



Italian territory's response to new forms of work organisation in the face of global challenges for a new territorial justice

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Global environmental, socio-cultural, economic-political and technological challenges that have characterised world dynamics over the last two decades are contributing to the development of multi-sector integration processes with effects that have a direct impact at local level from a global scale, radically redrawing the geography of work at international level (Massey, 1995; Herod, 1997, 2001; Harvey, 2001; Spinelli, 2003; Castree et al., 2004; Tabusi, 2009; Moretti, 2017).

Following the definitive consolidation of a global market economy after the end of the Cold War, the internationalisation of economic and political processes has led to a metamorphosis in the way work is organised. This has accompanied the previous structure that survived the new production methods and has affected their distribution, the social organisation of work dynamics, the distribution of occupations, the distribution of the population and migratory movements (Gorz, 1992; Montanari, 2000; Martin, Morrison, 2003; Negri & Vercellone, 2007; Ross, 2009, Gaiaschi, 2016).

When analysed from a geographical perspective, these dynamics, also in light of global events that have highlighted the vulnerability of the world system on a planetary scale (Lussault, 2013), aggravated by the pandemic, reveal new perspectives for analysis that deserve to be investigated by the Italian geographical scientific community, including from a transdisciplinary and transcalar perspective.

This thematic issue aims to address the topic of the geography of work by proposing new theoretical perspectives, new methodological approaches, and various case studies in the Italian context. The goal is to show what adaptations and innovations are emerging in an attempt to reconcile the challenges posed by international competition with the specific characteristics of Italy's landscape and territorial history.

The forms of resilience adopted, also in light of specific national policies (Governo italiano, 2021), demonstrate, on the one hand, the adaptability and innovation of an economic system deeply rooted in the local context, but on the other hand, highlight the resistance of a model that is slowly wearing itself out. At the same time, significant challenges remain, such as the necessary reduction of territorial inequalities linked to various issues. These include the widespread problem of demographic decline, the progressive ageing of the population, the new dynamics generated by the sudden technological shift in both production and working methods, and the consequent need to protect workers' rights and provide them with continuous training so that they can continually adapt to global challenges (Consiglio d'Europa, 2021).

In addition, a new system of territorial attractiveness is emerging, which today is played out through both (old) pull and (new) push factors. The former are linked to environmental and landscape characteristics, capable of ensuring a higher quality of life and responding to new post-pandemic social needs related to smart working (OCSE, 2021; Pedone, 2022), which are redefining new forms of polycentric living. The latter, in different geopolitical conditions, generate new international migration networks capable of attracting new workers and producing unprecedented polycentric and networked relationships, while also raising old issues of social justice, inclusion, gender equality, etc.



These phenomena highlight the need for critical reflection on territorial labour justice and a renewed focus on cohabitation within territories (Lussault, 2024). They can also be discussed both at the national level, by analysing specific production processes or labour chains, and through the development of territorial case studies, which are useful for understanding the specificities of these dynamics according to socio-territorial realities, highlighting virtuous cases and enhancing the specificities of the Italian territory in the global context.

Keywords:

Geographies of work, Global challenges, Socio-territorial specificities, Territorial justice in the labour market

Topics:

- theoretical perspectives on critical geography of work
- methodological approaches for territorial justice in work
- case studies of labour geographies at the national level
- case studies of labour geographies at the territorial and regional levels
- territorial inequalities linked to labour geographies
- adaptations and innovations in forms of work in light of the green and digital transition
- geography of labour migration networks
- labour geographies and care for cohabitation
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- March 30 2026: Communication of proposal acceptance by the Editorial Team
- July 19 2026: Submission of contributions
- Refereeing process
- January 2027: Publication of the issue

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