



Regional Studies Association one day Conference **Localism: sufficient and fit for purpose?**

Thursday 3rd November 2011

University of Manchester Conference Centre, Manchester, UK

Last few places available, to register [click here](#)

Conference update

Conference Objectives

Localism and regionalism tend to be seen as conflicting and competing conceptions of territorial organisation. Indeed, there are well rehearsed, albeit evolving, debates which engage with the theoretical and policy architectures underpinning regionalism and localism. These two forms of territorial organisation have their origins in different schools of thought, underpinned by fundamentally different ideals around the structure and role of both government and governance in territorial management, the scales at which these functions are most effectively operationalised and how they relate to each other. The current debates in the UK on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS) illustrate this.

Nevertheless, many successful economies around the world have strong local government structures which are complemented by regional structures, either in the form of federal elected regional bodies, regional development institutions, or special purpose delivery vehicles. International evidence suggests that a regional structure provides a mechanism for thinking strategically about priorities of regional significance such as economic development and transport; that it allows scope for the setting of longer-term policy priorities; and that it can coordinate and frame collective arguments and priorities, and in doing so can provide a conduit through which to lobby national government and, increasingly, international agencies, yet also organise a plethora of local interests. This raises a crucial question which will form the theme for this conference: can localism deliver effective interventions and outcomes at a time when economic shifts have forced an adjustment to social, political, and cultural norms to which places must respond?

Target Audience

The conference is open to all: academics; policy makers and practitioners; and we especially encourage early career researchers, including individuals who are currently undertaking an academic degree or post-doctoral studies, to attend and use this opportunity to present their research.

Programme:

The day will consist of both parallel workshop sessions and plenary sessions.

Plenary speakers:

Morning Session

- **The Politics and Governance of Territorial Development under Localism**
Professor Gerry Stoker, University of Southampton
- **Sub-National Economic Development and Localism**

Professor Mike Raco, University College London

- **Planning, Regeneration and Localism**

Dr. Hugh Ellis, Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning Association

Afternoon Session

- **Localism and the Environment**

Dr Richard Cowell, Cardiff University

Leading the discussion: Baron Frankal, Research Director, New Economy, Manchester

Parallel workshops

Morning and afternoon sessions

- **Localism and the Environment**
- **Planning, Regeneration and Localism**
- **Sub-National Economic Development and Localism**

Travel Bursaries: A number are available – contact the RSA office for more information.

Networking: There will be opportunities throughout the day including a closing session with a glass of wine.

Prices:

RSA Student Member £30, RSA Early Career/Associate Member £50 and RSA Individual/Corporate Member £95.

Non-members: Student £40, Early Career/Associate (retired) £65 and Individual/Corporate £120

Academic Organisers: Stephen Hincks Stephen.Hincks@manchester.ac.uk, Michael Hebbert m.hebbert@manchester.ac.uk and Cecilia Wong cecilia.wong@manchester.ac.uk

RSA Organiser: Jimmy Ancheta Jr: jimmy.ancheta@regionalstudies.org

To Register visit www.regionalstudies.org

Regional Studies Association

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