

POLICY EXPO

Handbook 2019

CONTENTS

I.	The Exposition (Expo) in brief	2
II.	Applications for Funding	4
III.	Reporting	6
IV.	Financial guidelines	7
V.	Recognition / Intellectual property / Knowledge transfer	9
VI.	Ethics, misconduct and liabilities	10
VI.	Application queries	10
	Call for applications	11

I. The Exposition (Expo) in brief

The Association is launching a new policy research initiative worth £15,000 to successful teams aiming to connect the work of its members and wider communities to societal questions and policy needs.

It is proposed to call this new initiative an “Expo” taking the word’s meaning of a “comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory” for example, “a systematic exposition of the idea of biodiversity”.

The Association seeks a leading and impactful role for its community, to inform and influence policy and practice in creative and ambitious ways. The aim is to support Expos addressing issues that are important, current and having impacts for society. They will investigate how the communities of regional studies, regional science, urban studies and related fields can respond to new societal challenges and opportunities.

The Expos will deliver a policy focussed, clear and evidenced book for launch particularly within the relevant practice based communities and to the academic community through the Association’s membership benefits and wider book sales.

The RSA provides funding of **£15,000** (or its equivalent in dollars or euros; for your information c. \$19,000; c. €16,800). This includes the cost of a book publication and launch for which £2,000 of the grant will be retained by the RSA. To support RSA Policy Expositions on topics related to the priority areas set out in the RSA Development Plan 2015 – 2020 from time to time an open call will be made inviting the academic community to suggest suitable themes. Commissioning will be on the basis of two Expos per year to allow each to be carefully supported and managed and maximum value to be extracted from the outcomes.

Each Expo theme is advertised through a call for expressions of interest and will be awarded to teams setting out clear policy related questions. Expos will run for up to 18 months and need to include a number of deliverables including calls for evidence and focus groups and would have tightly prescribed outcomes in the form of an article for the journal *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science* and a report in the form of a policy-oriented book for publication in a new *RSA Impact and Policy Book Series*. This book would normally be expected to be launched by the Association at an appropriate time and venue and will be given in print form to all RSA members (excepting those paying the introductory Chinese Division rate) and in electronic form to all subscribers to the RSA journals pack. This gives each book a very substantial potential readership footprint. In addition, 100 copies will be purchased by the Association for distribution to the policy community directly.

The full Terms and Conditions governing the grant will be provided to successful applicants as part of the formal grant offer and will be based on the general terms and conditions set out below.

Prioritized research themes

The Policy Expo programme responds to the aims of the Association. The Regional Studies Association’s Development Plan highlights the Association’s aims in the next planning period as:

- leading the regional research, policy and practice communities
- developing our members and support our community
- delivering high quality regional research
- influencing policy debate and practice
- innovating in publishing
- acknowledging excellence in our field

In line with many other funders, the RSA Board operates a number of schemes and in some of these it allows applicants to apply freely without thematic restriction and in others it requires them to contribute to the research priorities of the Association. In the case of application for a Policy Expo award, applicants will respond to the appropriate call for expressions of interest. These will relate to the following priority areas set out in the Association's Development Plan and from time to time there will be free calls.

1. Sustainable Cities and Regions

- *urban and regional sustainability, risk management, low carbon and climate mitigation strategies, food, energy, water and environment and environmental resilience*

2. Spatial Theory and Methods

- *urban and regional theories, methodology, value change (including big and open data), visualization, spatial economic analysis*

3. Territory, Politics & Governance

- *territorial politics, governance, institutions, regionalism and regionalisation, city region building and metropolitan politics, devolution and localism*

4. Regional and Urban Economies

- *innovation, evolution, economic resilience, clusters, creativity, competitiveness, labour markets, work and welfare, migration, firms, sectors, global production networks and value chains.*

5. Spatial Planning

- *cities and city regions, strategic spatial planning, housing, transport, infrastructure and the built environment, place making approaches*

6. Regional and Urban Policy

- *cohesion, leadership, governance, public management, policy formulation and evaluation, place based approaches, smart cities and regions, urbanization and regional development*

7. Sub-national identities & well being

- *citizenship, culture, identity, lived differences, social capital, ageing, demography, community and wellbeing*

II. Applications for Funding

Submission process and assessment criteria

In making its selections the RSA Policy Committee will be seeking an expression of interest which identifies a clear set of policy questions with international, national and regional (sub-national) resonance on the invited themes. It requires that each team includes an early career researcher (someone less than 5 years from the date on their PhD certificate) and that the team is international (at least two countries/territories). The Committee appreciates expressions that are multi- and inter-disciplinary in scope and where the relevant policy and practice communities are clearly identified and the means of engagement with them articulated. In addition to the Expression of Interest the Policy Committee may require an interview with team members prior to making its decisions.

The Policy Committee's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Applications are invited on the following themes:

- 1. Infrastructure in local and regional development**
- 2. Austerity urbanism and inclusive growth**
- 3. Sustainable energy**

For more information, please see the **call for applications on page 11**.

The application should be on the application form and include the following:

- Applicant information details:
 - Title, name, surname for each applicant
 - RSA membership number for each applicant
 - Postal address, telephone number and email for correspondence
 - Name of Higher Education Institution (HEI)
 - The name of the chair and four committee members
- Title of the Expo
- Project timings
- Resource allocation
- Details of the policy questions that the Expo will address and the relevant fields of policy and practice along with how they will be engaged in the work
- An outline of how this proposal might achieve societal impact
- An explanation of how the Expo will contribute to the fields of regional studies, regional science, urban studies and related fields
- 3-6 page CV for all Expo leaders

The application should be emailed to policyexpo@regionalstudies.org.

The submission deadline for the detailed application by is **12th June 2019**. The full applications will be reviewed and assessed by the RSA Policy Committee and recommendations will be made to the RSA Executive Group for decision.

Assessment criteria

- Incomplete applications or applications arriving after the closing date will not be considered
- All applications should demonstrate that RSA funds are sought for a clearly defined set of policy questions with international, national and regional (sub-national) relevance
- Applications should include an analysis of recent research and policy affecting the theme in effect giving a problem statement.
- Applications should discuss future scenarios and policy solutions of the theme based on assessment of existing policy responses
- Applications will be assessed on the basis of –
 - quality and potential policy impact and
 - the deliverability of the proposed project
- The grant application and any subsequent agreement will need to be signed by both the grant applicant and the Expo Chair's higher education institution.

Expectations and obligations

The two key deliverables from the Expo are:

- **an article for *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science*** with the APC sponsored by the Association from the withheld portion of the grant (articles will be subject to peer review)
- **a book in the new *RSA Impact and Policy Series*.** This would be a minimum **25,000** and **maximum 30,000** word policy book. It could be in the form of a report or edited papers with an introduction and conclusion. It must include an executive summary highlighting the policy implications from the work. Expos will normally run for no more than 18 months from commissioning to submission of the book and RSRS article for review

Each Expo is required to:

- establish a chair who would lead the Expo and act as a point of contact with the RSA
- be global in scope and outlook, seeking to engage new communities as well as joining up existing connections. Where appropriate the Expos should adopt a multi and interdisciplinary approach as this will be welcomed
- compile an evidence base of a range of sources including academic, policy, web and grey
- review, synthesise and contribute to the literature on their topic. The outputs of each Expo should make a recognisable intellectual contribution to the field
- include a call for evidence among the RSA membership and wider community. The RSA office team would assist with publicising this to the membership and beyond
- run focus groups or special workshop sessions (normally two) at RSA conferences, other agreed international and national events, and also hold online focus groups and engage communities through innovative uses of social media
- consult with up to 20 of the RSA's key stakeholders, such as DG Regio, other European Commission DGs, European Committee of the Regions, National Governments, UN Habitat, think tanks, practitioner bodies, other learned societies etc.

- undertake data analysis as needed, generate new data as identified in the research plan
- use case studies to illustrate key points, and also engage in comparative analysis
- The publication language is English
- Assist the RSA and Publisher team with the policy launch of the book and engage in social media, blog and other promotional activities to promote the book and article.

The award holder/s will be expected to play an RSA ambassadorial role during the duration of the Expo – this may for example, include speaking about the Association during non-RSA events, writing a short piece for *Regions*, the members' magazine and making other nonspecific contributions to the profile of the Association.

Eligibility requirements

- A. All applicants for the RSA Policy Expo Grant need to be current paid up RSA members at the time of application and must remain in membership through the period of the research up to and including the point of acceptance of the final report and grant deliverables. (in any category except Corporate)
- B. Members should note that they are not permitted to hold more than one consecutive RSA research award at a time. For clarity, a member holding a Research Network award or an RSA Individual Research Grant (Early Career, MeRSA or FeRSA Award) may not apply for the Policy Expo until their existing reward has expired and all reporting requirements have been satisfactorily delivered and accepted by the Association.
- C. The RSA will allow applications from researchers on temporary contracts with a recognised HEI provided that evidence is supplied showing that the contract covers as a minimum the period of research and reporting period as defined in the application
- D. The award will be administered through the HEI which will normally be an institution with degree awarding powers or a national research institute.
- E. Half the sum of the award will be paid on signature of the contract and the remaining half will be paid on receipt and formal acceptance of the book and journal article (acceptance of both documents does not imply that they will be published but does release the second half of funding)
- F. Only one RSA Policy Expo award is possible per person.

Non-Eligibility

You may not apply for this award if:

- A. You are a post-doctoral researcher supported by a senior investigator's funding
- B. You are a corporate member of the RSA. For clarity, corporate members may not apply for this award either as organisations and nor may individuals as representatives of corporate members
- C. You do not hold a current RSA membership

RSA Members should note that they are not permitted to hold more than one consecutive RSA research award at a time. For clarity, members holding a Research Network Grant, Policy Expo or Travel grant may not apply for the MeRSA until their existing award has expired and all

reporting requirements have been satisfactorily delivered and accepted by the Association. Members are only permitted to have only one of the RSA Individual Research Grants (Early Career, MeRSA, FeRSA). For example, if you have held an Early Career grant you are ineligible for the MeRSA and FeRSA grants. For clarity, after successful submission of all deliveries for the Early Career, MeRSA or FeRSA award, a member may apply for the Policy Expo, Research Network, Travel Grant or Conference Bursaries.

This is in the interest of enabling access to the Association's limited resources to as many members as possible and thus to support a multiplicity of scholars and their different approaches and topics of interest and is consistent with the Association's pluralist approach to regional studies.

III. Reporting

The following reports are required

- an article for submission to the journal *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science*. This journal is gold open access and the article processing charge will be covered from the £2,000 retained from the award by the RSA to promote and launch the report of the Expo. All submissions are subject to the normal refereeing process
- a minimum 25,000 and maximum 30,000-word policy-oriented book including an executive summary for submission to the *RSA Impact and Policy Book Series*
- an end of award report including a financial report within three months of finishing the project. The end of award report will include both a narrative and financial section. The financial report is expected to be completed by the HEI.
- a short policy reflections report, 6 months after award end date

Additional relevant updates, in forms of brief reports, news items, pictures, pieces for the RSA Blog, RSA website, Facebook or Twitter and the members' e-zine – *Regions* are strongly encouraged and may be requested.

Information provided in any submitted report may be used in part (extract) or entirety to promote the Expo within the Association's publications but in all cases this will be in consultation with the Expo research and policy team.

Reports should be submitted using the appropriate form which can be downloaded from the Association's website at: <http://www.regionalstudies.org/funding/page/policy-expo-grant-scheme>

IV. Financial guidelines

Expo award holders may use the funding in conjunction with other funding provided that the results provided are discrete to the Regional Studies Association.

Eligible Costs

- Project costs (cost of travel and accommodation nationally and internationally and subsistence)

- Networking costs
- Teaching or research buy-out – limited to £5,000
- Research assistance
- Consumables – purchase of datasets, photocopies, microfilms etc. and any minor items that will be used during the course of the project
- Costs of deposit of digital material in a suitably accessible repository may be considered
- Cost of reproduction rights will be considered
- Up to £2,500 of the Grant may be used towards attending an RSA Conference (travel, subsistence and conference fees at the applicable country band fee) to run a policy workshop that will include acknowledgment of the grant.
- Writing fee to have the book written in easily accessible and policy facing English (NB the reporting and publishing languages are English)

Ineligible Costs

Applicants registered with special needs may consult the Association about possible exceptions. Ineligible costs are:

- Institutional overheads
- Work space
- Payment to the researchers in lieu of salary or for personal maintenance at home
- Equipment including but not limited to computing, printing, cameras, telephones of any type, recording equipment etc.
- Software – of any description
- Subventions for direct production costs (printing, binding, distribution, marketing etc.)
- Books
- Childcare
- Insurance (this should be provided and evidenced by the relevant HEI)
- Translation and/or interpretation
- Gifts
- RSA membership fee

Claims

The Regional Studies Association is a learned society and a registered charity. The funding for the RSA Policy Expo programme has been generated by the Association and its members. Award holders and their institutions are expected to comply not only with the terms of the scheme but also with the spirit of the scheme. If you and/or your HEI are not certain if an expense is eligible or not, please consult the Association prior to financial commitment. Expenses deemed as ineligible will not be covered.

Claims may only be submitted for items listed in the application unless prior permission from the Association is granted for virement of monies to new headings.

Payment Schedule

A first payment of 50% of the award will be made at the commencement of the grant with the second 50% being released on receipt and acceptance of the journal article and book manuscript.

This acceptance does not guarantee publication but does release the funding. In case the Policy Committee finds aspects of the reporting process unsatisfactory, resubmission will be requested and funds will be withheld until the reporting is acceptable.

If the applicant's HEI is outside the UK it should be noted that the award is awarded in British Pounds Sterling (GBP) and that the exchange rate risk must be assured by the HEI. Transfers will be made in GBP sterling at the prevailing exchange rate. Where transfers are made by bank transfer, the costs will be borne by the HEI.

V. Recognition / Intellectual property / Knowledge transfer

The support of the Regional Studies Association should be acknowledged in the normal way when any results are presented.

IP rests with the research team but they are expected not to unreasonably withhold permissions from the Association using the results to promote the work that has been funded and to raise the profile of the Association and to make members and others in the regional studies communities of policy and practice aware of the work.

All articles published in Regional Studies, Regional Science are licenced under the Creative Commons Licence CCBY and the Book would normally be covered by copyright but the option to use one of the Creative Commons licences exists.

Copies of any publications should be given to the Association. Receipt of the award should be acknowledged in all publications.

Where possible and appropriate the Association expects that datasets arising from the research will be deposited in a public repository and that the whereabouts of the dataset will be made known.

In addition to the formal end of award report, the RSA may require short contributions that may be published in any one or more of our membership publications - *Regions* and/or on the RSA website, blog, Twitter, LinkedIn or Facebook or through other channels, as appropriate and agreed with the grant holder.

The Association wishes to have the opportunity to support all its researchers and therefore if any events or promotions are to be organised as a part of the research, the RSA should be alerted so that they may assist with marketing.

Knowledge Exchange

The RSA recognises and encourages knowledge exchange and actively supports partnership and other schemes that enable this. Recipients of the RSA Policy Expo award are encouraged to ensure that the outcomes of this research investment are used to the benefit of the community and should inform the Association where research materials including any data sets arising from the funding, are deposited.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

It is the HEI's responsibility to ensure that the research complies with all correct GDPR and PECR (Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations).

VI. Ethics, misconduct and liabilities

It is the responsibility of the HEI to ensure that the research is organised and undertaken within a framework of best practice that recognises the various factors, including rigour, respect and responsibility, that may influence or impact on a research project. Award holders will be required to comply with their HEI's ethics code and this will be referenced in the document signed off by the HEI.

It is the responsibility of the HEI to ensure that all necessary permissions are obtained before the application is sent to the Association and that the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the project are clear.

The award holder and the HEI are responsible for any matters arising out of the process of an applicant's research, the institution holding the award or from the results of the research.

The award holder and the HEI are responsible for any human resources related issue or health and safety issue (the HEI health and safety regulations will apply). The Regional Studies Association accepts no responsibility for issues directly or indirectly resulting from the funded research, the applicant or other organisations and individuals involved.

VII. Application queries

Research related queries should be addressed in the first instance to the RSA Chief Executive, Sally Hardy on sally.hardy@regionalstudies.org and policyexpo@regionalstudies.org

Administrative queries should be addressed to policyexpo@regionalstudies.org or by telephoning + 44 (0)1323 899698.

Please send your applications to policyexpo@regionalstudies.org The submission deadline for detailed applications is 12th June 2019.

Regional Studies Association (RSA)

Sussex Innovation Centre, Falmer Brighton BN1 9SB, United Kingdom

Tel: 00 44 (0)1273 698 017

Email: office@regionalstudies.org

Web: www.regionalstudies.org

Reg. Charity No. 1084165 – Reg. in England and Wales No. 411628

Call for Applications - RSA Policy Expo 2019

Austerity Urbanism and Social Inclusion

Austerity urbanism has been a useful concept for looking at how cities and city-regions are subjected, and subject themselves, to neoliberalisation, particularly in the period of intense retrenchment since the 2008 crash. It interrogates several processes: a prolonged and continuing fiscal squeeze on municipalities and public agencies, marketisation of public goods and of governance institutions, the downloading of costs and responsibilities from higher tiers onto localities, increasingly punitive workfare regimes and the intensification of urban and inter-urban inequalities, as austerity squeezes citizens least able to bear the costs. At the same time, local authorities are forced into intensive inter-urban competition for investment and resources, but in a period seemingly of diminishing returns. The concept has greatest purchase in the North Atlantic sphere, in relation to the dismantling and repurposing of Keynesian welfare bureaucracies. However, it also resonates in cities of the global south, where growth and competition doctrines echo those of austere neoliberalism in the north.

Austerity urbanism highlights a multitude of spatialised polarisations and exclusions across domains of class, race, gender and sexuality, within and between cities and urban regions. On the face of it, “social inclusion” is the antithesis. The concept became popular in the heyday of “third way” politics in the UK, Europe and the USA. In critical research, it was associated with the repertoires of “rollout neoliberalism”, where resources were invested in public services and urban and regional development to address mass unemployment arising from industrial retrenchment in the crisis of Fordism. This was to be achieved mainly by investing in individuals and communities expelled from the industrial labour market, equipping them to compete in the neoliberalising and globalising “knowledge economy” and enticing investors. This concept of social inclusion was widely criticized for legitimising neoliberalism, and unsurprisingly fell out of favour with the onset of austerity after the 2008 crisis.

However, with the popularisation of UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Habitat III agenda, and the prominence of cities in global development discourse, the vocabulary of social inclusion, and inclusive cities, is back. At the same time, the age of austerity has unleashed waves of urban insurgency, new urban movements and urban, municipal and metropolitan governing configurations committed to demanding and enacting solidarity in pursuit of substantive egalitarian goals. These developments pose important questions addressed by this expo: what can cities subject to waves of austerity urbanism contribute to defining and delivering a radically inclusionary agenda – “inclusionary urbanism”? In addressing this theme, we welcome proposals exploring the following and other related issues:

- Can cities govern austerity in ways that mitigate exclusion, and actively enhance social inclusion – for example by reducing substantive inequalities?

- Can cities and city-regions overcome spatial and scalar barriers to inclusionary urbanism, particularly in the context of austerity-driven state rescaling programmes?
- What international or comparative evidence is there that the “new municipalist” current is challenging austerity urbanism and delivering inclusionary urbanism?
- Can ideas associated with the resilient city or resilient city-region contribute to inclusionary urbanism?
- Has resistance to austerity led to more inclusionary forms of urban governance, urban solidarity or urban community?

Infrastructure in local and regional development

Good infrastructure provides a basis for economic and social development in many different economies. Whilst there is more to the role of infrastructure than just a simple causal relationship to economic growth, and simply investing in infrastructure gives no guarantee of more rapid progress, the absence of good infrastructure will almost always act as an impediment to development. Infrastructure takes many forms and covers a full range from the physical infrastructure of transport systems, energy or water supply, or telecommunications to the soft infrastructure of software, control systems and artificial intelligence. In many cases the failure to take a balanced approach to the development of all these aspects of infrastructure has led to a perceived failure of infrastructure investment as a promoter of economic development. The question remains as to whether infrastructure should be seen essentially as a public good paid for, and provided by, the public sector, whether the private sector can or should be involved as provider (and with what form of regulation) or whether some form of public-private partnership provision is the solution to ensure timely investment free of public sector funding constraints but with a strong public sector interest.

Much has been written about all of these aspects of infrastructure: what is sought here are proposals that aim to address new and innovative thinking about the role of infrastructure, how it can be measured and assessed, and modes of provision. This can be in high-, middle- or low-income countries or in an international setting and cover any type of infrastructure. The results of the research should have policy relevance beyond the territory or territories on which it focuses and should have a focus on the regional and city scale. Some key issues that could be addressed may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The role of infrastructure in addressing regional disparities, convergence and divergence;
- Financing infrastructure on a whole life basis allowing for the on-going costs of maintenance and loan repayment;

- Assessing the basis of success and failure in public-private partnerships in infrastructure provision;
- The development of smart cities using soft infrastructure to obviate the need for hard infrastructure in addressing problems of congestion, pollution etc;
- Managing infrastructure to achieve reductions in excessive mobility and emissions;
- The role of connected and autonomous vehicles in future infrastructure provision;
- Approaches to the delivery of new infrastructure in a multi-jurisdiction world: bringing together local, regional, national and international actors to resolve both vertical and horizontal conflicts.

Sustainable Energy

Addressing the global energy challenge requires paying attention to the regional implications of an energy transition worldwide. This challenge entails three parallel processes: the imperative for emissions reduction, the move towards the securitization of resources, and global concerns with facilitating sustainable energy access for all.

First, there is an imperative to reduce carbon emissions following the commitments acquired in the 2015 Paris Agreement for Climate Action. The publication of the IPCC 1.5 Degrees report in October 2018 highlighted the concern with the voluntary commitments made by national governments because these commitments will not be sufficient to maintain global temperature increases under safe levels. Calls for increased ambition have reached sub-national levels of governance, indicating the need for understanding and coordinating responses at the local and regional levels. Coalitions of regions such as the R20 Regions of Climate Action have demonstrated their capacity to advance sustainable energy alternatives and establish long-term alliances with the private sector.

Second, sustainable energy efforts emerge hand in hand with an ongoing tension about the securitization of energy resources different World regions. The entrenchment of fossil fuels in contemporary societies and the patent difficulties to bring about a just transition moving away from coal, oil, and gas relates to geopolitical processes that depend on regionally-based means of energy resource control and shape the development of regions. Energy security narratives are changing rapidly. On the one hand, arguments about the diversification of the energy mix and the need to align regional development objectives with energy efficiency concern have now become mainstream and embedded in national energy policies. On the other hand, concerns with securitization of energy resources have been a powerful driver of innovation that explains the dramatic increase in the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. Securitization concerns relate to broader changes in industrial, regional and innovation

policies, as well as changes in energy consumption habits and the development of alternative, decentralized modes of energy provision.

Third, the global energy challenge has a critical dimension related to the lack of energy access. Approximately 1 billion people in the World lack access to electricity and over 3 billion depend on lower quality fuels that have a direct impact on their lives and health. This dimension is central, for example, to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly the Sustainable Development Goal 7 of providing sustainable energy for all. The possibilities for different sectors of the population to access sustainable energy- and the policies that could make that possible- depend on numerous regional factors. Detailed, comparative research on the regional aspects of sustainable energy access is scarce, particularly in those areas where the gaps in energy access are more profound.

This theme seeks to rethink the regional aspects of sustainable energy transitions, whether this is regarding the decarbonization of society and the economy, the securitization of energy resources, or energy access. Proposals that consider this as a multi-dimensional challenge in which the three themes are interrelated are particularly encouraged.

For example, the following list provides some examples of the contribution that could emerge from the proposal:

- Assessing the regional development implications of sustainable energy transitions and how different models of energy development work in different locations.
- Developing a multi-dimensional analysis of sustainable energy transitions that engage a continuum of factors including the political economy of energy, territorial policies, and practices of everyday life.
- Understanding the governance arrangements that enable and foster sustainable energy transitions.
- Analyzing how urban energy transitions are already unfolding in different regions, examining, for example, the relationship between economic restructuring, technology development, and social change.
- Explaining the relationship between global energy policies and the deployment of development policy at the regional level.
- Drawing a sustainable energy agenda for the social sciences – where does social science fit in, what is the value of social sciences research in sustainable energy transitions?

We encourage proposals that emphasize the regional aspects of sustainable energy and remain international in scope (for example, including more than one country or explain how research in one country responds to global energy concerns).

We seek proposals that, while ambitious in advancing the field, target policy-relevant questions and envisage avenues to influence policy and practice. The RSA will award £15,000 for the completion of the research and outputs. The research should produce an article for our gold open access journal, *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science* and a short 'policy facing' book of no more than 30,000 words published by Routledge. The book will have a large distribution, as it will be sent in print copy to all RSA members and in e-book format to all those who subscribe to any of the journals of the RSA. Applicants are advised to read the application support document carefully and to comply with rules of the scheme such as the inclusion of a named early career researcher in the team.