

# IGU CDES Conference - Program



IGU COMMISSION ON "THE DYNAMICS OF ECONOMIC SPACES"  
COMMISSION DE L'UGI DES DYNAMIQUES  
DES SPACES ECONOMIQUES



ZRC SAZU  
Anton Melik  
Geographical Institute



## Rethinking the Economic Geography of Smaller Urban Places: Transformation and Well-Being in Small and Medium-Sized Towns

Wednesday, September 13, 2023,  
University of Bern, Main Building, Hochschulstrasse 4, Room 104/105

Time	Presenter(s)/Event	Title/Theme	Chair
13:00-13:30	Registration in the conference room at University of Bern		
13:30-14:00	Heike Mayer & Eva Kiss	Welcome & Introduction to Program	
14:00-15:00	Carlotta Fioretti & Discussant Loris Servillo	<b>Keynote 1:</b> Small Urban Areas in the spotlight. Navigating policy challenges and opportunities for Sustainable Urban Development in the EU	Arnault Morisson
15:00-15:15	Networking break		
15:15-16:15	Jörn Harfst & Discussant Michela Lazzeroni	<b>Keynote 2:</b> Transformations of what and how? Research perspectives on small and medium-sized towns in Europe	David Bole
16:15-16:45	Coffee break		
<b>Regional Perspective</b>			
16:45-17:15	Atle Hauge & Giuseppe Calignano	Small cities – regional motors or sponge?	Eva Kiss
17:15-17:45	Madeleine Wagner	Knowledge-intensive business services in small and medium-sized towns between borrowing size and the agglomeration shadow of large cities: Spatial patterns of the German urban system	Eva Kiss
17:45-18:30	Break		
18:30-19:30	<b>Guided City Tour of Bern</b>		
19:30-20:00	Break		
20:00-22:00	<b>Reception at Grosse Schanze</b>		

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Thursday, September 14, 2023

University of Bern, Main Building, Hochschulstrasse 4, Room 104/105

Time	Presenter(s)/Event	Title/Theme	Chair
<b>Industrial development and transformation</b>			
9:00-9:30	Anais Merckhoffer	The new role of the built environment as a connecting means to metropolitan region: the case of the industrial region of Glarus	David Bole
9:30-10:00	Eva Kiss	Industry 4.0 and manufacturing industry in Hungarian small towns	David Bole
10:00-10:30	Edilson Pereira Júnior & Regina Tunes	Articulation dynamics between urban system and industrial production system: some experiences on the role of medium-sized towns in Brazil	David Bole
10:30-11:00	Coffee break		
<b>Entrepreneurship and Innovation</b>			
11:00-11:30	Henri Hakala, Kaarina Vleru, Chukwuka Igboanua, Olli Kuivalainen	SMST Entrepreneurship: a systematic literature review of the contextual factors influencing entrepreneurship in small and medium-sized towns	Heike Mayer
11:30-12:00	Marcin Rataj & Tilda Rydgren	Local Social Capital and performance of senior entrepreneurs in Sweden	Heike Mayer
12:00-12:30	Nuri Yavan, İsra Hatipoğlu, Mehmet Ragıp Kalelioğlu, Ceyda Kurtar Anlı, Hasan Canbulat	Innovation Activities in "Thin" Regional Innovation Systems: Evidence from Medium-Sized Cities in Turkey	Heike Mayer
12:30-13:30	Lunch break		
13:30-14:30	Monika Litscher & Discussant David Bole	<b>Keynote 3:</b> Successful transformations in small and medium-sized cities: Challenges and scope for action	Heike Mayer
14:30-14:45	Networking break		
<b>Agency in small and mediumsized towns</b>			
14:45-15:15	Şükrü Yılmaz, Nuri Yavan, Robert Hassink	Tracing Path Transplantation and Opportunity Spaces in a Small-sized Town: The Case of Altınova in Yalova, Turkey	Arnault Morisson
15:15-15:45	Heidi Bergsli	Reseraching Institutional capabilities and place-based leadership in small city regions	Arnault Morisson
15:45-16:15	Coffee break		

cont.

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Time	Presenter(s)/Event	Title/Theme	Chair
		<b>Strategies and policymaking</b>	
16:15-16:45	Denise Cristina Bontempo & Carla Camila Gomes Freitas	Educational public policies as a vector of economic and population dynamism in small towns in the Northeast region of Brazil	Jani Kozina
16:45-17:15	Michael Caroll	Evaluating Viable Economic Development Policy Options for Small to Medium-Sized Towns	Jani Kozina
17:15-17:45	Kvetoslava Matlovicova & René Matlovic	Strategies of municipalities in the Slovak regions of small towns for overcoming the negative effects of the current polycrisis	Jani Kozina
17:45-19:30	Break		
19:30-22:00	Conference Dinner at Rosengarten Restaurant		

## Keynote Speakers



### Dr. Carlotta Fioretti

Carlotta Fioretti is a researcher in territorial and urban policies, with a focus on place-based, strategic and integrated development. She is expert for the European Urban Initiative and previously researcher at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission where she has contributed to numerous research projects aimed at promoting sustainable urban development in the European Union. In addition, she also researched and taught urban policy and planning at several public and private institutions, including Roma Tre University, Cornell University, Sciences Po and Pablo de Olavide University.



### Dr. Jörn Harfst

Jörn Harfst is Geographer and a research associate at the University of Graz (Austria). He holds a PhD from the University of Hannover (GER) and has studied both at the Universities of Hamburg (Germany) and Southampton (UK). He has a long academic track-record connected to the development of small and medium-sized towns in Europe. His major research interests are regional development issues, regional governance and European networking processes.



### Dr. Monika Litscher

Dr. Monika Litscher is Vice-Director of the Swiss Association of Cities. She has extensive experience with urban development in research and practice. She holds a PhD in cultural anthropology from the University of Zurich.

# IGU CDES Conference - Program

Friday, September 15, 2023  
Kongresshaus, Biel/Bienne, Workshop 1 & 2

Time	Presenter(s)/Event	Title/Theme	Chair
8:15	Transfer by bus to Biel/Bienne		
		<b>Green economy in SMSTs</b>	
9:30-10:00	Mengcheng Li	Ecological transition for economic growth: Green development and international cooperation in a small Chinese city	Ottavia Cima
		<b>Labour and SMSTs</b>	
10:00-10:30	Kimsa Maradan, Christophe Gironde, Olivier Crevoisier	From the informality approach to the plurality of occupational relationships: The contribution of labour to emerging economies, specifically in Ha Tien, Vietnam	Ottavia Cima
10:30-11:00	Coffee break		
		<b>City image and new sectors</b>	
11:00-11:30	Neil Reid	Craft Breweries and their Role in Revitalizing American Small Towns	Maruša Goluža
		<b>Shrinking SMSTs</b>	
11:30-12:00	Tadeusz Stryjakiewicz	Shrinkage and regeneration of medium-sized industrial towns in Poland – lessons from the past and new challenges	Maruša Goluža
12:15-13:15	Lunch break at La Rotonde in Biel		
13:15-17:00	Excursion	Biel: A multicultural and innovative medium-sized city in Switzerland. Visit of Terrain Gurzelen, Kulturfabrik & Switzerland Innovation Park.	
17:00-18:00	Transfer by bus back to Bern		