

## Call for Papers – RSA Conference Pecs, 24-26 May 2010

**Coordinated Session Title: “Bridging Old And New Divisions In Regional Governance Between ‘Core’ And ‘Periphery’ In Europe’s ‘East’ And ‘West’”.**

**Gateway: D. Regional policies: government and quasi-government initiatives**

Session Convenors: Tassilo Herrschel, Iwona Sagan

### **Abstract:**

This proposed session is sponsored by the RSA Research Network of the same (long-ish) title, and seeks to bring together debates held within the Network with views, research insights and experiences from a wider RSA audience. The overarching theme focuses on the (intended and unintended) effects of ‘new’ forms of regional governance. This ‘new’ refers mainly to the growing importance of networks and linkages between various actors in public policy – be they places, individuals or institutions. In particular, this session focuses on the effects of such linear relationships, dissecting spaces into narrow corridors of preferred connectivity, on those places and actors that find themselves excluded from these ‘corridors’. This exclusion may be intended by key members of an existing network to protect their influence and, perhaps, dominance, but may also be an unintended consequence of ‘new’ practices of informal governance arrangements and ways of policy making. What are their likely responses and response strategies?

Questions thus emerge on how policy makers can and do respond from within those marginalised spaces? What are their strategies to reconnect with the ‘cores’ and main flows of economic and political decision making? What are their agendas and possibilities? What is the range of actors, and what kind of actor is most likely to take the lead in addressing the challenge of new divisions and peripheralisation? What is the role of , and scope for, ‘virtual’ policy regions to respond to marginalisations created by emerging economic ‘corridors’ and policy network corridors, both of which can easily exclude other players (places and/or policy makers and businesses). And are the main players within the networks and core regions of the potential cost (disadvantage) of their selective network building? May not seeming margins and peripheries of today become useful at a future point? And re-establishing disconnected lines of collaborative communication may not always be so easy.

Papers (theoretical ones as well as those more practice and case-study oriented) are invited addressing the above topics and questions from a variety of perspectives, including *inter alia*

- actor network theory in public policy

- 'new regionalism'
- Informal governance
- 'Soft' territoriality
- Nature of governance (alliances, diversity of actors)
- Role of the state in governance
- Core-periphery concepts in regional policy

Please, send your abstract (up to 200 words) to the session organisers by 11th February 2010.

**Dr Tassilo Herrschel,**  
University of Westminster  
[t.a.herrschel@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:t.a.herrschel@wmin.ac.uk)

**Prof Iwona Sagan**  
University of Gdansk  
[geois@univ.gda.pl](mailto:geois@univ.gda.pl)

Conference website:

<http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/future.asp#annual2010>