone@unifi.it), Annalisa Caloffi (annalisa.caloffi@unifi.it).

Co-organizers: Silvia Rita Sedita (silvia.sedita@unipd.it), Jose-Luis Hervas-Oliver (jose.hervas@omp.upv.es), Rafael Boix Domènech (rafael.boix@uv.es).

Important dates

Submission deadline: **June 10, 2021**

Notification of acceptance: **June 25, 2021**

Registration deadline (for presenters): **July 11, 2021**

Workshop: **22-23 September 2021**

Publication opportunities

We believe that the dissemination of topics and discussions of Rethinking Clusters are valuable to the academic community and policy makers. For this reason, we are organizing special issues on a selection of journals (Scopus and WOS-Clarivate) and edited books for international publishers (Routledge, Springer, etc.), where to offer publication opportunities to a selection of papers.

Young Researchers Session

A young research session would be organised during the workshop, where PhD candidates may receive interesting advice and comments on their ongoing research projects. Please specify in the submission if you want to take part of this session.

VISIT THE WEBSITE: <https://www.rethinkingclusters.org/>



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