Regional Studies Association



Joint Conference of the South West England and Wales Branches* 25th April 2018, University of the West of England, Bristol

On the edge looking outwards/inwards: contemporary regional development issues from the Atlantic fringe.

Call for Papers

The South West England and Wales Branches of the Regional Studies Association are pleased to announce their 2018 joint conference. This initiative is designed to facilitate and stimulate dialogue between policy makers and academics both to improve understanding of the workings of our regional economies and to identify ways of enhancing them under conditions of institutional reordering and on-going austerity.

The Branches are interdisciplinary and welcome contributions from economists, planners and geographers from government, academic and independent bodies as well as from other interested parties. Although some conference themes are listed below, papers in all policy-relevant areas that are relevant to our economies (very broadly defined) are welcome. We are interested in papers that address regional issues in general but also papers that touch specifically on our branch areas. Indicative themes include:

- Growth and agglomeration
- Access to markets and services
- Innovation and competitiveness
 - Low wages and high prices
 - Regional policy goals

As well as papers presented, the conference offers an opportunity to network with academics and practitioners with interests in South West England and South Wales.

Abstracts should be submitted by e-mail to the Chair of the South West Branch at the address below as soon as possible and by **April 6rd 2018 at the very latest**. Authors will be notified of the committee's decision within 10 days. Give us a call.

For further information, please contact either:

Dr Ian Smith. E-mail: ian5.smith@uwe.ac.uk. Tel: 0117 32 83364; or

Professor Don Webber, E-mail: Don.Webber@uwe.ac.uk . Tel: 0117 32 83416. Bristol Business School, *University of the West of England*, *Bristol*, BS16 1QY.

^{*} The South West Branch is a limited agent for the Regional Studies Association but without any authority to incur financial liability for that Association.