

Regional

Studies

Association

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM
FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY AND RESEARCH

The Place of Leadership in Urban and Regional Development

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

First Research Seminar **Leadership in Urban and Regional Development: Exploring the Debates and Challenges**

**23rd - 24th November 2010 – Centre for Urban and
Regional Studies (CURS) organised in association with
the Centre for Leadership at the University of
Birmingham (CLUB)**

Deadline to submit your abstract: 1 September 2010

(Full papers are welcome but are not required for this seminar)

For further information: http://www.curs.bham.ac.uk/events/RSA_network.shtml or visit
<http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/research-networks/current/plurd.asp>

Network Organizers

- Dr. John Gibney, University of Birmingham. UK.
- Professor Markku Sotarauta, University of Tampere. Finland.
- Professor Andrew Beer, University of Adelaide. Australia.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Background

This research network aims to incorporate *leadership* and related concepts more fully within the study of urban and regional development. The suggestion is that to better understand the construction of urban and regional ‘advantage’ - we need to investigate in more depth what it is that formal and informal leaders actually do, how and why to transform their regions.

The ‘working’ proposition is that a deeper understanding of how leadership plays in and through cities and regions will provide us with additional analytical leverage and help us to more fully conceptualise and explain the dynamics of urban and regional development.

Aims

The overall aim of the network is to surface and discuss contemporary approaches to the study of leadership in the urban and regional development setting. The network will bring together leadership, place and economic development/ planning/ regeneration researchers - and will look to develop a series of fresh multi-perspectival/trans-disciplinary theoretical insights that will inform forward research trajectories for this growing field of inquiry over the medium term.

The combinatorial learning we hope to engender around leadership theory and practice in the context of urban and regional development will be of direct relevance to the research community and those involved in the design and delivery of economic development, planning and regeneration policy for cities and regions.

The First Seminar

The first seminar will be held in the University of Birmingham in the UK. The main aim is to frame the emerging research agenda and to share and discuss research that is recent/ongoing in this field. The seminar will include speakers from academic and policy-making organisations. The organisers invite presentations from RSA members and non-members on topics related to leadership in urban and regional development.

Provisional speakers and topics include:

Edward Peck, University of Birmingham, UK – *Why Study Leadership?*

Andrew Beer, University of Flinders, Australia - *Lessons from the Rural Development Experience in Australia*

Markku Sotarauta, University of Tampere, Finland – *On Leadership and Institutional Entrepreneurship for Regional Development*

Juha Kostianen, Finnish National Innovation Fund (Sitra) – *Designing and Leading Radical Development Initiatives*

John Diamond, Edge Hill University, UK – *Learning about Leadership from the Experience of the Voluntary and Community Sector in the UK*

Andrew Johnston, Sheffield Hallam University, UK. – *Exploring Public Sector Entrepreneurship and the Leadership of the Urban and Regional Development Process in the UK*

Chris Collinge and John Gibney, University of Birmingham, UK – *On Knowledge, Place and Leadership*

Robert Gawloski, Nicolas Copernicus University, Poland – *Leadership in Metropolitan Areas in Poland*



Please send your details and an abstract of your presentation (800 words - full written papers are **not** required for this workshop) to John Gibney, Marku Sotarauta and Andrew Beer (details below).

If you would like to attend this seminar without presenting please use the same contact details.

Who should attend?

The seminar is open to all researchers, PhD students, practitioners and policy makers with an interest in leadership in urban and regional development.

Submission of abstracts

We invite participants to submit an abstract in English by email, of up to 800 words by no later than the **1st September 2010**. Your abstract should be submitted to the Research Network organizers: markku.sotarauta@uta.fi; j.gibney@bham.ac.uk; andrew.beer@flinders.edu.au

Abstracts must include full contact details. Acceptance of abstracts will be confirmed by mid-September.

Participation costs

Participation to the event is subject to a small fee of £35 to cover venue and catering expenses. There are six free places for PhD students awarded on a first come basis. Thanks to the support of the Regional Studies Association, we are able to offer a limited number of **travel bursaries** to assist eligible attendees with their travel and accommodation costs. Please let us know when you submit your abstract that you wish to apply for an RSA travel bursary. The bursary is redeemable on presentation of receipts for eligible expenses. Bursaries will be offered preferentially using the following criteria:

- Member of the Regional Studies Association (from band 'b' to 'd' country**);
- Offering an abstract for presentation at the event;
- Student** or Early Career Researcher;
- No access to own research or travel funds.

Venue:

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2RA, UK

On-line registration will be available from 1st August 2010

For administrative enquiries please contact Yvonne Harley y.t.harley@bham.ac.uk

¹ ** These criteria will count double

