

P25 - Sociocultural factors in Smart city development: Prospects and Retrospect

10. TECHNOLOGY and INNOVATION POLICY

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Track summary: Smart cities, while widely recognized for utilizing information communication technologies (ICTs) to amplify urban efficiency, face challenges given the varied local interests and factors that influence their effective implementation. Existing urban divides further complicate the understanding of how smart city technologies truly function. While technological advancements and the drive of innovation policies in cities are steering the development of smart cities, contributing positively to sustainability, efficiency, and urban organization, the actual implementation of this technology and its benefits remain central topics of academic and political debate. Specifically, a critical view on smart cities highlights issues like entrepreneurial urbanism, neoliberal agendas, and the gap between technology's rapid development and its slower adoption (Datta, 2015; Grossi & Pianezzi, 2017; Kummitha, 2018; Marchesani et al., 2023). Although these studies have spurred debate, there remains a pressing need to discern how smart city ICTs are put into practice and how they might either intensify or bridge urban divides. This track calls for research exploring the origins, effects, and implications of digital technology adoption in urban scenarios. It seeks insights on a range of topics, from the smart perspective in urban development to the socio-cultural influences on technology implementation. Both empirical and theoretical submissions, offering managerial and policy insights, are invited.