



Torino, 4-6 settembre 2024

XLV Conferenza scientifica annuale

Città e regioni nell'era digitale.  
La sfida della transizione verso  
l'economia circolare



## ORGANIZED SESSION

# Evaluating Policies in the Digital Age: The Potential and Role of AI, Big Data and Multidimensionality for Impact Analysis

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### Description

Policy Impact Evaluation is an interdisciplinary field crossing the domains of regional science, political economy and political science. To address the analytical challenges, in the past two decades, it has emerged as a pioneering area, leading the way in the evolution of methodologies and data utilization. The methodological advances in data science and all those approaches able to process high dimensional datasets show a high

potential but they also raise animated discussion leading to the organization of this special session.

We welcome works showing how big data, AI, and related approaches may be applied for policy impact evaluation. We invite contributions that are both empirical and theoretical in nature. Empirical contributions may leverage the power of big data, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and other advanced techniques such as web scraping, natural language processing, and predictive modeling to evaluate the impact of public policy.

Theoretical contributions are equally welcome. We are interested in discussions that explore the future role of AI, data collection, and analysis methods in policy assessment. This could include the ethical implications of AI in policymaking, the challenges of data privacy, the potential of new data sources in shaping policy decisions, and the role of machine learning in predictive policy analysis.

### **Call for papers**

We invite authors to present works based on high dimensional databases and artificial intelligence approaches applied to the evaluation of public policies.

In this era of digital transformation, we would like to anticipate innovative approaches and insights that can enlarge the toolkit for regional policy evaluation and deepen our understanding of their potential application, also in the context of public policy design. We believe that these discussions will help the knowledge of these approaches, often regarded with suspicion by policymakers and pave the way for more effective and informed policymaking, ultimately leading to a better future for all.

Both theoretical and applied papers will not be limited to the presentation of the results and the approach, but should include a discussion on the potentialities, on the critical points, and on how these could be addressed, with specific reference to policy evaluation. In particular, contributions are asked to show how the approaches respond to the main tasks of impact evaluation such as:

- Impact identification, i.e. identifying suitable outcome variables to represent the policy goal;
- Addressing multidimensionality in large datasets, with the goal of managing the complexity of policies;
- Counterfactual identification, to disentangle and prove the causal link between the policy and the change in the outcome variable.

To get more information on the AISRe 2024 conference please consult the [call for papers](#).

To submit a proposal please go to <https://www.aisre.it/proponi-un-contributo/> and follow the instructions available there.