

Call for Regional Studies Association Blogs

The Algorithmic Regions: Are our Spaces Becoming Faster, Smarter, or Better, or Simply More Automated?

Artificial intelligence is increasingly becoming part of everyday life, reshaping how places are planned, governed, experienced, and worked in. From smart-city infrastructure, predictive systems, and surveillance to AI-assisted planning and digital twins, computational systems are becoming embedded in how spaces function and how life decisions are made. At the same time, the role of AI in workplaces, alongside protracted regulatory responses and frameworks across governing nations, raises questions about automation, employment, worker protections, accountability for invisible human labour, and the tensions between human creativity and AI-generated or replicated creative work. These developments raise a broader question: **are our regions becoming faster, smarter, or better, or simply more automated?**

On the other side, the geographical implications of AI extend beyond the Algorithmic technologies embedded within physical cities, with Generative AI, Large Language Models, and virtual environments creating new ways of producing, representing, and experiencing space, blurring the boundaries between physical, digital, and AI-generated worlds.

The Algorithmic Regions invites contributors to examine how artificial intelligence is impacting living spaces, governance, and the meaning of space.

Contributors might explore:

- **How is AI changing the way cities are planned, governed, and managed?**
Smart cities, predictive systems, digital twins, surveillance, and algorithmic decision-making.
- **What happens when AI and automation enter employment spaces, and who bears the cost?**
Job displacement, changing forms of work, pressures of developing new skills, and the uneven distribution of the benefits and costs of automation, contentious discussions about humans' creative skills vs AI's replication or creation
- **Who regulates AI at work, and what protections should workers have?**
Regulation of AI in workplaces, algorithmic management, worker rights, and accountability

- **Who benefits from the algorithmic regions and who is left behind?**
Inequality, accessibility, digital divides, companies vs communities, and spatial justice.
- **How is AI changing our experience and understanding of space?**
Public space, mobility, housing, AI-generated representations, virtual environments, and the relationship between physical and digital cities
- **Where do the regions end when AI creates new spaces beyond the physical?**
Large language models, virtual worlds, simulated environments, and emerging forms of AI-mediated social and spatial interaction.

The call welcomes contributions to these questions but is not limited to new interpretations of the theme. Please feel free to reach out with an expression of interest.

Word limit: 800 words

Bio: 50 words with social media or academic handles

Submit to: RSAblog@regionalstudies.org

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