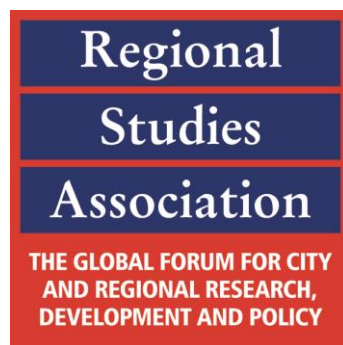


# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



**RSA Australasia Conference 2017**

## **Fragmented Regional Worlds: Inequality and Populism in a Globalising World Sydney, Australia**

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## Keynote Speakers

### Keynote panel: 'Regional Fragmentation and the Changing Political Landscapes of 2016-17'

2016 witnessed the Brexit vote in the UK and the election of Donald Trump in the US. In Europe, far right parties gained ground in opinion polls. In Australia, 2017 commenced with news that Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party had surged in the polls. A common thread across all these phenomena was a discourse about regions. In the Brexit vote, London voted strongly to 'remain', but other parts of the UK, excluding Scotland and Northern Ireland, voted to 'leave'. In the US, states with traditional strong blue collar working class populations - including Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin - delivered Trump the Presidency. Regions in economic distress are often the places from where far right parties emerge. Economic changes over the past few decades have appeared to have generated heightened regional differentiation and a seemingly more acute geography of winners and losers, and so it is tempting to interpret the events of 2016-17 as political reverberations from those changes. But is it that simple, and indeed, what are the implications of seeing these events through a 'regional prism'? In this keynote panel, leading scholars from Australia, the UK and New Zealand will assess and discuss these ideas.

#### Dr Mia Gray

**University of Cambridge, United Kingdom**



Mia Gray is an economic and social geographer at Cambridge University. Her current research explores the politics and the distributional effects of austerity. She examines the intertwining of the economic, social and political effects on the local decisions around austerity and the shaping of the local state. This project highlights the uneven nature of the budget cuts, the political coalitions surrounding funding change, and the institutional mechanisms which promote change in policy priorities in the UK, the US, and Canada. She is also one of the editors of the Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society.

#### Professor Phillip O'Neill

**Western Sydney University, Australia**



Professor Phillip O'Neill is the Director of the Centre for Western Sydney at Western Sydney University. The Centre is the University's primary driver of policy-relevant research for the Western Sydney region. Phillip is a widely published international scholar with expertise relating to economic and industrial change especially in large cities. He has held visiting research fellowships at Bristol University, The University of Massachusetts, the National University of Singapore, the University of Oxford, and recently at University College London. Phillip has held seven prestigious Australian

Research Council grants including two current grants, one which investigates the merits of private infrastructure financing and the other which seeks to understand the geography of competitive financial centres.

Phillip writes regular columns for the Fairfax regional and community press.

## Keynote Speakers

### Professor Andrew Beer

**University of South Australia, Australia**



Andrew Beer is Dean, Research and Innovation at the University of South Australia Business School. He previously worked at the University of Adelaide and the Flinders University of South Australia, and holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Adelaide and a PhD from the Australian National University.

Professor Beer has served as a Research Fellow at the University of Plymouth, a Leverhulme Fellow at the University of Ulster and a Visiting Professor at the University of North Texas. He is currently the Chair of the South Australian Government's Homelessness Strategic Group, a Fellow of the Regional Australia Institute and has served on the College of Experts for the Australian Research Council. He is a Fellow of the UK's Academy of Social Sciences and the Chair of the Regional Studies Association.

His research interests include the operation and functioning of Australia's housing markets, the drivers of regional growth, economic change in major cities and the impacts of an ageing population. He is currently undertaking research in three major areas: the changing role of Australian local governments in Australia's housing system; the cross national analysis of the leadership of places; the quality and condition of Australia's housing stock; and, the use of services and housing by Australia's ageing population.

### Professor Hugh Campbell

**University of Otago, New Zealand**



Hugh Campbell is currently the Chair of Sociology at the University of Otago and was Director of the Centre for the Study of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CSAFE) from 2000-2010. His main research areas are the political economy of agriculture, the relationship between neoliberalism and sustainability, and the elaboration of food and agricultural politics. His recent book collections on these topics are: *Rethinking Agricultural Policy Regimes: Food Security, Climate Change and the Future Resilience of Global Agriculture* (2012, with Reidar Almas), *Food Systems Failure: The Global Food Crisis and the Future of Agriculture* (2012, with Chris Rosin and Paul Stock), *Waste Matters: New Perspectives on Food and Society* (2013, with David Evans and Anne

Murcott), and *Biological Economies: Experimentation and the Politics of Agri-Food Frontiers* (2016, with Richard Le Heron, Michael Carolan and Nick Lewis).

## Closing keynote: 'Industry 4.0 and Implications for Regions'

### Professor David Bailey

**Aston University, United Kingdom**



David Bailey is a Professor of Industry Policy at the Aston University Business School and previously worked at the University of Coventry and Birmingham University. David is an influential business expert on economic restructuring and industrial policy, and is perhaps best known for his knowledge of UK and West Midlands car manufacturing. As an author, regular media commentator and newspaper columnist, he has provided articles and commentary on key economic and regional policy issues including the closure and eventual reopening of the MG Rover car plant in Birmingham, UK, and the Jaguar Land Rover economic success story. Most recently, David has undertaken European funded research on using foreign investment to upgrade industry clusters. He has also worked on industrial and regional policy and the rise of 'phoenix' industries such as the low carbon vehicles cluster here in the West Midlands. David

served as the Chair of the Regional Studies Association for six years to 2012. He has collaborated with academics and policy makers in Europe and Australia, and regularly advises consultants, governments and non government organisations.

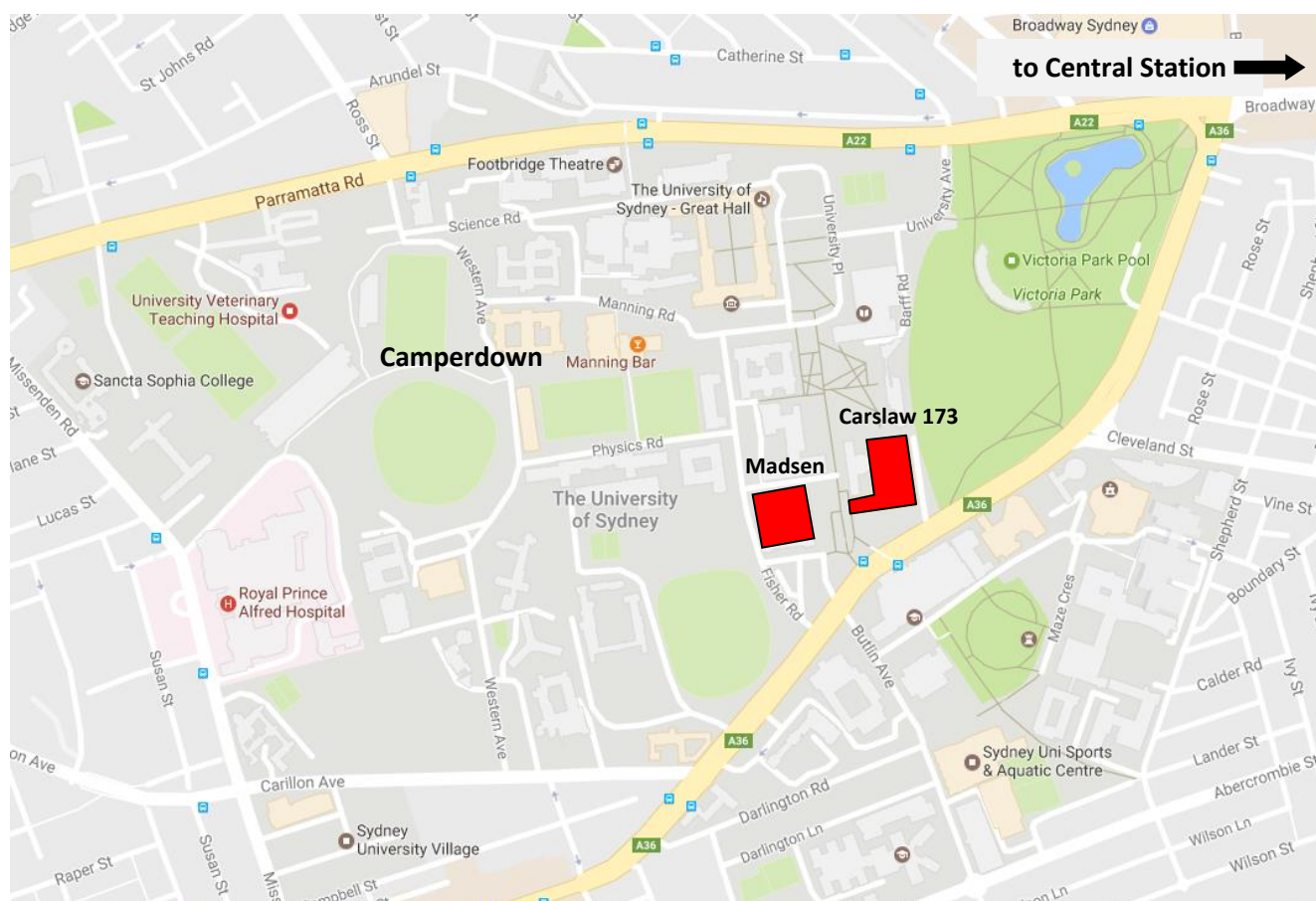
## Venue

The RSA Australasia Conference is hosted by the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney. The School of Geosciences is the home for Geography, Environmental Studies, Marine Science, Geology and Geophysics. Australia's first Department of Geography was established at the University of Sydney in 1920, with Thomas Griffith Taylor as its founder Professor. In 1998, the Department of Geography was combined with the Department of Geology to form the School of Geosciences. The traditions of practical, multi-disciplinary research enunciated by Thomas Griffith Taylor almost a century ago are continued to this day within the Geography discipline of the School of Geosciences, which has international expertise on urban and regional change, Asia-Pacific geographies, global development and sustainability, and hazards and disaster management, among others. [http://www.geosci.usyd.edu.au/research/re\\_geog.shtml](http://www.geosci.usyd.edu.au/research/re_geog.shtml)

Venue Address:

University of Sydney  
Camperdown NSW 2006  
Australia

Eastern Avenue Complex  
Buildings Madsen and Carslaw  
Rooms Carslaw 173 and Madsen Conference Room



## Welcome Reception

Date/Time: Monday 03/07/2017 1830 - 2200, Marmalade Bar, The Rose Hotel

All participants are invited to the Welcome Reception that will take place in the Marmalade Bar at the Rose Hotel, 52-54 Cleveland St, Chippendale NSW 2008, Australia.



**Conference Registration**

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 0830 - 1700, Foyer of the Madsen Building

**Welcome from the Organisers**

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 0900 - 0910, Carslaw Room 173

McManus, Phil - The University of Sydney, Australia	Welcome to the Conference
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**Welcome to the Country**

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 0910 - 0930, Carslaw Room 173

Uncle Chicka Madden, Australia	Welcome to the Country
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**Keynote Panel Regional Fragmentation and the Changing Political Landscapes of 2016-17**

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 0930 - 1100, Carslaw Room 173

Chair: Bill Pritchard - The University of Sydney, Australia

Gray, Mia - University of Cambridge, United Kingdom	
O'Neill, Phillip – Western Sydney University, Australia	
Beer, Andrew - UniSA Business School, Australia	
Campbell, Hugh – University of Otago, New Zealand	
Q&A	

**Coffee Break**

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 1100 - 1130

**Session 1**

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 1130 - 1300, Carslaw Room 173

Chair: Lee Pugalis - University of Technology Sydney, Australia

Beer, Andrew - UniSA Business School, Australia Ayres, Sarah - University of Bristol, United Kingdom Clower, Terry - George Mason University, United States Faller, Fabian - University of Kiel, Germany Sancino, Alessandro - The Open University, United Kingdom	Place Leadership and Industry Transition in Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and USA: Testing the Vignette Method
Tattersall, Amanda - The University of Sydney, Australia	Organising Cities and Urban Alliances
Hodgson, Laura - University Of South Australia, Australia	Regional Impacts of Airbnb
Johnson, Louise – Deakin University, Australia	Can regional transformation be socially inclusive? The Case of <i>Northern Futures</i> in Geelong, Australia

**Lunch Break**

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 1300 - 1400

### Changing Urban and Regional Systems in the Developed and Developing World I

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 1400 - 1530, Carslaw Room 173

Chair: Mia Gray - University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Goetz, Stephan - Pennsylvania State University, United States Davlasheridze, Meri - Texas A&M Galveston, United States Han, Yicheol - Penn State University, United States	Explaining the 2016 Trump Vote in U.S. Counties
Yao, Yongling - Renmin University of China Lu, Yongmei - Texas State University, China Wang, Yunhan - Renmin University of China, China Dong, Yue - Renmin University of China, China	Global City Connectivity and National Economy
Searle, Glen - University of Queensland, Australia Sigler, Thomas - University of Queensland, Australia Sarkar, Somwrita - University of Sydney, Australia	Sydney as a Global/'Nested' City: Evidence from Recent Finance Sector Changes
Wilson, Bruce - European Union Centre at RMIT, Australia	(Re)Thinking Regional Innovation Systems In Australia And Europe

### Coffee Break

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 1530 - 1600

### Changin Urban and Regional Systems an the Developed and Developing World II

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 1600 - 1730, Carslaw Room 173

Chair: Phillip O'Neill – Western Sydney University, Australia

Nurse-Bray, Melissa - University of Adelaide, Australia	Urban adaptive governance: planning for green space in a space constcuted world
Buckley, Amma - Curtin University, Australia	Information, Knowledge and Relational Connectivity: The Importance of Retaining Public Access Technology Centres in Regional/Remote Locations
Sorensen, Anthony - University Of New England, Australia Pugalis, Lee - University of Technology, Sydney, Australia	R3: ART3 – Remaking Rural Regions: Antifragile Responses to Ten Transformative Technologies
Porter, Jessica - University Of South Australia	Governance of affordable housing in South Australia: what do regional planning reforms mean for non-metropolitan local government?
Stilwell, Frank - The University of Sydney, Australia	Divided Cities, Divided Country

### You Are What You Eat

Date/Time: Tuesday 04/07/2017 1600 - 1730, Madsen Conference Room

Chair: Hugh Campbell - University of Otago, New Zealand

Pearson, David - OzHarvest, Australia	Contributing to a more sustainable food system: the potential of reducing food waste
Stapper, Maarten - Biologic AgFood, Australia	Healthy food from vibrant communities in healthy landscapes
Argent, Neil - University of New England, Australia Larder, Nicolette - University of New England, Australia	Craft food and drink production and consumption in non-metropolitan Australia
Lewis, Nick - University of Auckland, New Zealand	The Auckland FoodBowl: A networked fix for regional development, a head start in the race to agrifood bottoms, or yet more socialising of risksto underscore private gain

**Conference Registration**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 0845 - 1630, Foyer of the Madsen Building

**Changing Urban and Regional Systems in the Developed and Developing World III**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 0900 - 1030, Carslaw Room 173

Chair: Phil McManus - The University of Sydney, Australia

Lo, Kevin - Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong	Poverty alleviation resettlement and spatio-economic restructuring in rural China
Qian, Junxi - The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong	The Rural renaissance and reconstruction movement in China: culture, economy and the dilemma of post-rurality
Yue, Wang - Nanjing Institute of Geography & Limnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences ( NIGLAS), China	Innovation for the growth? The assessment of the innovation 40 policy in Jiangsu Province, China
Zhang, Nina - University of Bristol, United Kingdom	Modelling the interdependence of between province urban migration flows in China: a comparison of spatial interactive and multilevel gravity models

**Session 6**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 0900 - 1030, Madsen Conference Room

Chair: Bill Pritchard - The University of Sydney, Australia

Hu, Ren - University of Wollongong, Australia	Diminishing return and the dynamics of the Australian dairy industry
Jermisittiparsert, Kittisak - College of Government, Rangsit University, Thailand Sriyakul, Thanaporn - Faculty of Business Administration, Mahanakorn University of Technology, Thailand	Politicization of Rice Price: Who Gain and Who Lose from the Populist Policies to Intervene Rice Price in Thailand?
Hatipoglu, Burcin - Bogazici University, Turkey	Partnership Building for Sustainable Food: The Case of Earth Market in Şile, Istanbul
Buckle, Caitlin - University of New South Wales, Australia	Regional Cosmopolitanism: Domestic and International Migration Paths to the Seaside

**Coffee Break**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 1030 - 1100

**Place, Urban and Regional Leadership**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 1100 - 1230, Carslaw Room 173

Chair: Bruce Wilson - European Union Centre at RMIT, Australia

Scott, Alan - University of New England, NSW, Australia	From Pluralist to Leadership Democracy?
Dalziel, Paul - AERU, Lincoln University, New Zealand Saunders, Caroline - AERU, Lincoln University, New Zealand Saunders, Joe - IDEA Centre, University of Leeds, United Kingdom	Wellbeing Economics and Local Government
Hyland, Anna - RMIT University, Australia	Supporting evidence-informed policy and practice for Australian regions: a role for digital collections
Bourne, Kylie - Regional Australia Institute, Australia	Lead the Way or Find Your Own Way Out? Locally Led Responses to the Challenges of Structural Adjustment in Regional Areas

**Changing Urban and Regional Systems in the Developed and Developing World IV**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 1100 - 1230, Madsen Conference Room

Chair: Andrew Beer - UniSA Business School, Australia

Filipenko, Anton - National Taras Shevchenko University Of Kyiv, Ukraine	Principles of National and solidarity economy
Kenea, Kelbesa Wakuma - Central Queensland University, Australia Kinnear, Susan - Central Queensland University, Australia Akbar, Delwar - Central Queensland University, Australia	Factors impacting the accessibility of a public city bus service: a quantitative case-study analysis of Kolfe-Keraniyo sub-city, Addis Ababa
Hwang, Seok-Joon - Kyungpook National University, Korea, Republic of Li, Xiaomin - Kyungpook National University, Korea, Republic of	Location choice of FDI with unexpected shock - Case of Japanese FDIs into Korea
Sarkar, Somwrita - The University of Sydney, Australia Searle, Glen - The University of Sydney, Australia	Income Inequality and City Size: Towards causal explanations

**Lunch Break**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 1230 - 1330

**Session 9**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 1330 - 1500, Carslaw Room 173

Chair: Mia Gray - University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Hu, Richard - University of Canberra, Australia	Global City? Migration City? Insights from Sydney, Australia
Pham, Kane - University of Technology Sydney, Australia	Bordering practices in Global Sydney: Becoming a City-Region or a 'metropolis of three cities'
Loynd, Maxine - Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Australia	CSIRO Regional Strategic Foresight Project
Longstaff, Emily - The Regional Australia Institute, Australia	Settling International Migrants in Regional Australia: A Win-Win Scenario?

**Session 10**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 1330 - 1500, Madsen Conference Room

Chair: Bruce Wilson - European Union Centre at RMIT, Australia

Kim, Jungbin - University of Seoul, Korea, Republic of	What City government needs to proceed an innovative place making process
Mok, Winston - University of Sydney, Australia	Beyond Regional Policies and Place-based Deals, Aligning Incentives for Collaboration rather than Competition in Regional Development
Ankowska, Ania - Northumbria University, United Kingdom	Addressing complexity of accountabilities in contemporary governance. Application of typology of multi-dimensional accountability into the settings of Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership
Pearson, Leonie - The Regional Australia Institute, Australia	Deal or No Dal? Redefining Relationship between, and Within, State Actors and Corporations

**Coffee Break**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 1500 - 1530

**Closing Plenary**

Date/Time: Wednesday 05/07/2017 1530 - 1630, Carslaw Room 173

Chair: Andrew Beer - UniSA Business School, Australia

Bailey, David - Aston University, United Kingdom	Industry 4.0 and Implications for Regions
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## Participants' List

Name	Institution	Country
Ania Ankowska	Northumbria University	United Kingdom
Neil Argent	University of New England	Australia
David Bailey	Aston University	United Kingdom
Andrew Beer	UniSA Business School	Australia
Kylie Bourne	Regional Australia Institute	Australia
Caitlin Buckle	University of New South Wales	Australia
Amma Buckley	Curtin University	Australia
Hugh Campbell	University of Otago	New Zealand
Daniela Carl	Regional Studies Association	United Kingdom
Paul Dalziel	AERU, Lincoln University	New Zealand
Michelle Duffy	University of Newcastle	Australia
Anton Filipenko	National Taras Shevchenko University Of Kyiv	Ukraine
Stephan Goetz	Pennsylvania State University	United States
Mia Gray	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
Burcin Hatipoglu	Bogazici University	Turkey
Laura Hodgson	University of South Australia	Australia
Ren Hu	University of Wollongong	Australia
Richard Hu	University of Canberra	Australia
Seok-Joon Hwang	Kyungpook National University	Republic of Korea
Anna Hyland	RMIT University	Australia
Kittisak Jermsittiparsert	College of Government, Rangsit University	Thailand
Kelbesa Wakuma Kenea	Central Queensland University	Australia
Jungbin Kim	University of Seoul	Republic of Korea
Nick Lewis	University of Auckland	New Zealand
Kevin Lo	Hong Kong Baptist University	Hong Kong
Emily Longstaff	Regional Australia Institute	Australia
Maxine Loynd	Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development	Australia
Phil McManus	The University of Sydney	Australia
Mucha Mkono	University of Queensland	Australia
Winston Mok	University of Sydney	Australia
Melissa Nursey-Bray	University of Adelaide	Australia
Phillip O'Neill	Western Sydney University	Australia
David Pearson	OzHarvest	Australia
Leonie Pearson	The Regional Australia Institute	Australia
Kane Pham	University of Technology Sydney	Australia
Jessica Porter	University Of South Australia	Australia
Bill Pritchard	The University of Sydney	Australia
Lee Pugalís	University of Technology Sydney	Australia
Junxi Qian	The University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Somwrita Sarkar	The University of Sydney	Australia
Alan Scott	University of New England, NSW	Australia
Glen Searle	University of Queensland	Australia
Anthony Sorensen	University Of New England	Australia
Maarten Stapper	Biologic AgFood	Australia
Frank Stilwell	University of Sydney	Australia
Amanda Tatersall	The University of Sydney	Australia
Saskia Vervoorn	Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development	Australia
Lucy Williams	Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics	Australia
Bruce Wilson	European Union Centre at RMIT	Australia
Yongling Yao	Renmin University of China	China
Wang Yue	Chinese Academy of Sciences	China
Nina Zhang	University of Bristol	United Kingdom

# THE PLACE DIMENSION OF CITIES AND REGIONS

## *Governance, Industrial Development & Sustainability*

Regional

Studies

Association

THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR CITY  
AND REGIONAL RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY

### Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2017

Thursday 16th – Friday 17th November 2017

Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, London, UK

**Call for Papers – Abstract submission deadline: 21st August 2017**

Industrial development and innovation are recognised as drivers to sustain inclusive and sustainable growth in the long term. For this, national governments will need not only to facilitate the efficiency of markets and to ensure the expansion of current endowments and capabilities, but also to ease the creation of new sectors and new enterprises and new technologies. Less attention is sometimes given to the place side of development – yet territory matters. Social, economic and institutional characteristics of the urban and regional environment contribute to the productivity of firms and their capacity to cope with rising competitive pressures. Among other things, territories are, in fact, the expressions of know-how that are not easily transposable and which shape development trajectories. Experience suggests that city and regional governments can be pivotal in supporting new business models or forms of innovation and can mobilise production development in their territories through interventions in supply chains and the provision of training, and lead the transition to low carbon and SMART economies. The recent past has seen a revival of regional industrial policy. New policies have been built on recent insights into the drivers of competitive advantage and are characterized by a focus on local production systems, on networking and partnerships, and more strategic forms of policy intervention. In addition, policy formulation and implementation has generally become part of an interactive process of consultation and consensus building, and, to a large extent, involves the co-ordination and reshaping of existing instruments and governance arrangements rather than the development of entirely new ones.

This conference will discuss the emergence of new forms of industrial development and policies targeted on the competitiveness of regions and cities. The aim of the conference is to share knowledge and experiences in industrial and territorial development. Developed, emerging, and developing economies are heterogeneous. They differ in assets, resources and institutional capabilities, but there are common features of the industrial development process that make knowledge sharing a valuable exercise. The conference will explore new and emerging concepts and understandings that are influencing the shaping of industrial development and policy: how policy makers perceive the balance between more ingenious, innovation-oriented approaches and approaches targeted in foreign investments; how to understand the different outcomes in the various regions. We anticipate this programme will cover areas including local supply chains and networks of firms, urban and regional labour markets and multiplier effects, infrastructure, and long-term responsible business practice. The conference will also seek to point to some of the more recent changes in concepts that have made their way from theoretical and conceptual thinking to policy implementation, and will discuss the implications of these changes for academic research as well as policy-making.

#### **The broad themes:**

##### **Theorising Transition & New Methods & Data of Research**

City & Regional Policies for the New Economy

##### **Governance & Institutions in Industrial, Technology, & Innovation Policy**

New Financial Instruments & Infrastructure for Growing & Austere Cities & Regions

##### **The Future of Global Supply & Value Chains**

Corporate Investment Strategies & the Future of the Firm, Skills & Labour Markets

##### **Brexit Geographies: Devolution, Multilevel Governance, Investment & International Trade**

New Forms of Post-Politics & Post-Democracy

##### **Environmentality, Sustainability, & New Forms of Ecological Resilience**

Geographies of Mobility, Liveability, Spatial, Inequality, & Inclusions/Exclusions

#### **Submission Details**

Please submit your abstract (250 word abstracts) through the RSA conference portal by **21st August 2017**. To submit please go to [www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsawinter2017](http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsawinter2017). Proposals will be considered by the Conference Programme Committee against the criteria of originality and interest, subject balance and geographical spread. For questions please contact Lesa Reynolds at [lesa.reynolds@regionalstudies.org](mailto:lesa.reynolds@regionalstudies.org).

**Academic Organisers:** Professor David Bailey, Aston University, UK

Professor Martin Jones, University of Sheffield, UK

**RSA Organiser:** Lesa Reynolds – [lesa.reynolds@regionalstudies.org](mailto:lesa.reynolds@regionalstudies.org)



Join the conversation on Twitter! **#RSAWINTER2017**

# A World of Flows - Labour Mobility, Capital and Knowledge in an Age of Global Reversal and Regional Revival

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

**Abstract submission deadline: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018**

In January 2017, the editorial of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of *Regional Studies* launched – under the title “Global reversal, regional revival?” – a timely debate about regions and their development in a changing world where global trade and capital flows have been challenged. At the same time, *The Economist* presented evidence of capital flows shifting from foreign direct investments by multinational companies to new and more decentralised strategies such as an increasing focus on the establishment of national franchises, as well as the growing success of SMEs by means of utilizing e-commerce. New models of international business are emerging, and these have evolved in response to changing technologies, political shifts, the territorial awakening of some regions, and changing consumer demands – including calls for a more overt attempt to address sustainability and social justice at the national scale.

In this context, we need to better understand the nature and fabric of a footloose world. We know that transport and communication technologies continue to progress, information is ubiquitous and the data deluge is growing over time, while at the same time economically valuable knowledge continues to be sticky. On the one hand production factors remain highly mobile and this mobility is expressed in ways that are often unexpected, while on the other hand a rise of local culture and awareness, and tendencies towards increasing protectionism and nationalism is clearly observable. Nonetheless, migration pressures remain evident both within firms seeking new labour and amongst individuals seeking out a better life, capital investments continue to be borderless and the world of tourism booms.

The 2018 RSA Annual Conference aims to address processes of global reversal and regional revival, in a world dominated by flows of capital, labor, and knowledge. Further it seeks to understand the political, economic and social factors that initiate change and how these changes are finding new expressions as the world’s political and economic system continues to struggle with low rates of global economic growth, the rise of China as an economic super power, the on-going impacts of recession and austerity, and increasing levels of inequality.

To study and debate these and many other questions, we warmly invite the regional studies/science and connected communities to join us at the 2018 RSA Annual Conference in Lugano, Switzerland.

## Conference themes

A. Innovation and knowledge economies	B. Spatial planning and infrastructure	C. Labour markets, migration and borders
D. Location and relocation of economic activities	E. Mobility, urban and rural development	F. Tourism, events and culture
G. Sustainability, climate change and environment	H. Regional development policy	I. Agglomeration, clusters and externalities
J. Smart specialisation and the evolution of regional economies	K. Regional well-being, ageing and demography	L. Urban and regional theory, methodology and data
M. Regional and international trade	N. Networks and regional development	O. Entrepreneurship, start-ups and business climate
P. Financial crisis, austerity and resilience	Q. Regional challenges in health and education	R. Territorial governance and institutions
S. Housing, inequality and social justice	T. Developing area studies	U. Leading Change in Cities, Regions and Contested Spaces
V. Industry policy and the transition to carbon-constrained development	W. The emergence of the BRIC economies	X. Governments, Governance and Metagovernance: The Politics and Policy of Regions

We welcome papers from all – academics, researchers, students, and those working in policy and practice. The event is inclusive and offers networking opportunities for all in our field.

The organisers welcome proposals for special sessions, themed workshops and innovative forms of networking and collaboration. If you would like to organise or offer a session to the conference, please contact Wanda Miczorek at [wanda.miczorek@regionalstudies.org](mailto:wanda.miczorek@regionalstudies.org)

## Abstract Submission Details:

Please submit proposals for papers in the form of a 250-word abstract (text only) through the RSA conference portal by Friday **23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018**. Proposals will be considered by the Conference Programme Committee against the criteria of originality, interest and subject balance.

**Academic Organiser:** Prof. Rico Maggi, Istituto Ricerche Economiche IRE, Università della Svizzera italiana

**RSA Organiser:** Wanda Miczorek: [wanda.miczorek@regionalstudies.org](mailto:wanda.miczorek@regionalstudies.org) +44 (0)1273 698 017

More information at [www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-lugano-2017](http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-lugano-2017).

To join the conversation on twitter, please use #RSALUGANO

