

## Special Session « Geographers' time »

### On the Lookout for Sustainable Rhythms. Should we regulate urban rhythms and pace of life?

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#### DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION

As evidenced by both the IPCC reports and recent climatic events in Europe and North America, our contemporary societies must face the challenges imposed by rapid environmental change. It seems urgent to review in depth both the economic and social models that determine the tempo of our lives and cities, using rhythms as a relevant reading key and political instrument of regulation (Drevon et al., 2017; Antonioli et al., 2021). However, beyond climate and environmental issues alone, the tempos of lives and cities, which are the expression of the neoliberal model that generates acceleration and alienation (Rosa, 2013), social, gender and racial inequalities.

In order to frame the discussion, let us specify that if rhythm corresponds to a way of flowing (Benveniste, 1974), we consider that the analysis of urban rhythms finds a privileged object of study in the temporal observation of the mobilities and practices of city dwellers in public space. Applied to urban spaces, rhythms are then detected through the temporalities of activities which can be crystallised in the duration (and therefore the speed), the schedule, the frequency or the sequence of practices observed in the city.

From the perspective of the ecological and social transition, the session aims to highlight the concept of sustainable rhythm (Hvid, 2010) in order to rethink the ecological transition and the emancipation of people in the face of imposed rhythms of life that are perceived as more constrained (Drevon, 2019). By adopting both an individual and a territorial perspective, the session aims more specifically to highlight the ingredients that are likely to lead to a better control of rhythms for people and territories (Munch & Zachariou, 2021). Where are the rhythmic limits of technical progress and economic growth beyond which 'acceleration' becomes too harmful for urban life (Tranter & Tolley, 2020)? How can we define and evaluate what could be sustainable urban rhythms (Von Jorck, 2020)? How can we take into account the necessary diversity of life rhythms of populations and territories when trying to organise and regulate individual mobility (Munch, 2020, 2019)?

The research topics addressed in this session aim to think together the different temporal and spatial scales of contemporary societies and territories (Drevon et al., 2020). The aim is to examine the intensity of individual practices (mobility, consumption) and the relationship to time (feeling of oppression, temporal pressures, aspiration to slow down) at the scale of daily life, of the year and of the life course. At the territorial level, the session aims to question the role of urban form, architectural design, transport infrastructures, events (festivals, regulatory measures relating to the pandemic) and the ways in which shops and services are opened in the manufacture of contemporary rhythms. In this perspective, it is a question of thinking together both the rhythmic configurations of people's lives and the spatio-temporal configurations that welcome and shape them.

From the analytical perspective that links individual and collective rhythms and spatio-temporal configurations of living environments, the session wishes to challenge geographers, architects, political scientists, planners, sociologists and psychologists on the modalities of regulating the

rhythms of life and cities. The expected contributions are conceptual and methodological. Feedback from concrete experiences in the territories is also expected.

### KEYWORDS

Individual and territorial rhythms, emancipation, regulation, social and urban sciences.

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