

Call for Papers:

Regions in Recovery Second Edition 2022: Re-imagining Regions

21st March – 1st April 2022, Online

<https://www.regionalstudies.org/events/rinr2022/>

Special Session SS2:

Regional industrial restructuring and new path development – assets, agency and policy

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

Roman Martin, Marte C.W. Solheim, Markku Sotarauta, Anne Nygaard Tanner

Globalisation, climate change, resource depletion, and global health crises 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 usually seen as a process by which new firms spinoff from incumbents or existing firms diversify into new fields, relying on a re-combination of skills, knowledge and other assets accumulated in the past. While early theories have mostly considered firms and their knowledge assets, a vibrant 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. Inspired by the resource based view of the firm the concept of dynamic capabilities, regional studies scholars argue that regional industrial restructuring is linked to the ability to integrate, build, and reconfigure firm-level and system-level assets.

The main purpose of this special session is to **advance our understanding of economic, social and environmental transformation of regions**, by focussing on firm- and system-level assets and agency. 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 firm- and system-level assets and agency,
- (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 SS2**. Abstract submission deadline: **17th January 2022**

RSA Regional Studies
Association

Nordic Division