

RSA Annual Conference 2020

Transformations: Relational spaces, beyond urban and rural

17th – 20th June 2020, School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

#RSA20

The Regional Studies Association's Annual Conference 2020 #RSA20 will be our largest knowledge exchange and networking gathering to date. It is being held in partnership with the School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. This four-day conference brings together academics and policymakers to exchange news, views and research findings from the fields of regional studies and science, regional and economic development, policy and planning. There will be representation from around 50 different global territories as we gather both established experts and early career researchers in the beautiful city of Ljubljana.

The conference will feature 450+ presentations, high-profile plenary speakers, a number of specially convened sessions, workshops, networking sessions, walking tours and field trips. The social programme will include the conference dinner and a reception, side events, sport activities, exhibitor stalls and post-conference tours to explore Slovenia.

#RSA20 will address topics concerned with regional and urban development, policy and research. The Association takes a broad view of its remit, but all submissions will be refereed prior to acceptance to ensure minimum standards of quality and field relevance and innovation are maintained. In addition to abstract submissions we welcome proposals for special sessions, networking events, book launches, author meets critic sessions, etc.

Call for Abstracts: Global megatrends are starting to transform the way we live, work, interact, finance, produce and consume. At the same time, the increasing environmental impacts of human activities have sharpened the focus on sustainability of further development. New technologies potentially provide an opportunity to address, perhaps for the first time in the history of mankind, a substantial majority of the fundamental societal challenges, from nutrition, energy availability and sustainability, to the access to all kinds of products, services and information. However, these same global megatrends can also be highly divisive and therefore represent one of the biggest challenges for a global social, political and economic cohesion and even peaceful coexistence in more than a generation. The key question we want to ask then is: "How can we transform our urban, rural and regional spaces to meet the challenges they face?"

The conference will address this broad task from differing perspectives:

- I. Smart cities and regions
- II. The regional dimension of climate futures
- III. Mobilities

Conference themes:

Regional innovation and technological change	Sustainable tourism
Demography, labour markets and migrations	The future of EU, Brexit and W Balkans
Financing regional transformations	Climate change, energy and environmental sustainability
Entrepreneurship and innovation	Globalization and de-globalization
Spatial economy, infrastructure and housing	Governance, policies and institutional change
Regional inequalities and EU cohesion policy	Populism, nationalism and social change
Agglomeration, clusters and externalities	Inclusive growth
Value chains and international trade	Future of metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas

We welcome papers from all – academics, researchers, students and those working in policy and practice. The event is inclusive and offers networking opportunities for all in our field. The organisers welcome proposals for special sessions, themed workshops and innovative forms of networking and collaboration. If you would like to organise or offer a session to the conference, please contact Katharina Bürger at katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org.

Submission Details:

Please submit your abstract (up to 250 words and text only) through the RSA conference portal at <https://members.regionalstudies.org/lounge/Meetings/Meeting?ID=248>. Abstracts will be considered and reviewed by the Conference’s Committee against the criteria of originality, interest, subject balance and geographical spread. We also welcome Special Session submissions. Please see the separate Call for Special Sessions and email your proposal to Katharina Bürger, katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org.

Abstract submission deadline: 31st January 2020

Academic organisers:

Associate Professor Vasja Rant, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Assistant Professor Sonja Šlander, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Professor Marko Pahor, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

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