

Call for papers

Special issue: Higher Education Institutions and (sustainable) regional development

Description

The influence of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on the economic development of their surrounding regions is a topic of special interest and a prevalent object of studies and discussions in regional sciences. Regions benefit from HEIs' and their students' expenditures, from university graduates improving the human capital endowment or from university spin-offs and spill-overs. Furthermore, there are many discussions about the "third mission" - HEIs' dealing with a myriad of different transfers from universities to the region and about the engagement of HEIs' as well as their co-responsibility for regional development. Generally, HEIs are expected to be, and perceived as a key competitive advantage for the regions in which they are located. But in addition to the mentioned economically-oriented effects, there is a starting discussion in regional science about whether and to what extent HEIs can influence the regional transition path towards sustainability. It is supposed that HEIs can have impacts on the ecological, economic and social sustainability of the region where they are embedded. Sustainable regional development is understood as an integrative approach with the aim of improving quality of human living while simultaneously maintaining the capacity of the joint economy-environment system. However, there is still a lack of research and empirical evidence concerning these contributions of universities to sustainability-related regional development.

Aims and objectives:

This special issue wants to bring together interdisciplinary research which deals with the various contributions of HEIs on their surrounding region and/or the interaction of HEIs and their regional environments. This implies research on the effects of knowledge transfer, regionally-focused teaching and research activities, but also on the role of HEIs in regional governance and network structures and regional sustainable development. This special issue welcomes conceptual papers as well as single and comparative case studies which support the understanding of the role(s) of HEIs in regional (sustainable) development processes.

Suggested topics:

Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- Critical reflections of different models of university engagement and their impact on regional (sustainable) development
- Regional economic impacts of HEIs' knowledge transfer activities (e.g. graduates, spin-off foundations, HEI-industry cooperation)
- Regional social effects (e.g. access to higher education, further education opportunities, lifelong learning opportunities) as well as ecological effects (e.g. HEIs as a role model for sustainable management practices and operations, expertise/consultation/knowledge transfer in fields of climate change and renewable energy transition) of HEIs due to organisational transformation and systemic change processes
- Critical reflections on how HEIs can contribute to regional sustainability transition/transformation pathways
- The influence of the regional environment and regional governance structures on the role HEIs play for the region they are located in
- Presentation of tools/indicators/frameworks which are appropriate to measure and evaluate HEIs' contributions to (sustainable) regional development

Submission instructions:

- All papers submitted will be subject to the normal double blind peer reviewing process undertaken by the journal
- All submitted papers must not be under review by any other journal
- Please submit your papers direct via the **journals website** (<http://openjournals.wu.ac.at/region/>). When submitting your paper, please select the special issue on “Higher Education Institutions and regional (sustainable) development” in the journal section for submission. For more information on the submission process please visit:
<http://openjournals.wu.ac.at/region/How%20to%20submit%20a%20paper%20to%20REGION.pdf>
- **Deadline** for the submission: 31.07.2019. Note, that articles will be entered into the review process upon submission so that delays are kept to a minimum.

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