Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability
Prof. Dr. Jakkrit Sangkhamanee

Head of Local Organising Committee
Chulalongkorn University | Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Call for Abstracts (Deadline: Tuesday, 15.08.2023)

Session "The Longue Durée in the 21st-Century Social Sciences: Methodological Challenges of Analyzing Long-Term Social Processes"

4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS Conference) & 4th RC33 Regional Conference Asia: Thailand, 23–29.07.2024, hosted by Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

Dear Colleagues,

We hereby invite you to submit an abstract for The Longue Durée in the 21st-Century Social Sciences: Methodological Challenges of Analyzing Long-Term Social Processes" at the "4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on **Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability**" ("SMUS Conference"), which will simultaneously be the "4th RC33 Regional Conference Asia: Thailand" and take place on site at the **Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University** (Bangkok, Thailand) from **Tuesday, July 23rd, to Monday, July 29th, 2024**.

Session Organizers

1. Nina Baur, Technische Universität Berlin (Germany), nina.baur@tu-berlin.de
2. Fraya Frehse, Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil), fraya@usp.br

The Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service - DAAD with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ).

Session Topic

Introduced by Fernand Braudel in 1958 with the aim of addressing historically long-lasting patterns of social relationships and cultural conceptions, the concept of "longue durée" has since then been methodologically refined. Today and following Reinhard Koselleck's rationale about the intermingling of time layers ("Zeitschichten"), social science methodology heuristically distinguishes three of these layers. While short-term social processes ("temps court") unfold in moments, hours, or days, and medium-term processes cover the memory of the living, long-term processes (longue durée) – which are the focus of this session – unfold over decades or centuries and thus go beyond not only the memory of the living but possibly attain temporal moments prior to the Anthropocene age. Since its inception, the concept of longue durée has underpinned historical and historical-sociological research on how past economic, political and ecological processes such as colonialism, nationalization, industrialization, urbanization have been influencing societies even today. This session will tackle the concept's methodological value, gains and challenges. They remain relatively underexplored, particularly against the empirical backdrop of the (current 21st century) world immersed in apparently irreversible historical changes – for example, if we take into account the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic amidst the socially and environmentally devastating effects of climate change, of the socially unequal global spread of digitalization and the pervasiveness of hybrid wars. The session is receptive to papers that address the value, gains and challenges implicit in the use of the concept of the longue durée in the social sciences in the 21st century by tackling questions such as: Which data and methods can be used for analyzing which types of issues in the longue durée? How to sample and generalize when analyzing long-term social processes with the aid of the longue durée, especially if analyses aim to be delinked and decentered? How can we methodologically assess specific temporal patterns of social change, such as trajectories, cycles or turning points which mark irreversible historical ruptures? How can we apprehend the overall duration, the timing of key events, the pace of processual change and rhythm, and/or how short-term, medium-term and long-term processes interact with one another? How can we assess causal effects when long-term social processes are involved? For example, how do these processes influence and/or explain how societies have been handling e.g. the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change or digitalization, current geopolitics, wars or social inequality, and how can we methodologically grasp these types of relationships? The session equally welcomes papers that address these issues either from a theoretical-methodological perspective or use specific empirical examples.

About the Conference

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 a **4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability ("SMUS Conference")**, which will simultaneously be the **4th RC33 Regional Conference Asia: Thailand**, and take place ***on site*** at the **Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand) from Tuesday, July 23rd, to Monday, July 29th, 2024**. The seven-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, communication studies, computational sciences, digital humanities, educational sciences, geography, historical sciences, humanities, landscape planning, philosophy, psychology, sociology, urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning). The conference programme will include keynotes, sessions and advanced methodological training courses. With this intention, we invite scholars of all social and spatial sciences and other scholars who are interested in methodological discussions to suggest an abstract to any sessions of the conference. All papers have to address a methodological problem.

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

1. Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS): https://gcsmus.org/
2. ISA RC33: http://rc33.org/
3. ESA RN21: www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods
4. Chulalongkorn University: https://www.chula.ac.th/en/

If you are interested in getting **further information on the conference** and other GCSMUS activities, please **subscribe to the SMUS newsletter** by registering via the following website: https://lists.tu-berlin.de/mailman/listinfo/mes-smusnews

Submission of Abstracts

If you are interested in **presenting a paper in any SMUS Thailand 2024 session**, please submit an **English-language abstract** containing the following information to SMUS Thailand via the official conference website (https://gcsmus.org/conferences/thailand/submission/) between **24.04.2023** and **15.08.2023.**

- Mention the Session Number and Name
- Paper Title
- Speakers (= name(s), email address(es), institutional affiliation(s))
- 100-200 Word Abstract (= short description of the proposed talk. The abstract should explain which methodological problem is addressed, why this is relevant, how the paper refers to the session and what the general line of argument will be.)
- Only one submission per individual will be entertained.

Please note that all sessions must adhere to the **rules of session organization** comprised in the RC33 statutes and GCSMUS Objectives (**see below**). Please note that you can give a **maximum of two papers** at the conference, including joint papers. The conference organizers will inform you if your proposed paper has been accepted for presentation at the conference. For further information, please see the conference website or contact the session organizers.

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

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.
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.