

**MINUTES of the EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION LATIN AMERICA DIVISION
Online via Zoom
Wednesday 17th December 2025**

In attendance: Alejandra Trejo Nieto (Chair), José Borello, Carlos Cadena-Gaitan, Régis Dandoy, Miguel Flores, Carolina Guevara, Cristina Ibarra-Armenta, Alejandro Mercado-Celis, Sergio Palomeque, Juliana Pertusi, Diana Prelorenzo, Laura Sariego Kluge, Sören Scholvin, Igor Tupy.

Apologies: Miguel Atienza, Fernanda Faria,

RSA staff: Marcus Atkinson, Samantha Wannop

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2023

The meeting agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the RSA Latin America Division meeting held on 5 October 2023.

2. Actions from Previous Meeting

The Board focused on ongoing actions from the previous AGM:

1. **Jose Borello** proposed relaunching the newsletter to keep the network informed, with Jose planning to coordinate with the team on the newsletter's rhythm and content. The meeting was invited to read past Newsletters on the [RSA website](#).

ACTION: LA Board members to email past (but recent) or future information on conferences, books, selected papers, scientific events, etc. on urban and regional topics in Latin America (or elsewhere about Lat America); also: recent (original) pictures taken by our colleagues in different parts of the region (the newsletter aims to be visually attractive) these pictures do not need to be professional, just visually attractive.

Please email Jose at joseborello@gmail.com no later than **March 27th, 2026**.

2. Collaboration with Pontificia Universidad Católica: Miguel Atienza reported that before the pandemic, he had begun working with the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile. He would reach out to them again to organise a collaborative event for 2026.

ACTION ongoing: Miguel Atienza confirmed by email that he had begun making contacts in Santiago.

3. Report to the Board of Territorial Activities

- Alejandra Trejo gave a presentation on the previous year's accomplishments in the Latin America region
ACTION: Alejandra to share the presentation (PDF) with the Latin America Division.
- **Argentina** – Prior to the meeting, Jose Borello provided a written report on the current situation and activities in Argentina. He reported that due to a critical situation and a very complex one in the rest of Latin America, I was able to disseminate the work and importance of the Regional Studies Association in a number of events and activities.

José will present a paper at the third International Conference on Regional Development in South America, organised by KIRDSA, a Regional Studies Association Research Network.

In 2024, José published two book reviews in the Journal of Regional Studies and is currently preparing to publish two further reviews. With funding from the RSA, José presented a paper and attended the Global Conference on Economic Geography at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.

José further reported a very poor economic and social situation in Argentina. Salaries for university professors in Argentina have fallen by 35% in real terms since December 2023. Expenditure on science and technology has virtually disappeared. Funding for projects from the national government is virtually zero. Many professors are leaving academia and the country to seek new opportunities elsewhere.

- **Brazil** – Igor Tupy shared updates on his and Fernando Faria's work in Brazil as RSA Ambassadors. They organised a Regional Studies Association 60th Anniversary Commemorative Session which took place during the XXX Regional Economics Meeting, organised by the National Association of Graduate Centers in Economics in Brazil. More information can be found [here](#). He was also one of the organisers for the RSA Latin America Conference 2025 held in Mexico. Igor also sits on the organizing committee for the RSA RN KIRSDA conference in February. Igor continues to organise events and increase community engagement.
- **Mexico** – Miguel Alejandro Flores Segovia reported that he had focused much of 2025 on strengthening the presence of the RSA in Mexico and Latin America. He carried out several research outreach and dissemination activities.

The most significant achievement this year was the successful organisation of the RSA Latin America Conference 2025, held at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico from October 22nd to 24th. The conference theme was *Adapting Local and Regional Development to Changing Environments*. The event brought together around 80 participants, including academics, policymakers, practitioners, and postgraduate students from across Latin America.

Miguel reported that he was successful in winning the RSA Membership Grant Scheme (MeRSA). His research project, titled Mapping Remittance Resilience: A Regional Analysis of US–Mexico Flows During and After the COVID-19 Crisis, received £5,000 in funding and runs from February 25 to August 26.

Funding is available to all RSA Territorial Network Ambassadors. For information, please email samantha.wannop@regionalstudies.org

If you're interested in becoming an RSA Ambassador in your country, more information can be found [here](#)

4. Introduction with Marcus Atkinson, RSA Head of Partnerships and Engagement

- **RSA** – Marcus Atkinson (Head of Partnerships and Engagement, appointed June 2025) provided an update on recent RSA developments, highlighting progress across strategy, membership, publications, conferences, and awards.

A new four-year RSA Strategy (2026–2030) will shortly launch. Developed through extensive member consultation, it places territorial, thematic, and research networks at the heart of the Association and strengthens the focus on policy engagement. Engagement with institutional members across 28 countries continues, with Territorial Networks recognised as central to sustaining the RSA's global community.

RSA publications remain strong, with growth across the journals, a successful year for the *Regions & Cities* book series, and the Policy Impact Book Series moving to open access.

The 2025 Annual Conference in Porto attracted 855 participants from 57 countries, alongside continued support for regional conferences, including the Division Conference in Mexico. Twelve multi-year Research Networks are currently funded, including two with strong LA regional representation. The LA Division was also recognised through several awards, including the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award (Pedro Amaral), Best Paper Award (Gonzalo Álvarez and Cristian Ovando), and Best Referee Award (Fabio Contel).

Overall, the RSA has made strong progress in recent months, with regional activities remaining central to its mission and is extremely grateful for the significant contributions made by LA Division members.

Please feel free to reach out to Marcus [here](#) for more information or with any questions.

RSA Start-Up Grant Scheme for RSA members in Bands C and D:
<https://www.regionalstudies.org/funding/start-up-grant-scheme/>

All RSA Grants and Awards Schemes:
<https://www.regionalstudies.org/funding-awards/>

5. Events

2026 Knowledge, Innovation and Regional Development in South America (KIRSDA) III International Conference on Regional Developments in South America, supported and sponsored by the [Regional Studies Association](#).

Sergio Palomeque provided details on the upcoming conference in Buenos Aires, emphasising the strong interest in regional studies and highlighting support from key members, Igor and Miguel. Confirmed Keynote speaker is Ron Boschma, Professor of Regional Economics (Utrecht University) and Innovation Studies (University of Stavanger). LA Board Secretary and RSA Ambassador to Argentina, José A Borello, Professor of Urban and Economic Geography, Universidad Nacional De General Sarmiento will also present a paper.

Sergio invited the Latin America Division meeting to attend either online or in person. For more information, see [here](#)

ACTION: Board members to share conference information with their networks.

Future events

Laura Sariego Kluge proposed organising an RSA-related event or conference at the University of Costa Rica, in coordination with relevant colleagues and networks, and to consider hosting the next Latin America conference in 2027. All Division members welcomed the idea and agreed to continue discussions and provide input as needed. Everyone consented to their contact details being shared with the Division to enable continued communication.

ACTION: Samantha Wannop to share contact details of Division members with the Division.

RSA Latin America Division events can be found [here](#)

RSA events and webinars can be found [here](#)

If you have an event to share, please email details to: samantha.wannop@regionalstudies.org

6. Chair of RSA Latin America Division

There was insufficient time to make a decision on this item.

ACTION: Samantha Wannop to follow up with the Chair and Board members by email.

7. To elect new members to the Board and to accept resignations, retirements and co-options if any

Prior to the AGM, LA Board members, Officers, and Territorial Representatives were invited via email to confirm their continued involvement for the 2025/2026 term.

Territorial representatives

- Jose Borello, Argentina
- Igor Tupy, Brazil
- Miguel Atienza, Chile
- Carlos Cadena-Gaitan, Colombia (as of December 2026)
- Alejandra Trejo Nieto, Mexico
- Alejandro Mercado Celis, Mexico
- Miguel Flores Segovia, México

Officers

- Igor Tupy – Treasurer
- Jose Borello – Secretary (Spanish speaking)
- Marco Aurélio Crocco Afonso - Patron

Board members

- Jana Schmutzler de Uribe
- Laura Sariego Kluge
- Cristina Ibarra Armenta
- Carolina Guevara

New Board member election

One nomination was received from the LA Division for Carlos Cadena-Gaitan, Associate Professor of Policy and Development at EAFIT University and RSA Ambassador to Colombia.

At this point, Carlos was asked to leave the room briefly.

The AGM approved the appointment of Carlos as a new member of the Board of the RSA Latin America Division for the term of 2025/2026.

At this point, Carlos returned to the room.

Thanks and congratulations were noted for his commitment.

8. Any other items for discussion but not decision

Marcus concluded the meeting by thanking all attendees for their contributions and the Board for their support throughout the year.

Papers End.

Caro