**Regional Studies Association Scotland Section**

**Meeting, Thursday 17 November 2016, 4pm -6pm, Open University, Edinburgh**

**Note of meeting**

Present:

Leaza McSorley (Chair Elect), George Callaghan, Open University; Constantia Anastasiadou, Napier University, Katerina Lisenkova, Strathclyde University, Douglas Chalmers, Glasgow Caledonian University

Apologies: Mike Danson, Geoff Whittam

The Chair welcomed everyone and recapped on the last month’s first meeting, where aims, activities and organising a research-policy workshop were discussed.

Members of the Organising Committee were:

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

**Action: If anyone other Members want to be added to the Organising Committee contact Leaza**

A number of members had contacted the Chair to say that they were keen to be involved with the RSA Scotland Section but could not attend today’s meeting these included:

Claire Seaman, Queen Margaret University

Alessandro Rosiello/colleagues, Edinburgh University

Laura Polverari, Strathclyde University

Ross Brown, St. Andrews University

Colin Mason, Glasgow University

Ron McQuaid, Stirling University

Serafin Pazos Vidal, COSLA

Fumi Kitigawa, Edinburgh University

Kristinn Hermannsson, Glasgow University

Discussion centred around

**RSA Annual Conference Dublin**. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to propose a special panel from the Scottish Section. Ideas included ‘Brexit: Jobs, Growth and Inclusion’. It was agreed that the idea and suggestions for the special panel would be circulated to the RSA Scotland mailing list to ensure that the panel enabled all members to participate and include their area of research.

**Action: Circulate idea of special session by the RSA Scotland Section at the RSA Annual conference and ask for suggestions, which would enable members to present their research**

**Treasurer and Secretary:** it was agreed that members would ask colleagues, potentially PhDs/ Early career colleagues if they would like to volunteer for the post of Treasurer or Secretary. Whilst the Organising Committee approach is helpful it would assist the Chair to have these two posts filled.

**Action: Members to consider volunteering for post of Treasurer and Secretary**

**Funding:** The group discussed the potential for joint funding bids. The ESRC will shortly be launching a call under the [UK in a Changing Europe](/research/our-research/the-uk-in-a-changing-europe/) initiative for Brexit Priority Grants. The very tight turn-around time, bid opens December, deadline January was discussed. It was agreed that joint work would be useful.

Carnegies Trust Collaborative funding grant. It was discussed if this fund would be useful for RSA Scotland to bid to facilitate joint working. It was agreed it would. The deadline is end January.

It was agreed that details of both of these funding schemes should be circulated to RSA Scotland members for discussion as to whether a joint bid was possible.

**Action: Circulate details of both funding bids to RSA Scotland members and discuss if anyone would like to contribute to a joint bid.**

**Research-policy workshop**: Dates were discussed and it was agreed that January was a good time, and that it was not too soon as most members will have work in progress that they would like to present. It was agreed Thursday was a good day and the 19th was preferable. It was agreed that external speakers would be contacted, and we would work around them before finalising the date.

Venues were discussed: Leaza offered to host it a Glasgow Caledonian University in Glasgow. The university has provided some admin support for her role so this may be the easiest option but was open to ideas and what suited members. The benefits of holding activities outside of the universities to increase impact and broaden attendance was discussed.

**Quarterly events**: the format and how often we should arrange workshops/events was discussed. Quarterly events (research/policy workshops) were suggested and it was agreed that the focus and content will be bottom-up, decided by members and what they want the focus to be on.

To close the Chair thanked everyone for attendance and was encouraged by the number of members who had contacted her to say that they would like to be involved even though they couldn’t attend the meeting.