

Students Challenge

Create better cities, create a better future!

Social Simulation Conference 2019



The way in which we design and manage our cities impacts our society, our individual wellbeing and the environment. In 2050, presumably, two-thirds of earth's population will live in cities. Consequently, cities will become an even more central living environment for humans.

Urban growth makes societies face far reaching problems and consequences. The extensive degree of multicausal air pollution is identified as one major issue in urban areas.

YOUR ideas count! Take action und help to create and fundamentally improve your future living environment!

Present your ideas for an intervention that can drastically reduce air pollution in urban areas and thereby revalue cities as entities of living spaces for humans.

The Challenge

➤ WHO?

Students of all disciplines and all levels of expertise are welcome to participate because what counts most are two important features: creativity and persuasiveness. You can join the challenge as a team (12 members max.) or on your own.

➤ WHAT?

You develop a concept to reduce air pollution in urban areas in the long term. Your concept should be based on one (or multiple) intervention(s) that aim for behavioural changes of relevant actors in the field and it should portray potential effects on the social, political, economical and ecological landscape. Be creative! From car-free cities to Jules Vernes' city under the sea and even more unusual ideas. There are no limits to your creativity!

However, you should consider these points in the illustration of your scenario:

- 1) Which individual/organisational actors play a role in this scenario?
- 2) Describe the policy intervention that will change the current state
- 3) Describe how these actors and their behaviours are influenced by your intervention
- 4) What are other positive/negative side effects of your intervention that have to be considered?

➤ HOW?

There are no limitations to formats. What you present and how you present your idea is up to you. You decide for yourself whether you want to implement empirical data or not, if you want to develop a computational model, create a piece of art or a stage play, write an essay or do something completely different.

Concerning the submission, there are no limitations in format as well.

For example:

- If you do a stage play, your submission could be a script or a video.
- If you develop a mathematical model, your submission would be a sequence of equations with explanations.
- If you work on a social sciences concept, your submission would be a project description including theoretical background and maybe empirical data.
- Etc.

➤ WHEN?

To participate, register and submit your project in an appropriate form until the **5th of August 2019**. You can register on here: <https://ssc2019.uni-mainz.de/a-better-future/>.

➤ **CHALLENGE PROCEDURE?**

Selection phase 1 (Submission):

Each participating team or individual must register and submit their project in an appropriate form until the 5th of August 2019. Further, submissions have no limitations in format.

Selection phase 2 (Review results):

Your submissions will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary pool of reviewers, that most notably assess the project's innovativeness, (potential) feasibility and a convincing illustration of the described scenario.

If your submission is among the six finalists, you get the chance to present your concept at the Social Simulation Conference 2019 at the Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz in front of experts from politics, city planning and the social simulation community.

Selection phase 3 (Conference pitch):

Conference attendees will vote for your projects at the live event and your concept will be visualised and musically accompanied. The top four teams or individuals will be awarded with glory and prize money (1st: 1000 EUR, 2nd: 500 EUR, 3rd/4th: 250 EUR). The winning Team has furthermore the possibility to publish their work in the conference proceedings.

➤ **FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES?**

Further information or updates concerning the Students Challenge can either be found on Facebook or on our website. Thus, feel free to visit

→ Visit us on Facebook: Student Challenge - Social Simulation Conference 2019

→ Visit us on our Website: <https://ssc2019.uni-mainz.de/a-better-future/>

