

Partnership and Smart Cities

CSSI 2020 Special Panel Call for papers

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Critical driving forces such as growing urbanization, the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and also social and political changes are revolutionizing the models that we use to manage and operate urban infrastructures such as transportation, water, energy and communications. Digitalization of infrastructure has led to the emergence of what are often ambiguously referred to as smart cities. Coletta et al (2018) suggests that smart cities are about more than the embedding of digital technologies in urban infrastructures. They also hint at “clever entwining and integration of systems used to govern cities, enabling the breaking down of silos, jointed up thinking and data-driven real-time control.

A distinct feature of what has emerged as smart cities is a worldwide trend of increased collaboration between the public and private sectors as well citizens and other stakeholders. It appears that most smart city initiatives involve some form of partnerships or more specifically collaborative governance which is a “*governing arrangement where one or more public agencies directly engage non-state stakeholders in a collective decision making process that is formal, consensus-oriented and deliberative and that aims to implement public policy or manage public programmes or assets*” (Ansell and Gash, 2007).

Against this backdrop, and building the growing interest in research on cross sector partnering and city governance (Austin and McCaffrey, 2002; Clarke and Ordonez-Poncethe, 2017, MacDonald et al 2017), this panel seeks papers that explore the nature of partnership and collaboration in a smart city context. It invites analysis of cases of smart city initiatives that shed light on questions/topics that may include:

- What are the distinct features of collaborative governance in a smart city context?
- How is collaboration and partnership in smart city initiatives structured? Who are the players? Is it formal or informal? What are the governance mechanisms?
- Do smart city initiatives represent examples of collaborative governance?
- Is collaborative governance in a smart city context effective as an approach to policy making and public management? How do we measure effectiveness?
- What are the features of public-private partnerships (PPPs) when they are used to provide investments in smart cities? How are they structured, financed and funded?
- How do PPP arrangements for smart cities differ from PPPs models such as DBOF, BOT, BOOT etc. that have been extensively used over the last 30 years?
- Are PPP arrangements used in smart city initiatives collaborative?
- Are there examples of reforms that improve PPP performance in smart cities?

References:

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