



Regional Studies Association Winter Conference Friday 25th November 2011, London, UK

Contested Regions: Territorial Politics and Policy

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Conference announcement

There has been discussion through the last two decades about the role of the region as a primary spatial scale at which political and economic agendas are contested and resolved. Disputes have often centred on complex constructions of identity, sovereignty, borders, legitimacy and democracy. We are now seeing a growing appreciation of an alternative set of territorial politics, one which is leading researchers to focus on new forms of disparity and disputes such as the implications of changing patterns of migration, emergence of new states, promotion of inter-governmentality and regional collaboration by the European Commission as well as challenges to existing models of democracy and representation through a growth in localism. Globalisation also appears to be fuelling claims of the resurgence of cities as drivers of competitiveness resulting in challenges to existing urban economic infrastructures and urban regional governance.

The pace of change has left these pivotal societal and political-economic formations reliant on increasingly outdated and inadequate institutional structures, infrastructures, territorialities, statutory frameworks and supports. And herein rests the tension: as the demand for more 'appropriate', widely understood to mean more flexible, networked and smart forms of urban and regional planning and governance arrangements increases, new loci and/or expressions of territorial cooperation and conflict are emerging.

The Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2011, on **Contested Regions** presents an opportunity to discuss and debate these important issues, to establish the need and nature of future research imperatives in this field, and to address the concerns, and challenges confronting practitioners and policymakers.

Plenary Speakers

Morning Session

- Spaces of collective provision: 'old' territorial politics in the 'new' economy?
Professor Andy Jonas, University of Hull
- Suburban governance and the regional question: The Canadian perspective
Professor Roger Keil, York University, Canada
- Regional complexity, governance and the region – Problematizing 'thick' and 'thin' territories

Professor Anssi Paasi, Academy of Finland & University of Oulu

Afternoon Session:

- Political geographies and the public realm
Professor Kevin Morgan, Cardiff University
- Relational approaches to regions and the place of politics
Professor Allan Cochrane, Open University

Parallel workshops

Morning Session

- **Multi-Channel eGovernance: The EGOV4U project**
- **Remapping city-regions: The politics of defining, designating, delimiting**
- **Assembling regions: Spatiality, practice performativity**
- **Conceptualizing regions**
- **Territorial politics of innovation 1: Labour, industry and regions**
- **Transborder regional cooperation**
- **Regional divides and territorial politics**
- **The politics of local and regional infrastructures**

Afternoon Session

- **Territorial politics of innovation 2: Smart growth strategies**
- **The politics of local and regional economic performance**
- **'New localism' and territorial politics**
- **State Space, spatial planning and territorial politics 1**
- **State Space, spatial planning and territorial politics 2**
- **New sites of urban-regional contestation**
- **Social ecology and environment politics: Towards a green metropolis**
- **Regional justice: Development, welfare, quality of life**

Prices: RSA Student Member £45, RSA Early Career/Associate Member £95/and RSA Individual/Corporate Member £170. Non-members: Student £85, Early Career/Associate (retired) £160 and Individual/Corporate £225

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