



REGIONALISATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – BETWEEN(?) COMPETITIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

7th Regionalisation Symposium

**University of Westminster, London
Friday/Saturday 11-12 November 2011**

Times: Fri: 12.00-17.30, Sat 9.00 – 17.30
(days can be attended individually)

The Governance and Sustainability Programme in the Department of Politics and International Relations, at the University of Westminster, with the generous support of the Regional Studies Association, is glad to invite interested researchers, policy makers and practitioners, and especially early career researchers, to *Regionalisation and Economic Development – Between(?) Competitiveness and Sustainability*, 7th Regionalisation Symposium.

The topic has gained considerable currency in a climate of ongoing financial crisis and economic problems in many parts of the (western) world, raising questions about the 'affordability' and the 'potential utility', of the sustainability agenda.

The symposium will try to address the following complex issues:

- How can the two policy objectives of 'growth' and 'sustainability' be reconciled?
- Can a simple fusion into 'sustainable economic development' offer the answer – or 'sustainable growth'?
- Can they be more than mere 'window dressing' of established practices?
- Can concepts such as 'smart growth', as advocated in North America, offer a new direction? And how does this affect established policy-making networks and practices – who is 'in' and who is 'out' as a result of shifting agendas and practices? And how does this affect questions about the 'best effective' scale for implementing such policies?

This symposium brings together practitioners from the local and regional level of governance from North America and Europe, and is part of an ongoing sequence of symposia on questions of economic governance in a local, city-regional and regional setting, which was kick-started by an ESRC grant in 2004.

The main focus is on discussions in workshops, looking at case studies and comparing experiences, all in the light of theoretical arguments and hypotheses. These will be presented during plenary sessions.

Given the emphasis on debate, the number of participants for the workshops is limited and presentations are kept to a brief format.

There is no attendance fee, food and drink will be provided. There are some travel bursaries available to go against travel costs for early career researchers, and PhD students in their final year.

Expressions of interests, with brief outline of expertise in the field covered by the symposium, should be sent to the organiser, Dr Tassilo Herrschel, no later than 17 Oct 2011.

For further information, please contact Dr Tassilo Herrschel T.A.Herrschel@wmin.ac.uk

We are looking forward to welcoming you to a surely fascinating debate.
Tassilo Herrschel on behalf of the GovSus team