

Call for papers

Special Issue: Well-being and Quality of Life in Latin American and Caribbean Cities: Progress and Challenges

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) turns out to be one of the most urbanized regions in the world with around 650 million people out of which 80% is living in urban settlements. This high population density brings some advantages such as access to amenities and services, higher job opportunities, innovation and creativity hubs and knowledge sharing; Nevertheless, it may also derive in social problems such as the formation of slums, as well as the increase of social disparities, poverty, crime rates and violence. Besides the challenges that Latin America and the Caribbean face due to rapid urbanization, cities become a perfect place for innovation, entrepreneurship and urban initiatives that have a positive impact on people's outcomes.

There is no doubt that near environment, like the urban context, is a deterrence factor of personal wellbeing and quality of life. Moreover, recent events, such as COVID-19 pandemic, as well as own society dynamics had led to collective changes affecting not only near environments, but also social relations and economic activities.

Well-being and quality of life are critical issues in Latin American and Caribbean cities, which face numerous challenges such as poverty, inequality, violence, environmental degradation, and inadequate infrastructure. Despite these challenges, some cities have managed to make significant progress in enhancing their residents' quality of life by improving access to basic services, creating green spaces, promoting cultural activities, and encouraging citizen participation. However, there is still a long way to go to ensure that everyone can enjoy a decent standard of living and that no one is left behind. In this context, there is a growing recognition of the need to adopt a multidimensional and inclusive approach to well-being that takes into account not only material indicators but also social, cultural, and environmental factors. The involvement of local communities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in the decision-making process is also crucial to ensure that policies and programs respond to the needs and aspirations of the people they serve.

In this Special Issue, we aim to cover research topics related to cities, welfare, and quality of life in Latin America (i.e. urbanization, regional inequality, migration, labor displacements, resources allocation, etc.) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) considering that they are of growing interest not only for scholars, but also for policymakers. Contribution of specific LAC countries are also welcome.

This Special Issue will appreciate, but it is not limited to, the following topics:

- Urbanization, slum formation and disparities in LAC;
- Living conditions, lifestyles and quality of life in LAC;
- Analyses of specific sectors and/or spillover effects in the region (i.e. tourism, education, distribution networks, etc.);
- Migration flows and patterns in and from LAC with focus on how origin and destination cities influences migrants' outcomes.

This special issue aims to host an eclectic mix of papers at crossroads of economics, urban/regional studies, and demographics. Therefore, the special issue will consider research based on an empirical approach including qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods contributions. In addition, the special issue will discuss the way in which territorial approached studies focused on LAC can contribute to understand and develop the region as well as the reasons why socioeconomic problems persist. Henceforth, contributions that derive policy implications based on empirical evidence are encouraged to be submitted.

Submission Instructions

Authors are invited to submit the full paper through the journal's online submission system. All submissions will be subject to the journal's usual blind peer review process. Please visit the Guidelines for authors (<https://investigacionesregionales.org/en/envio-de-articulos-2/envio-de-originales/>) for further detail.

Taking into account that this Special Issue focus on Latin America, and in accordance to the editorial policy of *Investigaciones Regionales*, contributions in English and Spanish are welcome. If accepted, independently of the language of the paper, its abstract must be presented in both languages.

Invited Special Issue Editors

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