INTERPRETIVE POLICY ANALYSIS CONFERENCE 2021

Panel Title:
P6 - Shifting the frames: COVID-19 and the place of 'space'

Panel Convenors:
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COVID-19 has disrupted many assumptions about the spatial orderings of work, home and citizenship. This panel invites contributors to explore ways of interpreting such disruptions and their possible consequence for the analytical framing of research and/or policy making.

There has been extensive media discussion about how far the flowering of neighbourhood-based support networks might prefigure a new phase of activist citizenship, sometimes mediated by local councils or mediating organisations, sometimes emerging in 'abandoned' localities. Discussion has also concerned the ways in which the reconfiguration of home and work might impact on local economies, fundamentally shifting spatial patterns and relationships.

The aim of this panel is to tease out productive conceptual ways of framing such dynamics in order to inform future research and policy agendas.

We would welcome papers that examine one or more of three sets of questions:

- How might we understand the spatial and temporal dynamics of the rise of local mutual aid and other support networks in response to the pandemic? Do the traditional concepts of community governance, active citizenship and relational labour offer appropriate framings for analysing these developments? What alternative concepts might be helpful?

- How might we frame the shifts in the spatial relations of 'home', household and work? For example, how have the boundaries between caring, intimate lives and paid work been disrupted? How might these disruptions map onto different forms of work (paid and unpaid), diverse local economies, and intersecting social divisions? And how might these new framings of work and home shape future policy agendas?

- What reframings of government and 'governance' might flow from the emerging spatial imaginaries that the pandemic has produced? For example, how might the pandemic challenge existing notions of centralisation/decentralisation, network governance, digital governance and so on?