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Global Center of Spatial Methods for
Urban Sustainability

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Head of Local Organising Committee

Chulalongkorn University | Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Call for Abstracts (Deadline: Tuesday, 15.08.2023)

Session “Social Inequality in Field Work – Handling Researchers’ Positionality in Research”

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 “Social Inequality in Field Work – Handling Researchers’ Positionality in Research” 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. Séverine Marguin, TU Berlin (Germany), severine.marguin@tu-berlin.de
2. Nina Baur, TU Berlin (Germany), nina.baur@tu-berlin.de
3. Gabriel Faimau, University of Botswana (Botswana), faimaug@UB.AC.BW
4. Daddy Dibinga Kalamba, TU Berlin (Germany), daddy.dibinga.kalamba@tu-berlin.de



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Session Topic

In contrast to the natural sciences, the social sciences face the challenge that researchers are always part of their research field and therefore have a social position within the field – this does not only relate to one's positioning in the world system (e.g. being from the Global South or the Global North) but also to other dimensions of social inequality (e.g. class, gender, age, race and ethnicity, religion, caste etc.). The session explores how researchers' positionality does not only influence the way of doing research but also field work in the sense of how the field reacts to them. Papers in this session can either use specific research fields and localities as example or discuss specific issues on a general level. They should not only address how social inequality is related to field work but make suggestions of how to handle it, asking questions such as: Who can get access to which field and how? Who is excluded? During data collection and field work, how will the people in the field react to which type of researcher? Who is classified as insider, who as outsider and why? Which types of positionality are specific fields particularly sensitive to and why? What are the markers of this positionality (e.g. language, clothing, body types)? Is it better to be an insider, or are there specific advantages to being an outsider? What types of results do insiders and outsiders produce?

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/>



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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**.



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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.