Planning Regional Futures – Special Panel Session

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Origins and Opportunities

The need for this Association has existed for at least the last 12 years. During that period, meetings and discussions about regional planning and development broke out from time to time, and invariably drew large numbers of people from and cohesion to the organization which had been fatally lacking in the earlier efforts.

After only 15 months of existence, the Association can already claim a degree of usefulness and vigour. There are (January 1967) 350 individual members.
50th Anniversary Special Issue of Regional Studies
“Planning” as topic for Regional Studies
“Planning” as topic for *Regional Studies* articles in WoS
Planning is no longer solely the domain of professional planners.

The study of cities and regions traditionally had a disciplinary home in planning schools (geography departments, and the like) but this link with place and space disciplines is being steadily eroded as research increasingly takes place in and through interdisciplinary research institutes.

The advent of real-time modelling of cities and regions, and the challenges this poses for the type of long-term perspective that planning has traditionally afforded at a time, and in a society, where immediacy and short-termism are the watchwords.

‘Regional planning’ and its mixed record of achievement.

How the link between ‘region’ and ‘planning’ has been decoupled as alternative regional (and other spatial) approaches to planning have emerged in conjunction with more networked and relational forms of place-making, and the re-imagination of ‘the urban’ and ‘the region’ in the current period.
Planning Regional Futures

- An intellectual call-to-arms to engage planners (and those who engage with planning) to critically explore research agendas at the intersection of planning and regional studies. More specifically, our aim is to move beyond the narrow confines of existing debate by providing a forum for debating what planning is, and should be, for in regional studies.

- Proposals were invited that take-up the intellectual and practical challenge of planning urban and regional futures, as well as more provocative think-pieces that challenge or defend the foundations upon which the planning tradition in regional studies is constructed.
Format

- 8 minutes
- 5 questions / 5 slides

1. Strengths of current approaches to planning cities and regions?
2. Weaknesses of current approaches to planning cities and regions?

3. Where are the opportunities to make progress?
4. What are some of the major challenges to making this progress?
5. What is the vision for planning regional futures?

... followed by Q&A, discussion, comments.