



8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

RETHINKING CLUSTERS 2025

in New Geopolitical and Sustainability
Dynamics: Exploring Emerging Markets

*Photo by:
Merlin Donald, student at UNIVALI*

**NOVEMBER 23-26 | UNIVERSITY OF VALE DO ITAJAÍ
| ITAJAÍ, SANTA CATARINA, BRAZIL**

Join us at the University of Vale do Itajaí for the eighth edition of our international conference, building on the rich discussions established in the last edition of the event held in Padova. This year, we will discuss the need to **rethink clusters from the perspective of geopolitical dynamics and the necessity for sustainable strategies.**

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Recent geopolitical conflicts have heightened the importance of assessing how, and to which extent, geopolitical risk affects global value chain and the distribution of Foreign Direct Investment.

In response, Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) are reshaping their strategies to mitigate these uncertainties through nearshoring, friendshoring and backshoring. While such responses are not entirely new, they have gained considerable interest from academics and practitioners, particularly due to the new developments in the recent global context. These strategic adjustments are reshaping local economic activities and industry agglomeration, potentially triggering new development cycles and dynamic shifts in regional clusters.

However, the impact on emerging economies presents unique challenges. Emerging economies have different experiences and patterns of regional/industrial cluster developments when compared with the cases of Europe or the United States. Regional clusters in emerging economies are relatively unstable. Their development and competitiveness are constrained by the macroeconomic and institutional pressures of the home country. A more in-depth approach of the emerging economies regional cluster can advance our understanding of the location and proximity, and how multinational strategies and sustainability can shape the regional cluster dynamic.

The ability of clusters to adapt to this new landscape will define their role in economic and social development, requiring an understanding of cluster dynamics and a commitment to cross-disciplinary collaboration. This approach enables clusters to respond to the demands of a rapidly changing world and lead the transition to a more sustainable and resilient future.

IMPORTANT DATES

Special session proposal deadline: July 1st, 2025

Submission deadline: July 31st, 2025

Notification of acceptance: August 31st, 2025

Early registration deadline: September 15th, 2025

Registration deadline: October 10th, 2025

Welcome Reception: November 23rd, 2025

23-26
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For more information, including tracks, submissions, venue details, travel, and accommodations, visit our website at www.rethinkingclusters.org
You can also reach us via email at info@rethinkingclusters.org

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The event will be held at the University of Vale do Itajaí, located in the state of Santa Catarina, in the southern region of Brazil. For international participants, the easiest way to reach Itajaí is by taking a direct flight from São Paulo (Guarulhos) to Navegantes (20 km) or Florianópolis (90 km). The area of the event is coastal, and the weather in November ranges from 20° to 25°, with various places of stunning nature to explore. Accommodation and transportation options will be available on the event website.

Local Organizers Committee

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