

Call for Papers

Special Issue of **Geography Research Forum** (GRF) <http://www.geog.bgu.ac.il/GRF>

"Smart and Sustainable Cities"

Recently the Smart City model is gaining recognition as a preferred development framework all over the world, including most of the larger cities in Israel. Despite numerous broader definitions, the Israeli model is primarily technological, positioning "city smartness" as a goal instead of a vehicle for urban development. This perception is shared by governmental entities, subsequently translated into budgets and policy guidelines. While technology is certainly acknowledged as a leading driver for economic growth on the national level, it has not succeeded in overcoming social and environmental challenges on the local levels. On the contrary, economic disparity is growing, housing is less accessible, Bio-capacity is deteriorating and air pollution is growing.

On the other hand, at this point in time, nations and global institutions are purporting sustainability as a comprehensive development framework, translated into 17 development goals for 2030. Nations around the world are realizing that this is a time of balances, where development has to find new ways of addressing social and environmental challenges so as to assure the wellbeing of all. Technology is one of the key drivers for attaining this challenging objective, but it should be managed so as to promote social and environmental values and not to determine them.

In the last 100 years the world's urban population multiplied, while environmental resiliency has decreased exponentially, CO₂ in the atmosphere has surpassed several red lines, reaching 400ppm. These trends express the complexity of predicting and managing development trends, national and local. In view of the ever-present change, sustainable development has become the framework for future development. Smart urban development processes are in essence strategies for sustainability, enhancing quality of life in line with UN HABITAT target declaring – Sustainable and Inclusive Cities. Smart city processes are designed to improve local capacity and performance, and undoubtedly, sustainability is a central axis in these endeavors. As broad and comprehensive effort is required at this point in time, with climate and security challenges amassing, urban decision makers need to have access to the optimal tools in order to pursue sustainability.

Some of the proposed research topics that are invited for this special issue include, but are not limited to:

- Resilience in a smart city
- Climate mitigation and adaptation in the city
- Nature based urban innovation
- Smart and sustainable building and infrastructure
- Urban agriculture, food security, food supply chain, urban metabolism
- Smart mobility, Mobility as a Service (MaaS), urban logistics
- Data governance, data ethics, open data models
- Digital products life cycle and the impact of technology on urban life
- Crowd-sourcing, citizen science
- New models for public-private partnerships
- Circular systems, sharing economy

Timeline

September 1, 2019: Call for papers announced.

November 1, 2019: Submission of expanded abstract (~500 words) for initial screening.

December 1, 2019: Initial screening decisions based on abstracts.

February 1, 2020: Full paper submission.

April 1, 2020: First round of decisions (reviews, rejects, and desk rejects).

June 1, 2020: Resubmission deadline.

July 1, 2020: Second round of decisions (rejects, second review).

August 1, 2020: Final resubmission deadline.

September 1, 2020: Final decision or minor revisions handled by editors only.

December 31, 2020: Scheduled publication

- Author Guidelines can be found here:

<http://raphael.geography.ad.bgu.ac.il/ojs/index.php/GRF/about/submissions>

- Abstracts and manuscripts should be submitted to Smart.Sustainable.Cities.Issue@gmail.com with "Submission to GRF Special Issue" included at the beginning of the subject line.

- All correspondence and questions regarding the special issue can be directed to any of the guest editors or sent to Smart.Sustainable.Cities.Issue@gmail.com with "Correspondence for GRF Special Issue" included at the beginning of the subject line.

Guest Editors

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