

Call for Papers:
2023 RSA Annual Conference
Transforming Regions: Policies and Planning for People
and Places
Ljubljana, Slovenia
14 June 2023

RSA Regional Studies
Association
Nordic Division

Special Session:

SS33: Regional industrial path development and restructuring – assets, agency, and policy

Open session organised by Nordic Division of the RSA (NoRSA)

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Economic downturns, climate change, political instabilities, and other global challenges are placing major transformative pressures on regions, which need to continuously adapt their structures and functions to remain competitive. Regional industrial restructuring has become a central concern among researchers and policy makers interested in regional development. Regional industrial restructuring is typically seen as a process by which local companies diversify into new fields, relying on a new combination of skills, knowledge and other assets accumulated in the past. While early theories have mostly considered firms and their knowledge assets, a lively academic debate has recently emerged around various drivers and mechanisms for new path development, including policy, change agency, public and private demand, institutional and innovative entrepreneurship, local and non-local knowledge linkages, and other types of firm- and system-level assets.

The purpose of this special session is to **advance our understanding of economic, social, and environmental transformation of regions**, by focussing on **assets, agency, and policy**. We are interested in drivers, hinders, processes and mechanisms for regional industrial restructuring and new path development. We welcome theoretical contribution as well as empirical studies, especially, but not exclusively, from the Nordic territory.

The special session has three main objectives:

- (1) to advance existing theories on regional industrial path development, with a particular focus on assets, agency, and policy,
- (2) to introduce new methodological approaches to analyse and understand regional path development and structural change, and
- (3) to provide empirical evidence on drivers, hinders, processes and mechanisms for regional industrial restructuring in different geographical settings.

Please submit your abstract via the conference portal and indicate that you are joining the **Special Session SS33**. The abstract submission deadline is 28th February 2023.

Website: <https://www.regionalstudies.org/news/2023-rsa-annual-special-sessions/>