



## Call for Papers

**4th Conference of the Nordic Section of the Regional Studies Association (NoRSA):**

**Regions and Multi-Scalar Knowledge Dynamics**

**October 4–5, 2012**

**Bornholm/Denmark**

**Organised by The Centre for Regional and Tourism Research (CRT)**

The importance of innovation and knowledge for regional economic development has been emphasised in academic studies during the last 20-30 years. Factors and dynamics facilitating innovation, learning and regional competitiveness have been conceptualised by use of constructs such as 'industrial districts', 'regional innovation systems', 'learning regions', 'clusters', 'triple helix models' etc. Despite their differences such territorial innovation models commonly focus on *intra-regional* capacities and resources enabling firms and regions to compete in the global knowledge-based economy. However, as it increasingly is acknowledged that only few firms are able to generate all of the knowledge they require from within their own region, there has been a growing attention in recent years to the role of *extra-regional* relations and sources of knowledge as well as to the importance for innovation of combinations of networks operating at *multiple spatial scales* from the local to the international. To describe the role and interaction of knowledge dynamics at different territorial scales, new theoretical constructs have been developed, for example the notion of 'local buzz and global pipelines' or different models of 'knowledge anchoring'.

The NORSA 2012 conference will centre on discussing the theoretical and empirical evidence and implications of such multi-scalar knowledge sources and dynamics for urban as well as rural regions. We are inviting papers from various academic fields concerned with the processes and practices of regional development. Themes for submitted papers as well as for possible conference sessions include but are not limited to:

- The substance and organization of regional knowledge infrastructures
- The role of proximity and distance for knowledge creation
- Differentiated knowledge bases of Nordic regions
- Localized innovation systems, path dependency and lock-ins
- Green regional paths to innovation and competitiveness
- Cultural and creative Nordic regions and cities
- Urban and rural areas in the experience economy
- Differentiated regional development - comparative studies
- Regional governance and processes of institutional change
- Regional policy in the global knowledge economy

We welcome papers from academics and other people with academic interests from Nordic countries, Europe and beyond. Additionally, participation is possible for those who are not interested in presenting a paper of their own. The NORSA 2012 conference is an exceptional opportunity for the regional policy-makers to tap into leading-edge scientific knowledge and policy development resources.

To encourage conversation and mutual learning, we prefer substantial abstracts of approximately 1000 words that present the main ideas, methods and arguments of the presentation. No full papers are expected. Abstracts should be submitted by July 4, 2012 via the submission form on the conference website <http://www.crt.dk/site/265/>. Abstracts will be refereed and you will be notified about acceptance by August 4, 2012. Deadline for speaker registration is September 4, 2012. Registration will be opened by December 12, 2011.

The conference language is English.

Further information about the conference programme, venue, accommodations, registration fees etc. will be available on the conference website <http://www.crt.dk/site/265/>