



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens
— EST. 1837 —

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



CONFERENCE CALL: "Spatial Changes and Social Opportunities in the 21st-Century City"

Dear colleagues,

The CUA, IUS and the University of Athens, are pleased to invite you to the International Conference titled "Spatial Changes and Social Opportunities in the 21st-Century City", to be held on the 27th -29th of May 2026 at the University of Athens, bringing together scholars from around the world. This event is grounded in the perspective of the social sciences, aiming to explore the complex and evolving relationship between urban spatial transformations and emerging patterns of social opportunity, inequality, and inclusion in contemporary cities.

In the face of globalization, technological innovation, and shifting demographics, cities have become both arenas of profound spatial reconfiguration and sites of intensified social challenges and potential. Social sciences are uniquely positioned to interpret

these transformations, critically examining how urban space shapes, and is shaped by, economic practices, cultural dynamics, and political structures.

This conference invites researchers, academics, professionals, and students interested in issues of urbanism, social justice, spatial policy, and participatory planning. We welcome paper presentations, theoretical contributions, and practice-based insights that address questions of access, mobility, governance, and the right to the city in diverse urban contexts across the globe.

We especially encourage interdisciplinary approaches and comparative perspectives that illuminate the connections between spatial change and the lived experiences of urban populations. Our aim is to foster critical dialogue and meaningful collaboration that may inform both research and policy-making in the pursuit of more equitable urban futures.

Thematic areas leading to the formation of panels and roundtables:

Urban Inequality and Spatial Justice

Exploring how spatial transformations influence access to housing, infrastructure, public space, and services, and how these dynamics intersect with issues of class, race, gender, and migration.

Governance, Participation, and the Right to the City

Investigating the role of local and transnational governance structures, grassroots movements, and citizen participation in shaping more inclusive urban policies and practices.

Digital Cities and Technological Urbanism

Examining the impact of digital infrastructures, smart city technologies, and surveillance systems on urban life, space management, and civic agency.

Environmental Change, Sustainability, and Urban Space

Addressing the spatial and social dimensions of environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and ecological justice in contemporary urban development.

Migration, Mobility, and Urban Belonging

Focusing on how migration and mobility patterns reshape urban identities, neighborhood dynamics, and the sense of belonging in diverse urban environments.

Abstract Submission Deadline: February 2026

Abstract Length: Up to 300 words

Conference Languages: English

Subscription fee: 30Euros

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