



SMUS



Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability
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Call for Session Organizers (Deadline: Friday, 25.03.2022)

3rd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS Conference) & 3rd RC33 Regional Conference Asia: India, 20.–26.02.2023, by IIT Roorkee (India)

Dear Colleagues,

we are happy to announce that the Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS or SMUS) together with the Research Committee on “Logic and Methodology in Sociology” (RC33) of the International Sociology Association (ISA) and the Research Network “Quantitative Methods” (RN21) of the European Sociology Association (ESA) will organize the **3rd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (“SMUS Conference”)**, which will simultaneously be the **“3rd RC33 Regional Conference Asia: India”**, and take place on site at the **Indian Institute for Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee, India) from Monday, February 20th, to Sunday, February 26th, 2023**. The conference programme will include keynotes, sessions, advanced methodological training courses, Ph.D. workshops and a social programme. The main conference days will be 23.02. – 25.02.2023. There will be travel grants SMUS members and Indian scholars can apply for.

The six-day conference aims at continuing a **global dialogue on methods** and should attract methodologists from all over the world and all social and spatial sciences (e. g. anthropology, area studies, architecture, urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning, communication studies, computational sciences, digital humanities, educational sciences, geography, historical sciences, humanities, landscape planning, philosophy, psychology, sociology,). With this intention, we **invite scholars from diverse disciplines including social and spatial sciences, architecture and planning, design and environmental behaviour** and other scholars who are interested in methodological discussions to suggest a session topic. Conference sessions should mainly address a methodological problem. All sessions on general issues of social science methodology and epistemology as well as on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches are equally welcome. In addition, we especially invite scholars to suggest session topics on one of the following issues:

1. Spatial methods
2. Architectural research methods
3. Mobile, arts- and/or design-based methods
4. Interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary, participatory and/or collaborative research methods



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5. Applied research methods for urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning
6. Decolonizing social science methodology and overcoming methodological nationalism
7. Methods from, by and/or for the Global South
8. Cross-cultural methods, transnational research and issues of comparability
9. Quantitative methods
10. Qualitative methods
11. Mixed methods
12. Visual research methods
13. Strategies of data collection, storage and access
14. Digital methods, big data and digital humanities
15. Process-oriented, longitudinal and historical methods
16. Evaluation methods and methods of scientific validation
17. Research ethics
18. Methodological issues relevant for specific research topics (for example, urban research, sustainability research, social housing, crime and public safety, or spatial inequalities concerning gender, race and/or ethnicity)

If you are interested in **organizing a session**, please **submit an English-language proposal** containing the following information to SMUS India 2023 via email: smus2023.iitroorkee@gmail.com by **25.03.2022**:

- Session Title
- Session Organizer(s) (= name(s), email address(es), institutional affiliation(s))
- 500-2,000 Word Abstract (= short description of the proposed session and the kind of expected papers)

If you do not receive an acknowledgement of submission within three working days, please resend your submission. The conference organizers will inform you by 15.04.2022 if your session has been accepted. Please note that all sessions must adhere to the **rules of session organization** as in the RC33 statutes and GCSMUS Objectives (**see below**).

Please find more information on the above institutions on the following websites:

- Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS): <https://gcsmus.org/>
- Subscription to the GCSMUS Newsletter: <https://lists.tu-berlin.de/mailman/listinfo/mes-smusnews>
- ISA RC33: <http://rc33.org/>
- ESA RN21: www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods
- IIT Roorkee: <https://www.iitr.ac.in/>

Please also kindly **forward this call to anybody to whom it might be of interest**.

Best wishes,

Program Chair



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Gaurav Raheja

Convener, SMUS 2023 &
SMUS India Lead Partner
IIT Roorkee
India

Nina Baur

SMUS Director & RC33 Past President
Technische Universität Berlin
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Department of Architecture & Planning
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India

Manish Kumar Asthana

Co-Convener, SMUS 2023
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IIT Roorkee
India

Rules for Session Organization

1. There will be no conference fees.
2. The session organizers and speakers will be expected to provide for their own funding for accommodation and travel expenses. However, members of SMUS partner institutions will be able to apply for a travel grant via their home institution. In addition, there will be travel grants for non-SMUS scholars from India who present a paper or organize a session. Travel grants will be high enough to fully cover travel costs and living expenses. Details on the application process will follow in autumn this year.
3. The conference language is English. All papers therefore need to be presented in English.
4. All sessions have to be international: Each session should have speakers from at least two countries (exceptions will need good reasons).
5. Each paper must contain a methodological problem (any area, qualitative or quantitative).
6. There will be several calls for abstracts via the SMUS, RC33 and RN21 Newsletters. To begin with, session organizers can prepare a call for abstracts on their own initiative, then at a different time, there will be a common call for abstracts, and session organizers can ask anybody to submit a paper.
7. SMUS, RC33 and RN21 members may distribute these calls via other channels. SMUS members and session organizers are expected to actively advertise their session in their respective scientific communities.
8. Speakers can only have one talk per session. This also applies for joint papers. It will not be possible for A and B to present at the same time one paper as B and A during the same session. This would just extend the time allocated to these speakers.
9. Session organizers may present a paper in their own session.
10. Sessions will have a length of 90 minutes with a maximum of 4 papers or a length of 120 minutes with a maximum of 6 papers. Session organizers can invite as many speakers as they like. The number of sessions depends on the number of papers submitted to each session: for example, if 12 good papers are submitted to a session, there will be two sessions with a length of 90 minutes each with 6 papers in each session.



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11. Papers may only be rejected for the conference if they do not present a methodological problem (as stated above), are not in English or are somehow considered by session organizers as not being appropriate or relevant for the conference. Session organizers may ask authors to revise and resubmit their paper so that it fits these requirements. If session organizers do not wish to consider a paper submitted to their session, they should inform the author and forward the paper to the local organizing team who will find a session where the paper fits for presentation.
12. Papers directly addressed to the conference organising committee, suggesting a session. The conference organizers will check the formal rules and then offer the paper to the session organizer of the most appropriate session. The session organizers will have to decide on whether or not the paper can be included in their session(s). If the session organizers think that the paper does not fit into their session(s), the papers has to be sent back to the conference organizing committee as soon as possible so that the committee can offer the papers to another session organizer.