



Dear Colleagues,

Under the general topic “*Social Progress for Resilient Regions*” the 57th ERSA Congress (Groningen, 29th Aug – 01st Sept) hosts an extensive range of themes on spatial, regional and urban economics, economic geography and regional policies. Within this context, we are pleased to invite all interested researchers to present their latest research contributions on *labor market polarization* in the Special Session “*Modern approaches to regional labor market polarization*”. We organize this Special Session to highlight the importance of job polarization on the ongoing regional restructuring. Recent literature documents the diverse impact of polarization on the social, economic and cultural structure of modern regions and can potentially lead to either their expansion or shrinkage. Therefore, it poses a major challenge for sub-national economic development which calls for place-based growth strategies.

Acknowledging the above we cordially invite all researchers who are interested in presenting their contribution on the versatile forces that shape modern regional labor markets and polarization in particular. The main topics include –not exclusively- the following:

- ✚ Determinants of polarization and mediating factors at the regional level
- ✚ Modern approaches to trace polarization linked to the task content of occupations
- ✚ Major differences (economic, social, cultural etc.) between polarized and non-polarized regions and which condition favors long – term employment growth.

We aim to stimulate an interdisciplinary debate and therefore we invite colleagues who adopt innovative approaches and conclude on practical and realistic policy implications on regional labor market development. We inform all interested scholars that the submission process opens on the 16th of December. Below you can find important deadlines:

- February 10th: Initial submission for the Special Session. This can take place either in a form of an extended abstract (1500 words including contribution, theoretical framework, empirical approach and / or first results) or a draft paper between 5.000 and 10.000 words.
- June 9th 2017: All presenters need to have uploaded a full draft paper.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

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