

Call for Abstracts (Deadline: 13.06.2022)

Session “Spatial Dynamics of Violence: Qualitative Methodologies and Discussions”

at the 2nd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS Conference) &
1st RC33 Regional Conference Latin America: Brazil, 08–10.09.2022,
Online-Conference hosted by the University of São Paulo (Brazil)

Dear Colleagues,

We hereby invite you to submit an abstract for the Session “Spatial Dynamics of Violence: Qualitative Methodologies and Discussions” at the at the “2nd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (“SMUS Conference”), which will simultaneously be the “1st RC33 Regional Conference Latin America: Brazil” and take place online at the University of São Paulo (Brazil) from Thursday, September 8th, to Saturday, September 10th, 2022.

Session Organizers

Eva Bahl (University of Vienna, Austria/University of Goettingen, Germany, ebahl@uni-goettingen.de)

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Session Topic

In this session, we are interested in examining the spatial dynamics of violence from the perspective of the sociology of violence, biographical research, and interpretative methodology. We will inquire into the chances of a research approach that 1. considers the perspectives of individuals as well as of different groupings (following Norbert Elias), 2. locates violence in its socio-historical and spatial contexts including the figurations of various groupings, and 3. includes power relations and power balances in the analysis. While much sociological research on violence has focused on investigating its causes, we would like to put the focus on violence in the narrow sense of the word: the social dynamics around the “contestable giving of physical hurt” (Riches



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1986:2). This session goes beyond a normative perspective and strives to understand the interactive dynamics of violence that may create, preserve and/or destroy “social order”. Special attention will be paid to the history and experiences of the individuals involved – victims, perpetrators, and witnesses/bystanders, as well as their respective spatial locations. Space – which in this session is of interest in its interdependencies with violence and power relations – must be understood as socially constructed space that is constituted by human action and that can thus also be virtual or stretch along family or other networks transregionally or transnationally. This concept of space is not limited to a geographical location and has become a much-used reference point in the social sciences in recent decades. Associated with it is the realization that it is inadequate to understand space only as the material background of social processes. Rather, according to the proponents of this spatial sociological turn, it is necessary to focus on how space and the perspectives and interactions of those who use it are interrelated and mutually dependent. Consequently, we think it is promising to increasingly use a dialectical perspective on violence and on space, that is centered on the permanent intertwining of individuals and collective processes. To this end, we invite papers that are based on empirical research and address the following questions, among others: (a) What empirical findings are there concerning the connections between (socially constructed) space and phenomena of violence? (b) What possibilities are there for approaching “spaces of violence” using the methods of interpretative social research? What challenges and difficulties are encountered? (c) What are the interdependencies between spaces of violence and collective belongings? (d) What empirical studies are being conducted on spatial and violent dynamics in different regions of the world and different social contexts? (e) How can we study spatial figurations of social groupings and the respective power disparities in violent or armed conflicts? (f) What role do spatial experiences of violent conditions play as part of everyday life? And what roles do they play in an individual’s collective, familial and personal history?

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 the **“2nd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (“SMUS Conference”)**, which will simultaneously be the **“1st RC33 Regional Conference Latin America: Brazil”**, and take place **online at the University of São Paulo (Brazil) from Thursday, September 8th, to Saturday, September 10th, 2022**. The three-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 online conference programme will include keynotes,



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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 **SMUS Brazil 2022 Conference** on:

<https://gcsmus.org/conferences/brazil/>

Information about the above institutions may be found on the following websites:

- Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS): <https://gcsmus.org/>
- ISA RC33: <http://rc33.org/>
- ESA RN21: www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods
- University of São Paulo: <https://www5.usp.br>

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 at this session**, please **submit an English-language abstract** containing the following information to SMUS Brazil 2022 via <https://smusbrazil2022.sinteseeventos.com.br/> between 01.04.2022 and 13.06.2022:

- Title of (at maximum two) preferred session(s)
- Paper title
- Author(s) (= name(s), gender(s), institutional affiliation(s), position(s), country(ies), email address(es))
- 300- to 500-Word Abstract (= short description of the proposed paper. The abstract should make explicit (i) the methodological problem addressed, (ii) why this is relevant, (iii) how the paper relates to the session, and (iv) what the general line of argument will be.)

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 by **31.07.2022** whether the proposed paper has been accepted for presentation at the conference. For further information please see the SMUS Brazil 2022 conference website or contact the session organizers.

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

Best wishes,

Eva Bahl and Martín Hernán di Marco



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Rules for Session Organization (According to GCSMUS Objectives and RC 33 Statutes)

1. There will be no conference fees.
2. The conference language is English, although some of the activities are going to be simultaneously translated into Portuguese. All papers therefore need to be presented in English.
3. All sessions have to be international: Each session should have speakers from at least two countries (exceptions will need good reasons).
4. Each paper must contain a methodological problem (any area, qualitative or quantitative).
5. There will be several calls for abstracts via the GCSMUS, 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.
6. GCSMUS, RC33 and RN21 members may distribute these calls via other channels. GCSMUS members and session organizers are expected to actively advertise their session in their respective scientific communities.
7. 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.
8. Session organizers may present a paper in their own session.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.