

Call for Special Issue Proposals

In “Raumforschung und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning” special issues are published at irregular intervals. Proposals for future special issues may be submitted to the editors-in-chief at any time.

1. Disciplinary perspectives and topics

The proposals should tackle current spatial development and planning issues from the perspective of spatial planning sciences, social sciences (political science, sociology and economics), economic and social geography, and/or from a legal perspective. Possible topics include spatial planning, spatial and urban development (policy), spatial governance on all geographical scales, landscape development, sustainable development, adaptation to climate change, mobility and spatial infrastructures. Both empirical and more strongly conceptual/theoretical topics may be selected.

Proposals for a special issue should be outlined on one or two pages. Individuals and teams of up to three people may apply. Particularly welcome are teams whose members are based at different universities and/or non-university research institutes or who work in different disciplines. The planned special issue may be published in German or English.

2. Decision procedure

After submission the proposals for a special issue are evaluated by the editors of the journal and members of the journal’s editorial board. The evaluation criteria include the situating of the topic in the academic debate, the originality and novelty of the topic as well as further assessments of members of the editorial board. The decision to accept or reject a proposal is made by the editors.

3. Recruitment of authors

After a special issue proposal has been accepted, there are two processes by which authors may be attracted:

Open Call for Papers in German and English

Authors for the special issue are sought through the publication of a Call for Papers on the journal’s website (under “About”/“Supplementary Materials”), on the publishers’ websites (ARL, IfL, ILS, IOER, IRS) and via newsletters and other platforms.

Targeted Call for Papers in German and English

Such a call is directed primarily towards participants of a conference, session or workshop hosted by the initiators of the special issue.

In both cases interested authors are requested to submit a structured abstract (with a working title, research questions, original value, methodology and expected findings) of one page in length to the initiators of the special issue. The decision on whether to accept the proposed paper for the special issue is made by the initiators in cooperation with the editors-in-chief. If an abstract is received positively, the authors are requested to submit a full paper in accordance with the journal's Instructions for Authors. The full paper then undergoes the usual double-blind peer review procedure. The Editorial is exempt from this procedure and is separately prepared by the initiators of the special issue.

4. Cooperation between editors-in-chief and special issue initiators

The initiators of the chosen proposal organise the special issue as guest editors in cooperation with the editors-in-chief of the journal. Their responsibilities include:

- Formulating the Call for Papers for the special issue
- Selecting the papers to be included in the special issue based on the structured, one-page abstracts submitted for consideration, in cooperation with the editors-in-chief
- Preparing the editorial

5. Application of the Instructions for Authors

Papers may be submitted as "Beitrag/Article" or as "Politik- und Praxis-Perspektive/Policy and practice perspective" (see sections 1.1, 1.2 and 3.8 of the Instructions for authors). Furthermore, formalities, terms of submission, review process, publication costs (APCs), ethical guidelines and plagiarism apply as laid out in the Instructions for Authors.

Please send your proposals by email to the address below. The editor-in-chief of the journal, Prof. Dr. Andreas Klee, will be happy to answer any questions that should arise.

We look forward to your proposals!

Prof. Dr. Andreas Klee

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