**Regional Studies Association Scotland Section**

**Meeting, Thursday 17 October 2016, 4pm -6pm, Glasgow Caledonian University**

**Note of meeting**

Present:

Constantia Anastasiadou, Napier University; George Callaghan, Open University; Mike Danson, Heriot Watt University; Leaza McSorley, Glasgow Caledonian University; Angela O’Hagan, Glasgow Caledonian University; Fiona Wishlade, Strathclyde University; Geoff Wittam, Glasgow Caledonian University.

Geoff Whittam provided background to the meeting. The RSA Scotland Section has been inactive for a while. However, discussions at the RSA Annual Conference in Graz between members and the Chief Executive of the RSA lead to the RSA inviting members to apply to be the new Chair of the Regional Studies Association Scotland Section, with the intent to re-starting activities of the Scottish Section.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect a new Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and discuss objectives and future plans for the Scottish Section.

Leaza McSorley was invited to talk to her application for the position of Chair. Leaza outlined her experience and her plans for the role of Chair, and was duly elected Chair of the Regional Studies Association. This now goes forward to the Territorial Committee and RSA Board for approval.

Invitations were invited for the positions of Treasure and Secretary. No nominations were received. The group then agreed to form an Organising Committee which would assist the Chair in organising events, activities and undertaking the work of the Section.

Members of the Organising Committee are:

Leaza McSorley (Chair)

Constantia Anastasiadou, Napier University

George Callaghan, Open University

Mike Danson, Heriot Watt University

Geoff Whittam, Glasgow Caledonian University

Fiona Wishlade, Strathclyde University

It was agreed that the section will be as open and inclusive as possible, and would seek to ensure good representation from all Scottish universities. Thus, if any other members want to join the organising committee or volunteer to help in any way that will be welcome.

Members were keen to involve not just academic colleagues but policy-makers and practitioners too. The Section could support the impact of academic research and help with dissemination of research findings.

Discussions then focused on what activities/workshops/events/outputs the Scotland Section could undertake.

It was agreed that a research-policy workshop would be a good opportunity for members to present their research. It was agreed that the event should reflect the diverse research interests of members, and encourage/enable wider participation. A potential ‘Brexit’ theme was discussed with key issues including: sectoral specific issues (tourism), employment, growth, gender, social inclusion.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the RSA Scotland section should be a planning meeting to discuss organising the research-policy workshop and future activities.

It was agreed that to boost attendance the meeting should be held in different locations each time. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Edinburgh on 17th November, 4-6pm.

Venue details would be arranged and meeting details circulated to the RSA Scotland Section mailing list.