



IGU CDES Conference

Hosted by

**Faculty of Human Geography and Planning
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań (Poland)**

[Conference website](#)

THEME

**GEOPOLITICAL TURBULENCES, ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND
THE RECONFIGURATION OF ECONOMIC SPACES**

September 16–18, 2025, Poznań, Poland



Photo by Stanisław Szewczyk

Call for papers

Over long periods, natural, social and economic environments have changed quite slowly, with only occasional, relatively short but severe crises. Under such circumstances, economic systems and actors were able to adapt their structures and operations effectively. Recent years, however, have been marked by sudden and recurring shocks that significantly shattered the global economy, demanded more complex and faster responses from different economic actors, and rearranged economic spaces. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the world economy and triggered a significant global economic crisis. The far-reaching consequences of the pandemic included, among others, a slump in financial markets and shortages of numerous consumer goods and commodities. Shortly afterwards, the Russian aggression against Ukraine led to further economic turmoil across geographies, resulting from increased food insecurities and poverty, especially in the most vulnerable places of the world. In addition, geopolitical turbulences related to the USA-China tensions and the migration crisis arising in various regions of the world further extended the long list of significant contemporary challenges. Needless to say, increasingly intense environmental problems such as climate change, soil degradation, resource depletion, and biodiversity loss, have raised even more doubts about the sustainability of the predominant economic growth model.

All these geopolitical, environmental and economic developments have miscellaneous geographical manifestations that increasingly attract scholars' attention. Owing to these developments, relevant changes take place and can be observed on different spatial levels and in different economic sectors and organizations that are trying to adapt to new circumstances.

Despite academic efforts to take an economic geography perspective on the reconfiguration of economic spaces resulting from contemporary geopolitical turbulences and environmental challenges, many issues seek further attention and scrutiny. **The 2025 IGU CDES Conference invites papers on the following topics, including but not limited to:**

- Changes and rearrangements in the global production chains and their regional and local consequences,
- New trends in international capital flows, the role of MNCs,
- Geopolitical shifts and their geographical implications,
- Adaptation strategies and resilience of communities and economic actors at different spatial scales when confronted with global economic and environmental challenges,
- Consequences of contemporary economic and environmental changes, particularly for the Global South,
- The impacts of environmental policies and challenges on the change of economic structures and the transformation of energy systems,

- Technological developments (AI and the fourth industrial revolution) and digitalization: economic, environmental and spatial impacts,
- The role of place-specific cultures, values, consumption and production patterns in designing and implementing sustainability transition,
- Governing sustainability transition,
- Theoretical, conceptual and methodological approaches to the changing dynamics of economic spaces.

Please send your abstract to: cdes2025@amu.edu.pl

Abstract: max. 250 words, 4 to 6 keywords, name and affiliation.

Key dates:

- **Abstract Submission Deadline: May 15, 2025**
- Notification of acceptance: June 2, 2025
- Registration closes: July 1, 2025
- Preliminary Program: mid-July 2025
- Final Program: beginning of August 2025
- Conference starts: September 16, 2025
- Submission of full papers for the edited book: November 30, 2025 (details later). The planned book will be published by a recognized publisher, and it will be an indexed publication (Scopus/WoS).

Travel grants

Young scholars under 35 can apply for a travel grant (max. USD 500) to participate in the conference. The applicants must provide a document confirming their age and an invoice to prove the travel expenses. An essential condition is the acceptance of the abstract and its presentation. Preference will be given to applicants from developing countries. Reimbursement will be made on-site.

Registration

The conference will only be held in-person.

All participants are required to make the registration.

Regular conference fee: 275 € (including VAT and local taxes)

Reduced conference fee: 225 € (including VAT and local taxes)

- The reduced conference fee is only available for students and doctoral candidates. Please send a proof of your status to the organizers (cdes2025@amu.edu.pl).
- The registration fee includes coffee breaks, lunches, welcome reception, dinner and conference materials as well as the participation in the field trip.
- Details about payment: The conference fee can only be paid by bank transfer (payment details will be provided on the registration form)

Local organizing committee

Dr hab. Robert Kudłak, AMU prof., Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, AMU, Poznań

Prof. Tadeusz Stryjakiewicz, Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, AMU, Poznań

Dr hab. Michał Męczyński, AMU prof., Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, AMU, Poznań

Dr hab. Piotr Pachura, CUT prof., Czestochowa University of Technology

Dr Bartłomiej Kołsut, Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, AMU, Poznań

Dr Julia Kaczmarek-Khubnaia, Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, AMU, Poznań

Dr Michał Dzięcielski, Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, AMU, Poznań

Bartosz Doszczeczko (doctoral student), Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, AMU, Poznań

Keynote speakers

1. **Prof. Gavin Bridge, Durham University, UK.**
2. **Marcin Rzepczyński, Volkswagen Group Poland.**



Prof. Gavin Bridge

Professor of Economic Geography at Durham University and Fellow of the Durham Energy Institute. His research concerns the organisational forms of economic globalisation and their uneven geographical consequences, with a focus on the politics and governance of extractive industries. Gavin's long-term engagement with the extractive sector has led to work on the geographies and geopolitics of energy transition, including co-founding the Royal Geographical Society's Energy Geographies Research Group. He recently led a large collaborative project on transformation in the UK oil sector funded by UK Research and Innovation; and he is currently working with the UK Energy Research Centre on low carbon supply chains and the geopolitics of energy security & net zero. His previous research on resources, infrastructures and decarbonisation has been funded by the US National Science Foundation, National Geographic Society, Leverhulme Trust, British Academy, Swedish Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, Newton Fund and EU's Horizon 2020 programme. Books include *Oil*, the *Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*, and *Energy and Society: A Critical Perspective*.



Marcin Rzepczyński

Mr. Rzepczyński has more than twenty years of experience in the automotive sector. Currently, he serves as a Sales Director of the CUPRA and SEAT brands (part of the Volkswagen Group Poland) in Poland. During his work for the VW GP, he was responsible, among others, for establishing and developing the sales network, launching marketing campaigns and distribution strategy, and introducing tools for market assessment and development.

He is a graduate of the Faculty of Geographical and Geological Science at the Adam Mickiewicz University. He also holds a degree from the Warsaw School of Economics in management of the automotive sector.

Field trip

Visit in the Volkswagen factory located in Września, about a one-hour drive from Poznań. The factory was launched in 2016, and it can produce up to 100 thousand cars per year. The guided tour will highlight the factory's operations, technological advancements in the industry as well as changes related, among others, to environmental policies affecting the automotive sector. Participation in the trip is covered by the registration fee. Duration: 6-7 hours, including travel to the factory and return to Poznań (about 19.00).

Venue

The IGU CDES miniconference will take place at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, ul. Krygowskiego 10 (AMU Campus)

How to get to Poznań

Poznań can be easily reached by air or train.

If you decide to travel by plane, Poznań is directly connected to many major destinations in Europe – Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Munich, Manchester, Paris, Liverpool, London-Stansted, Birmingham, Bristol, Brussels, Dublin (to name some of them).

Poznań is also conveniently connected with Warsaw and Berlin by railway.

Accommodation

Accommodation must be booked individually and is not covered by the registration fee.

Below please find some suggested hotels located in the city center, with a good public transport connection to the conference venue. To check their availability and prices, please visit their websites.

Sheraton Hotel *****

Mercure Hotel ****

Hampton by Hilton ****

Hotel Althus ***

City Break Plac Wolności 6 Aparthotel

University dormitories: “Zbyszko” and “Jagienka”

(Both are conveniently located and offer individual rooms with private bathrooms. Depending on the room type, the price ranges between 25–40 euros). Details will be provided later.

About the University and the Faculty

Adam Mickiewicz University

Founded in 1919, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (AMU) is one of Poland’s oldest and largest universities. It comprises 21 faculties grouped into five discipline schools: School of Natural Sciences, School of Humanities, School of Social Sciences, School of Languages and Literatures, and School of Exact Sciences.

AMU offers 80 majors, educating today over 31,000 students. The University employs about 3,000 researchers, of which approximately 1,300 are professors.

Faculty of Human Geography and Planning

The history of the Faculty dates back to 1981, when a joint faculty was established, combining human geography and Earth sciences. In 2019, the Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management was transformed into an independent unit, the Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, with 90 staff members and doctoral students.

The research projects carried out at the Faculty cover, e.g., changes in socio-economic structures in Poland and Europe under conditions of globalization and international integration; transformation of cities, metropolises and metropolitan areas in Poland and Europe; contemporary determinants, mechanisms and trends in the development of cities and regions; human spatial behavior in the urban environment; ecosystem services; social inequalities and public participation in development processes.

The Faculty members take part in international and national research projects financed under Horizon 2020 and Polish institutions, such as the National Science Centre and National Centre for Research and Development.

The Faculty educates nearly 600 students in such majors as geography, spatial management and integrated development planning.