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Earth Observation Data in Sustainable Urban Science Research

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The world is undergoing rapid urbanization, and it is now expected that about 68% of the world population will be living in urban areas by the year 2050. Such rapid growth poses several sustainability challenges related to ensuring environmental sustainability, resource management, and well-being of urban inhabitants. However, efforts to address these issues have been severely thwarted by the lack of usable data at urban scales. Given that most projected urban growth is expected in data-starved regions around the world, alternative data sources and methods are urgently needed for research. Earth observation (EO) geospatial datasets offer a much-needed avenue to explore the aforementioned critical questions, which would also necessitate efficient methods to use such datasets to answer sustainable questions. The erstwhile DMSP-OLS nighttime lights data and newer VIIRS DNB data are prime examples of such applications, especially in studying urban population, economy, carbon emission, etc.



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Special Issue



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