

**59th ERSA Congress. Cities, Regions and Digital Transformations: Opportunities, Risks and Challenges
(France, Lyon, 27-30 August 2019)**

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The 59th European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Congress was held from 27 to 30 August 2019 in Lyon. The main theme of the conference was "Cities, regions and digital transformations: Opportunities, risks and challenges" It was organized by the University of Lion.

Approximately 900 participants - PhD students, junior and senior researchers – coming from 55 countries all over the world and representing different disciplines participated in 2019 ERSA congress.

Almost 300 sections were held during the ERSA congress. Among the 25 general themes for submissions to refereed, ordinary, or young scientists sessions there were: Big Data and Regional Science; Regional and Urban Development; Regional and Urban Policy and Governance; Innovation and Regional Development; Regional Finance, Fiscal Issues, Investment or Capital Markets; Methods in Regional Science or Urban Economics; Spatial Econometrics; Location of Economic Activity; Real Estate and Housing Markets; Empirical Methods in Regional and Urban Analysis; GIS and Location Modelling. Additionally, 70 special sessions were organized to address specific and current problems investigated by regional scientists, for example "Sharing economy and accommodation industry in urban and non urban environment". The list of keynote speakers included several renown scholars: Roberta Capello (Politecnico di Milano, Italy), Maryann Feldman (University of North Carolina, USA), Susan Parnell (University of Cape Town, South of Africa), Yannis Psycharis (Panteion University, Greece), Jacques François Thisse (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium), André Torre (University Paris Saclay, INRA-Agroparistech, France), and Philip McCann (University of Sheffield, UK).

Aside from scientific programme and social evets ERSA congress was accompanied by a number of technical excursions that helped participants to understand the rich history and urban transformation of the city of Lyon:

- Skyline of Lyon from Croix-Rousse hill
- Confluence, a new area in the city
- Eco tour vs UNESCO
- Heritage and urban development

We are looking forward to the next, 60th annual ERSA congress to be held in Bolzano in 2020.
