



REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2010

Monday 24th – Wednesday 26th May 2010
(walking tour Sunday 23rd May 4pm)

REGIONAL RESPONSES AND GLOBAL SHIFTS: ACTORS, INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS

An increasingly complex array of actors is involved in today's regional development agendas. They range from private firms and labour organisations to government and non-government institutions. Despite the growing awareness in the public and academic domains of the multi-actor nature of regional development, we still often struggle to fully comprehend the mutually interactive strategies and practices which cut across regions and countries. In light of recent upheavals in the global economic and financial system, such an understanding will be critical to future studies of regional development.

Indeed this interest in actors, institutions and organisations in regional development needs to be properly grounded in the wider contexts of global change in economic imperatives, transnational working and cooperation and environmental concerns. To some regions, these contexts provide favourable and timely frameworks for action and initiatives. Other regions may find these contexts increasingly challenging and threatening. Taken together, understanding better these broader contexts can provide important insights into regional development potential, planning and practices and establish the agenda for research and policy.

We welcome papers from all – academics, students and those working in policy and practice. The event is inclusive and offers major networking opportunities for scholars in our field. As well as the conference abstract volume, opportunities for publication are strong with anthologies, special editions of journals and other publications often following from these sessions. Formal networking and collaboration meetings to promote journals, the development of applications for transnational programmes and other partnerships are being encouraged in Pécs. All abstracts are usually accepted provided that they address the conference themes and meet quality thresholds. We reserve the right to enter into discussion with the authors about possible revisions to the focus and approach of any paper in order to improve its fit within the session or its overall quality.

HOW YOU CAN BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED

The Association seeks an active engagement with the research, policy and practice communities through this conference and invites everyone to play a role in the event. In addition to submitting a paper and presenting at this event you would be welcome to:

- offer a workshop session/s on a theme of your choice (perhaps to showcase recent research programme results) where you would invite colleagues to register for the conference and present their work
- offer to act as a theme gatekeeper thereby gaining access to forthcoming research results and helping to shape the conference
- offer an innovative session – do you want to host a session on the research findings of your recent project or programme or hear a debate on a topical issue? Could you run a practical workshop to solve problems on key issues; or would you like to hear from a recognised authority in the field? Talk to the conference team about your ambitions and we will try to help you realise them – lisa.bibby-larsen@rsa-ls.ac.uk .

Sessions that are specially constructed will be actively promoted on the programme via a colour flagging system. The Association will consider all proposals and they should be based on 1.5 hour session time slots.

BEST PAPER COMPETITION

The Association introduced an award in Leuven 2009 for the 'Best International Conference Paper' at the conference. We are repeating this in 2010. All full papers submitted by Sunday 4th April 2010 (except commissioned papers) will automatically be entered and the winner will be announced during the second plenary on Tuesday 25th May 2010.

All participants will need to register and pay for the conference when submitting their abstract via our secure online conference portal at: www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk – Abstracts should be between 200 and 400 words and will form the submission to the conference abstract volume which carries an ISBN.

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

Abstract submission and speaker registration deadline – Sunday, 14th February 2010

Full paper submission for entry to the Best International Conference Paper Award expires Sunday 4th April 2010

Non-speaker, Early Registration Fee deadline – Sunday 7th March 2010

Late registration fees applicable to all as of Monday 8th March 2010

Papers which are collaborative, international or multi-disciplinary are especially welcome. Papers may be submitted to ALL sessions – NO SESSIONS ARE CLOSED although some have convenors listed separately to the main gatekeepers. Specifically, this conference calls for papers in the following interrelated themes:

A. Innovative strategies and practices of firms in regional development

Gatekeepers: Abdel-Allah Hamdouch, University of Lille, France, abdel.hamdouch@univ-lille1.fr; Lisa de Propris, University of Birmingham, England, lde-propris@bham.ac.uk; Pawel Capik, Sheffield Hallam University; England, p.capik@shu.ac.uk; Helena Lenihan, University of Limerick, Ireland, Helena.lenihan@ul.ie

- Firms, embeddedness, and regions
- Knowledge transfer, spill-overs and networks of firms in regional clusters and industrial districts
- SMEs, entrepreneurship, new firm formation and regional development
- Technology, innovation and regional trajectories including the role of higher education and public policy
- Regional economic resilience and competitiveness
- Restructuring in mature 'traditional' industries
- Labour markets, Human Resource Management and labour practices of firms
- Globalisation, Foreign Direct Investment and regional economic development including the South and East European dimension

Coordinated Sessions – open for submission of papers

- Ai. Foresighting impacts and outcomes of globalisation on traditional industries in regional economies – session to be coordinated by Nigel Berkeley and David Jarvis, University of Coventry, England, n.berkeley@coventry.ac.uk and d.jarvis@coventry.ac.uk
- Aii. Impact of higher education institutions on regional economies - session to be coordinated by Peter McGregor, Strathclyde University, Scotland, p.mcgregor@strath.ac.uk Projects funded by ESRC and all the funding councils of the UK
- Aiii. Financing entrepreneurship and innovation - session to be coordinated by Helen Lawton-Smith, Birkbeck College, England, h.lawton-smith@bbk.ac.uk
- Aiv. EURODITE – session to be coordinated by Stewart MacNeill, University of Birmingham, England, s.macneill@bham.ac.uk
- Av. [Regional innovation and industrial development in an international knowledge economy](#) – session to be coordinated by Arne Isaksen, University of Agder, Norway, arne.isaksen@uia.no and Ove Langeland, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Norway, ove.langeland@nibr.no
- Avi. Session arising from 6th framework project CURE: Corporate Culture and Regional Embeddedness – CURE aims at studying processes of cultural change in order to facilitate understanding of culturally perceived values and practices both in companies and regions to develop a vision of the regional embedded company and an innovative regional culture – session to be coordinated by Nick Clifton, University of Wales Institute-Cardiff, nclifton@uwic.ac.uk and Stefan Gartner, Institute for Work and Technology, Gelsenkirchen, gaertner@iat.eu
- Avii. Contemporary reflections on Industrial Districts – session to be coordinated by Marco Bellandi, Università di Firenze, marco.bellandi@unifi.it
- Aviii. [Spatial and organisational reconfigurations of business services: global trends and local consequences](#) – session to be coordinated by Grzegorz Micek, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Jagiellonian University, Poland, g.micek@geo.uj.edu.pl Jane Hardy, University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom, J.A.Hardy@herts.ac.uk
- Aix. [Territorial knowledge dynamics and new regional challenges in Europe](#) – session to be coordinated by Mário Vale, Portugal, mario.vale@campus.ul.pt; Olivier Crevoisier, Switzerland, olivier.crevoisier@unine.ch; Frédéric Gaschet, France, gaschet@u-bordeaux4.fr; Hugues Jeannerat, Switzerland, hugues.jeannerat@unine.ch; Leila Kebir, France, leila.kebir@unine.ch; Anders Larsson, Sweden, Anders.Larsson@geography.gu.se; Stewart MacNeill, United Kingdom, S.MacNeill@bham.ac.uk
- Ax. [Industrial restructuring and policy in CEE countries](#) - session coordinated by Eva Kiss, Geographical Research Institute Hungarian Academy of Science, Hungary, kisse@helka.iif.hu; Gabor Lux, Centre for Regional Studies Hungarian Academy of Sciences, lux@rkk.hu.

B. Labour markets and labour organisations and their continued relevance for regional development

Gatekeepers: Karoly Fazekas, Hungarian Academy of Science, Hungary, fazekas@econ.core.hu; Ron McQuaid, Napier University, Scotland, r.mcquaid@napier.ac.uk; Anne Green, University of Warwick, England, a.e.green@warwick.ac.uk

- The dynamics of local and regional labour markets
- The future of labour unions in regional development
- Work, employment, and labour management practices in regions
- Upgrading, skills development and utilisation and regional futures
- The role and future of labour organisations in local and regional politics
- Jobs and joblessness: brain drain, outsourcing, training and education policies
- Migration and commuting across borders
- Job search
- Regional labour market behaviour during rising unemployment

C. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and Civil Society Organisations (CSO): facilitators of regional development?

Gatekeepers: Oto Potluka, IREAS, Czech Republic, Potluka@ireas.cz; Mike Danson, University of the West of Scotland, Scotland, Michael.danson@uws.ac.uk

- Equity, ethics, and welfare in regional development
- Social responsibility and regional development
- NGOs and CSOs: regional identities and formations
- Local and non-local dynamics of NGOs and CSOs, social enterprises, cooperatives and communities
- Civil society and governance in cities and regions

D. Regional policies: government and quasi-government initiatives

Gatekeepers: Tassilo Herrschel, University of Westminster, England,

t.a.herrschel@westminster.ac.uk; Iwona Sagan, University of Gdansk, Poland, geois@univ.gda.pl;

- Regional planning and its relevance in the global economy
- Strategic regional policies and changing scales of governance
- Multi-level governance, territorial politics and city regions
- Devolution in political systems
- Comparative analyses of political systems
- Competition and cooperation in inter regional governments initiatives
- Policies and practices: what works in different regions?
- Poverty, exclusion and social policy
- Market transition and the relevance of regional policies
- Public management vs. democratic governance: direct or representative democracy in regions?

E. Reassessing EU Regional Policy

Gatekeepers: John Bachtler, University of Strathclyde, Scotland, john.bachtler@strath.ac.uk; Jiri

Blazek, Charles University, Czech Republic; blazek@natur.cuni.cz; Karol Oleniczak, Warsaw University, Poland, k.oleniczak@uw.edu.pl; Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight GmbH, Luxembourg, kai.boehme@spatialforesight.eu

- Evaluation of EU cohesion policy
- Reshaping the EU budget
- The role of Structural Funds in responding to the economic crisis
- Post-2013 reform of Cohesion Policy
- EU support for rural development
- Whither territorial cohesion?
- EU programmes for cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation
- Regional dimensions of EU policies for research and innovation
- Regional problems of Southern and Eastern Europe from the aspect of European cohesion
- Regional challenges for Central, South and East Europe

F. People in regions: leadership, collective action and regional development

Gatekeepers: Joyce Liddle, Nottingham Trent University, joyce.liddle@ntu.ac.uk; John Diamond,

Edge Hill University, England, diamondj@edgehill.ac.uk; Markku Sotarauta, University of Tampere, Finland, markku.sotarauta@uta.fi

- Citizenship and social participation in regional and urban development
- Public-private partnerships and local/regional leadership
- Social capital, civic space, and regional identities
- Democracy, collective action, and changing governance in regional development
- Impacts of social structures on regional economic development and innovation
- Heritage, local identities and regional development: experience economies, place branding and public policy
- Exclusion, health and wellbeing: sustainable development and health
- Demographic pressures, migration, ageing and mobility

Coordinated Sessions – open for submission of papers

Fi. [Ageing and demographic change in the regional context](#) – session to be coordinated by Eddy Hogg, eddy.hogg@ntu.ac.uk and Irene Hardill, Irene.hardill@ntu.ac.uk, Nottingham Trent University, UK

Fii. The impact of social and cultural factors on regional development in the countries of Southern and Eastern Europe – session to be coordinated by Demyan Belyaev, University of Heidelberg, Germany, demyan.belyaev@urz.uni-heidelberg.de

G. Financing regions: global financial crisis and beyond?

Gatekeepers: Dariusz Wójcik, Oxford University, England, dariusz.wojcik@ouce.ox.ac.uk; Ewald Engelen, Amsterdam University, The Netherlands, e.r.engelen@uva.nl and Zoltán Gál, Centre for Regional Studies, Hungary, galz@rkk.hu

- The regional nature, origins and impacts of the global financial crisis
- Regional trajectories of the global financial crisis
- Alternative finance: how do actors and institutions in regions cope?
- Regional cooperation in times of financial crisis
- Local and regional public finance in conditions of financial crisis
- The impact of recession and credit crunch on Central, South and Eastern Europe

Coordinated Sessions – open for submission of papers

Gi [Financial crisis and its impact on household savings in a comparative perspective](#) – Session to be co-ordinated by Csaba Burger, csaba.burger@ouce.ox.ac.uk; Centre for Work, Employment and Finance, Oxford University Centre for the Environment

Gii [After the Global Financial Crisis: Cities, Regions, and Sectors in East-Central Europe and the former USSR](#) – session to be co-ordinated by Adam Swain, Adam.Swain@nottingham.ac.uk; Vlad Mykhnenko, Vlad.Mykhnenko@nottingham.ac.uk and Martin Sokol, m.sokol@qmul.ac.uk

H. Cooperation across borders

Gatekeepers: Gianluca Spinaci, Committee of the Regions, Belgium, gianluca.spinaci@cor.europa.eu; Nico Groenendijk, University of Twente, The Netherlands, n.s.groenendijk@utwente.nl; Ulrich Hilpert, Friedrich-Schiller-University, Germany, Ulrich.hilpert@uni-jena.de; Nicola Bellini, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Italy, nbellini@sssup.it

- Regional and transnational cooperation in development: a role for mega-regions?
- Borderland regions and economic cooperation
- Peripheral spaces, marginal communities and future trajectories
- Institutions and organisations for regional cooperation
- Sustainability of cooperation in regional development
- Urban and city networks
- Territorial cooperation as a core objective of EU Cohesion Policy
- Cross-border cooperation and the Lisbon Agenda
- Case studies: success stories and failures in cross-border cooperation
- European Framework Conditions for cross-border cooperation

Coordinated Sessions – open for submission of papers

Hi. Transnational learning on regional and local development - session to be coordinated by Seija Virkkala, University of Vaasa, Finland, seija.virkkala@uwasa.fi; Age Mariussen, Bodo University, Norway, Age.mariussen@Nifustep.no

Hii. City regions, marginalisations and ‘in-between spaces’ RSA Research Network on Bridging old and new divisions in regional governance between ‘core’ and ‘periphery’ in Europe’s ‘East’ and ‘West’ – session to be coordinated by Tassilo Herrschel, University of Westminster, England, t.a.herrschel@westminster.ac.uk; Iwona Sagan, University of Gdansk, Poland, geois@univ.gda.pl

Hiii. Peripherality, marginality and border region issues in Northern Europe – session organised by the RSA Research Network of the same name – Mike Danson, University of West of Scotland, Scotland, Michael.danson@uws.ac.uk

Hiv. Mediterranean and Balkan regional development – session organised by the RSA Research Network of the same name – Vassilis Avdikos, Independent Research Professional, Greece, v.avdikos@gmail.com

I. Global environmental change and the future of regional development

Gatekeepers: Gerd Lintz, Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development, Germany,

g.lintz@ioer.de ; Peter Wirth, Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development, Germany, p.wirth@ioer.de; Abid Mehmood, University of Newcastle, England, abid.mehmood@ncl.ac.uk

- Theorising regional development in an era of global environmental change
- Environmental sustainability of local and regional development
- Impact of global environmental change on trajectories of regions
- Environmental initiatives: actors, institutions and organisations
- Implementation beyond Copenhagen: local and regional initiatives
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation: regional challenges, responses and discourses

Coordinated Sessions – open for submission of papers

- ii. Housing and the regions: Sustainable Communities and Liveability – session coordinated by the RSA Research Network of the same name – Nick Gallent, University College London, England, n.gallent@ucl.ac.uk
- iii. Adaptation to climate change – local and regional strategies – session to be co-ordinated by Marco Pütz, Swiss Federal Research Institute, Switzerland, marco.puetz@wsl.ch

J. Theory and research in regional studies

Gatekeepers: Arnoud Lagendijk, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, a.lagendijk@ru.nl ; Imre Lengyel, University of Szeged, Hungary, ilengyel@eco.u-szeged.hu ; Marinos E Tsigas, US International Trade Commission, USA, marinos.tsigas@usitc.gov

- Institutional and evolutionary approaches to regional studies
- Spatial analysis and regional economics: developments in theory and methodology, regional economic models, input output, GIS
- Policy evaluation research, theory and practice
- Politics and practice in regional studies
- The market transition approach in regional studies: relevance to Eastern European regions
- Global production networks and its contributions to politics and practice
- Innovations in mixing qualitative and quantitative methods in regional studies

Coordinated Sessions – open for submission of papers

- ji. Comparative regional case studies – session coordinated by Ulrich Hilpert, Friedrich-Schiller-University, Germany, ulrich.hilpert@uni-jena.de ; Nicola Bellini, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Italy, nbellini@sssup.it and Helen Lawton Smith, Birkbeck College, England, h.lawton-smith@bbk.ac.uk
- jii. Spatial econometrics and spatial analysis – special session coordinated by the Spatial Economic Analysis journal – Bernard Fingleton, University of Strathclyde, Scotland, bf100@cam.ac.uk

K. Spatial planning in cities and regions

Gatekeepers: Gordon Dabinett, University of Sheffield, England, g.e.dabinett@sheffield.ac.uk ; Stefanie Dühr, Nijmegen University; The Netherlands, s.duhr@fm.ru.nl ; Tom Kauko, Norwegian University of Sciences and Technologies, Norway, tom.kauko@svt.ntnu.no

- Planning strategies, urban regeneration and evaluation, settlement design; strategic planning at different scales; cities and social cohesion; spatial information; liveability and the environment; managing growth; strategic planning for housing
- The role of space and place/tourism and development policies: arts; cities of culture; sports; heritage; local identities, regional development and public policy; experience economies and place branding at local, city and regional level; creative and social innovation
- Transport, connectivities and mobilities: commuting patterns, network connectivity, recessionary effects on business travel, airline transport for leisure, road expansion, the “access poor” in rural or peripheral areas

Coordinated Sessions – open for submission of papers

- ki. [ESPON session 1](#): Territorial Competitiveness and Cohesion: Development Paths of Cities and Urban Agglomerations – session coordinated by Moritz Lennert, Free University of Brussels, Belgium, moritz.lennert@ulb.ac.be

Kii. [ESPON session 2](#): Territorial Competitiveness and Cohesion: Development Opportunities in Different Types of Rural Areas– session coordinated by Andrew Copus, UHI Millennium Institute, UK, Andrew.copus@uhi.ac.uk

Kiii. [ESPON session 3](#): Territorial Competitiveness and Cohesion: The Effects of Rising Energy Prices– session coordinated by Oihana Blanco Mendizabal, Innobasque, Spain, oblanco@innobasque.com

L. Experience economy and experience society. Culture, leisure and experiences in spatial strategies

Gatekeepers: Anne Lorentzen, Aalborg University, Denmark, al@plan.aau.dk ; Carsten Jahn Hansen, Aalborg University, Denmark, jahn@plan.aau.dk ; Olivier Crevoisier, Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland, Olivier.crevoisier@unine.ch

- Science or hype? Conceptual developments in relation to Experience economy, culture economy and other related ‘economies’
- Experience planning or ‘Experience economy 3.0’
- Commodification vs. welfare in culture, leisure and experiences
- Varieties of urban experience-based strategies
- Governance issues of urban experience programmes and projects
- Business and the quality of place – exploitation or contribution?

Coordinated Session – open for submission of papers

Li.Tourism, regional development and public policy – session organised by the RSA Research Network of the same name – papers welcome – Marek Kozak, University of Warsaw, Poland, m.kozak@uw.edu.pl

M. Creative regions in a creative economy

Gatekeepers: Lisa De Propris, Birmingham Business School, l.de_propris@bham.ac.uk ; Luciana Lazzeretti, University of Florence, luciana.lazzeretti@unifi.it ; Hanlu Xu, Institute of Regional and Urban Economics, Renmin University of China, lulu08@ruc.edu.cn

- Creativity and the creative class
- Cultural and creative industries
- Creative cities and urban regeneration
- Creative and cultural clusters: case studies and methodologies
- Innovation, creativity and local development
- Creative and cultural industries in the current recession: are they weathering the economic downturn?
- Creative and cultural industries in a globalised world: in emerging, developing or transition economies
- What policies for creativity (creative industries, creative cities and creative firms)?

Coordinated sessions: open for submission of papers

Mi.Creativity, culture and regional growth – session to be coordinated by Caroline Chapain, University of Birmingham, UK, c.a.chapain@bham.ac.uk

Mii.Creative clusters and regional innovation – presentation of NESTA project – coordinated by Lisa De Propris, University of Birmingham, UK, l.de_propris@bham.ac.uk

N. Regional policy and development in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe

Reflecting our choice of venue the Association welcomes proposals for papers and sessions reflecting upon the particular cases of Southern, Central and Eastern Europe.

When submitting papers on these themes authors should place them in the most relevant gateway listed above. Themes likely to be of interest may include, but are not limited to:

- The implementation of cohesion policy in pre-accession and member states
- The role and relationships of urban networks and regions

- Decentralisation of power and the dissemination of innovative regional driving forces
- Institutionalisation of cross-border co-operation
- Infrastructure and spatial planning
- Culture and the experience economy as a regional development force
- Regional Studies and Regional Science in Higher Education

THE CONFERENCE VENUE – PÉCS, SOUTHERN HUNGARY

The conference will be hosted in the European Capital of Culture 2010 Pécs in Southern Hungary. Pécs is characterised as a multicultural city without borders which acts as the meeting point for western and eastern parts of Europe.

Pécs has 160,000 inhabitants living in what is called the Mediterranean City of the East which dates back to ancient times. It is close to the Croatian and Serbian borders and is the regional seat of the Southern Transdanubia region. Its cultural layers are many with early Roman and Christian roots leading to the establishment of the university in medieval times. In the 17th Century it was Turkish and German and Latin at the end of the 18th Century becoming Hungarian in the 20th Century. The city boasts its own UNESCO site of World Heritage – the early Christian Necropolis.

The Intellectual Case for Pécs

Pécs is the intellectual birthplace of regionalism in Hungary. The leading institution for regional research, the Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Hungarian Regional Studies Association are both headquartered in Pécs. The first training courses and doctoral school in regional development and policy of Hungary were established at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Pécs.

*Call for papers ends.
Updated 22 January 2010*