

Final Report RSA Network on “Creative Industries and the Regions: relationships between places, local and regional policies and creative production”

Research Network Organisers:

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Overview

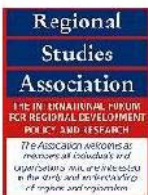
In January 2008 we submitted a proposal for a new RSA network “Creative Industries and the Regions: relationships between places, local and regional policies and creative production” with the aim to address trends and issues around the development of the creative and cultural industries at the regional level in UK, fostering a multi-disciplinary debate among researchers, practitioners and policy makers in the field. Topics for this working group had emerged from research that the three organisers have been doing in the field in UK and internationally.

We would like to thank the Regional Studies Association for the opportunity given to us to establish and develop this network and the gather a better understanding of the research in this field. This final report aims to highlight the key debates emerged in the seminars and provide a brief overview on the impact and outcomes of the network.

Participation

Over the last two years we organized 3 seminars. For each of the seminars we have used the same formula: an open call for papers (in order to give everyone the possibility to present their own research) and a half-day ‘young researchers’ workshop’ followed by a one-day seminar. These has given us the opportunity to have altogether 21 presentations from young researchers and 38 presentations from academic and policy makers.

We have received very positive feedback from attendees, both academics and policy makers. The most rewarding words have come from the young research who presented in our seminars, as they all appreciated the opportunity to present and get relevant feedback on their work. This is particularly shown by the mention received in the latest publication of Amanda Brandellero’s work (<http://www.eurocult.org/uploads/docs/1381.pdf> see acknowledgements)



The seminars organized over the last 2 years have been very successful in raising the profile of the Regional Studies Association as well as engaging with a variety of audiences:

Seminar	Overall attendance	Non-UK	Non-Academic	Young researchers
Southampton	53	17	13	10
Cardiff	38	13	5	9
Birmingham	51	9	13	11
Total	142	39	31	30

The website www.creative-regions.org.uk has been a useful tool to promote the research network and getting researchers and policy makers involved. All the presentations from the 3 seminars have been made available to larger audiences and even today we receive weekly requests of information on future activities.

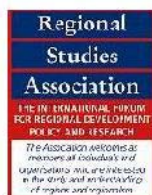
Last in 2009 we also started using a *jiscmail* mailing list to manage our contacts (as it was becoming difficult to keep the list up to date). Today we have 126 subscribers and the list grows week by week.

Challenges for the future

Many of the participants have asked us about the possibility to extend our events in the future (and this has motivated a submission for the renewal of our network activities). This possibility has also risen from the work presented at the three seminars. We feel that there is a strong need to explore further some of the issues in relation to this topic in regard to the diversity of regional situations and European contexts. Although we have been very inclusive, the UK-centric structure of our seminars has meant larger participation from UK. We aim to push this geographical boundary further and engage more widely with the European component of our audience in order to investigate in greater depth the differences and policy lessons that can be learned across Europe in this field.

Outputs and dissemination

The main objective of our research network has been to build a knowledge-base on the theme of the regional dimension and the cultural and creative economy. In our initial application for support we identified 5 possible outcomes: a website, a journal special issue or book, a special issue of *Regions*, developing relations with local policy makers and a research project application.



So far, the achievements of the network have been the following:

- We have established a **website** with all the content of the seminars; this website is still used to advertise other opportunities and events;
- In the past few months, we have been in discussion with editors from two different journals in regard to the publications of **two special issues** in the next year. The first special issue focusing on the more established academic work presented at our seminars would be with *Regional Studies* and would include 6/7 papers. This issue will be on: “*Creative Regions: Diverging Dynamics for Creative Individuals and Industries between Local Policies and Global Discourses.*” In order to give other younger researchers and practitioners an opportunity to publish their work, we are developing another special issue on the topic of “*Creative People and Creative Spaces*” for the newly establish journal, the *Creative Industries Journal* which will include some policy articles and academic articles from the presenters at our seminars.
- A **special issue of Regions** (no 277), is already scheduled for early 2010 which includes an editorial and short interventions from our seminars’ participants;
- The partners involved have developed **relationships with local and regional practitioners and policy makers** who have helped, contributed or attended the seminar series or to whom the network has been advertised. The opportunities to develop the three seminars in the three different regions and cities have helped to reinforce these relationships and to foster exchanges with both the policy and the practice spheres. Some of these relationships have been built in the **renewal proposal** for the research network.
- The three organizers are working together to develop a research proposal to ESRC to undertake further research in this field.

