

Message to the City and to the World in a Resilience Context

Feb 22, 2022, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

GCUA Auditorium

(Hybrid event with an option to join a live session through Zoom)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83329713430?pwd=OWUxbVpRdG5SUnBkV0hRVHkzVDJIUT09>

Cities face a growing range of adversities and challenges in the 21st century, from the effects of climate change to growing migrant populations to inadequate infrastructure to pandemics to cyber-attacks. These shocks make the steady and sustainable growth of cities and regions hard and more complicated in the long run. So now more than ever, the renewed focus on Urban Resilience is essential. Resilience helps cities adapt and transform in the face of these challenges, helping them prepare for both the expected and the unexpected.

Building urban resilience requires looking at a city holistically: understanding the systems that make up the city and the interdependencies and risks they may face. By strengthening the underlying fabric of a city and better understanding the potential shocks and stresses it may face, a city can improve its development trajectory and the well-being of its citizens.

In this context, the quality of place measured by the livability of a region gains more popularity as the base of place-based policies and sub-local well-being initiatives. Pandemics such as COVID-19 and the unprepared shock in the local labor market will put our cities and regions into a difficult situation to sustain our stable growth. Consequently, developing a clear understanding of where we are heading and how the new paths would lead us becomes a vital first step to enhancing the resilience of cities and regions.

Four invited speakers will discuss the ongoing and expected changes in these paths amid growing uncertainty and suggest the potential policy implications for our sustainable growth in the future.

City Love and Place Quality: Assessment of Liveable and Loveable Neighbourhoods in Rotterdam

by Peter Nijkamp, Open University of The Netherlands

After the worldwide interest in global sustainability and climate change challenges, increasing concerns are voiced on local quality of life and neighborhood liveability. In recent urban studies, human well-being, satisfaction, and happiness studies are gaining much popularity in a local context (the ‘microcosmic city’). The present study seeks to identify the determinants of the residents’ appreciation for their daily environment, called ‘*city love*.’ The latter concept captures both tangible or material aspects of city life (‘*body*’) and immaterial and emotional dimensions of local quality of life (‘*soul*’). The present paper seeks to develop and test a new quantitative ‘*city love*’ concept, inspired by the *soul* and *body* conceptualization of urban attractiveness for residents and visitors – based on a novel ‘*feelgood*’ index (FGI) and a ‘*human habitat*’ index (HHI), to map out the citizens’ contentment or appreciation (called *neighborhood love index* – NLI) at a district or neighborhood scale in the city of Rotterdam. Our study utilizes data from a quantitative survey among thousands of residents in 63 neighborhoods in this city. In addition, the Rotterdam dataset contains not only survey data but also

register data on these neighborhoods, e.g., real-estate values, crime statistics, and socio-demographics. At the same time, geographical information from OpenStreetMap (OSM) is added as a complement. In addition to a multivariate analysis of the rich data set, the paper also employs a quantile regression analysis extended with fixed effects. The results show that the coefficients of the *feelgood index* (FGI) and the *human habitat index* (HHI) decrease slightly as we move up the distribution of the *neighborhood love index* (NLI). This means that physical and functional aspects of neighborhoods, e.g., access to such amenities as public transportation, sports facilities, and streets with diverse attractions or bikeable and walkable road networks, become more important for the lower end of the distribution of the *neighborhood love index* (NLI). Our neighborhood-specific analyses show that the Rotterdam districts and neighborhoods differ substantially in many physical and social-emotional respects, which calls for place-based policies and sub-local well-being initiatives.

Place-Specific Corona Dashboards for Health Policy: Design and Application of a ‘Dutchboard’

by Karima Kourtit, Open University of The Netherlands

Since the coronavirus outbreak at the end of 2019, many worldwide attempts have been made to monitor and control the COVID-19 pandemic. A wealth of empirical data has been collected and used by national health authorities to understand and mitigate the spread and impacts of the coronavirus. In various countries, this serious health concern has led to corona dashboards monitoring the COVID-19 evolution. The present study aims to design and test an extended corona dashboard, in which—besides up-to-date daily core data on infections, hospital and intensive care admissions, and numbers of deceased people, the evolution of vaccinations in a country is mapped out. Next, this dashboard system is extended with time-dependent contextual information on lockdown and policy stringency measures. In contrast, disaggregate information on the geographic spread of the COVID-19 disease is provided by means of big data on contact intensity and mobility motives based on detailed Google Mobility data. Finally, this context-specific corona dashboard, called ‘Dutchboard,’ is further extended.

Automation in Service Industry and Economic Resilience of Nevada

by Euijune Kim, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea (visiting Scholar to UNLV)

Jaewon Lim, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The private services-producing industries in the U.S. account for roughly 66.5% of the U.S. GDP and 86.1% of total nonfarm jobs. Tourism-related businesses are the largest category among the U.S. service sector industries, including recreational and cultural services. Unlike other types of private services, e.g., professional and business services, a large portion of the tourism-related services happens in tourism destinations. Consumers travel to a destination to spend, and the tourism-related export service occurs at the origin point of the export. This benefits local economies through inter-industrial linkages within the tourism destination and broadly defined regional economy through inter-regional and inter-industrial linkages. This paper examines how the local economies of a popular tourism destination would respond to the job losses in the local labor market from the transition towards automation in the service industry. The authors developed a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model to identify how the industrial restructuring in the tourism industry in Nevada due to automation affects household income, regional

resilience, and the overall welfare of Nevada. Based on counter-factual scenarios with the workforce retraining policies, this paper measures shock absorption through countervailing effects of the policy intervention. Findings in this paper provide the viable and adaptive policy paths to minimize the shock on the local labor market by enhancing regional resilience.

Short bio sketch of presenters:

Professor Peter Nijkamp

Dr. Peter Nijkamp is emeritus Professor in regional and urban economics and in economic geography at the VU University and associated with The Open University of the Netherlands (OU), Heerlen (The Netherlands), and the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Iasi (Romania). He has published more than 2000 articles and books in the field of regional development, urban growth, transport and the environment. According to the RePec list he belongs to the top-25 of well-known economists world-wide. He is a fellow of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW). He has served as president of the governing board of the Netherlands Research Council (NWO). In 1996, he was awarded the most prestigious scientific prize in the Netherlands, the Spinoza award. Currently, he is vice-president of The Regional Science Academy (TRSA) and involved in many international research activities.



Professor Karima Kourtit



Dr. Karima Kourtit is at the Open University, Heerlen, The Netherlands. She was lab-owner at the Jheronimus Academy of Data Science (JADS) of the division Smart Cities & Data analytics (owned by the Eindhoven University of Technology and Tilburg University), 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands. She has worked at the Center for the Future of Places (CFP) of the Department of Urban Planning and Environment, School of Architecture and Built Environment at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, and Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland. She holds two Ph.D.s, in both economics and geography (with distinction), and has a profound interest in regional and urban topics. Her research interest focuses on the emerging 'New Urban World'. Her main scientific research is in the field of creative industries, urban development, cultural heritage, digital technology, and strategic performance management. Lately, she has also been involved in the implementation of several national and international research projects and initiatives. Furthermore, she has been an editor of several books and guest editor for many international journals, and has published a wide array of scientific articles, papers, special issues of journals and edited volumes in the field of geography and the spatial sciences. She is also managing director of The Regional Science Academy.

In summary, her academic profile is characterized by a profound involvement in evidence-based urban and spatial research on smart city policy and data metrics, by a strong commitment to educational support to young researchers and by an active role in many international scientific and managerial activities.

Professor Euijune Kim



Dr. Euijune Kim is Professor of Spatial Economics at Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development and Integrated Program in Regional Studies and Spatial Analytics, Seoul National University. He previously worked at Yonsei University (Korea) as a Professor of Urban Planning and Engineering for nine years, and as a Research Fellow of Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements for five years. Professor Kim was the president of the Korean Regional Science Association in 2014/15 and has served as a chief editor for *Annals of Regional Science* (2006-2019), one of leading regional science publications in the world and *International Journal of Urban Science* (2015-2017), and as an associate editor for the *Journal of Economic Structures*, *New Frontiers in Regional Science*, and the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Regional Science*. He is also a visiting professor at Regional Economics Applications Laboratory, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the US, Kyushu University at Fukuoka in Japan, and the University of Hong Kong. His recent research interests focus on spatial economic analysis on infrastructure development of the Korean Peninsula, diffusion of natural disaster and COVID-19, housing market and policy, and urban economic resilience in an applied general equilibrium framework. He is currently working as a visiting research professor for the School of Public Policy & Leadership in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

Professor Jaewon Lim

Dr. Jaewon Lim is an Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator in the School of Public Policy and Leadership in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He is also serving as a Brookings Mountain West Senior Fellow. Dr. Lim earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Regional Planning, focusing on developing and using analytical models for urban and regional forecasting and economic development. His research interests concern urban/regional demographic and economic analysis with the tools of spatial analysis on the topics of sustainable economic development through R&D activities, technology transfer, and workforce development. His current research evolves towards the further investigation on one of the most fundamental issues in population geography and economic geography, ‘do people follow job?’ or ‘do jobs follow people?’ Dr. Lim is currently serving as the Executive Director of Western Regional Science Association (WRSA), a voting member for North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) of Regional Science Association International (RSAI), and a counselor for Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization (PRSCO) of RSAI. He also serves as an associate editor for *Annals of Regional Science* and on the editorial board for the *International Journal of Urban Sciences*, and *Culture and Politics*.

