



# RESEARCH NETWORK

## FINAL REPORT

Please complete the form below and send it back to: [daniela.carl@regionalstudies.org](mailto:daniela.carl@regionalstudies.org)

RESEARCH NETWORK TITLE:..... Governing metropolitan regions within a localist agenda.....  
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LIFESPAN OF THE RESEARCH NETWORK:..... 18 months.....

EVENTS HELD:

First seminar: 21st September, 2012 [Governing Metropolitan Regions Within a Localist Agenda](#) ,University of Westminster, London, UK

Second seminar :. 29th November, 2013 [Towards a sustainable and just city region? Looking at Berlin, London and Paris](#) , Universite Paris Est Cretueuil (UPEC), Paris, France

Third seminar: 22nd February, 2013 [Institutional and policy issues: Articulating scales](#) , Technical University of Berlin (TUB), Berlin, Germany;  
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ORGANISER(S)' NAME(S): ..... Duncan Bowie(lead), Mark Tewdwr-Jones, Ian Gordon, Allan Cochrane, Martin Simmons ( + Florine Ballif, Paris and Cordelia Polinna, Berlin).....  
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**I. Please write the Final report in the box below:**

**Final Report: Publishable brief summary (up to 500 words) of the achievements of the Research Network, an abridged version of your report may be published in *Regions*:**

The purpose of the network was to co-ordinate and promote research on the metropolitan regions in western Europe, bringing together research from a range of disciplines including spatial planning, housing, social and economic geography, and government and political studies. A key aim of the group was to bring together academics and practitioners to discuss and analyse the theory and practice of regional-level governance.

- The network used London, Paris and Berlin as case studies. The initial focus was on the rapidly changing contemporary governance structures within London. The network incorporated work on London and the South East by academics based in institutions outside the UK and then examined comparative research and policy issues relating to other European cities, focusing on Paris and Berlin. These two cities were selected as in common with London, they were also the locus of active debates as to the governance relationship of the core city to the wider metropolitan region and both cities have both academic researchers and research institutes related to governance institutions which are actively engaged in the debates on regional governance. The debates sought to inform the developing debates as to the future of strategic planning and governance in the wider London and South East metropolitan region within the new context of localism which dominates the UK Government's agenda, and also to inform parallel debates in academic, professional and political networks in Paris and Berlin..

Research Network activities and achievements (events organised, collaborations, events' participants, dissemination of findings, future development and dissemination plans)

All three seminars were well attended, with some 40 attendees at the London seminar, some 30 at the Paris seminar and about 60 attending the Berlin seminar. Each event had a wide range of presenters – some 10=15 presenters at each event, with international speakers at each event to ensure as continuity of comparisons between the three case study cities. All three seminars involved presenters from regional government institutions as well as academic presenters.

Presentations from all three seminars are on the research network website.

Summary reports of the three seminars have been published in REGIONS.

REGIONS No 290 (2013 Issue 2) featured the work of the research network, with a summary of the network's objectives by the network co-ordinator, and papers, based on presentations at the first seminar, with six papers as follows:

*Challenges in London's resilience; Adaptive governance for a pressurised world city.* Mark Tewdwr-Jones. University of Newcastle, UK

*The impact of the localism agenda on strategic planning in London.* Duncan Bowie, University of Westminster, UK

*Polarisation and social mix strategies in metropolises; the governance of housing in Paris perceived through the experience of London.* Lydie Launay, Universite Paris Nanterre Defense, Paris, France.

*The governance of regeneration : London and Berlin* Cordelia Polinna, Technical university of Berlin, Germany

*London planning after the Localism Act: a comparison with the experience of the Tuscany region, Italy.* Francesco Berni, Milan Polytechnic University, Italy.

*Towards a new London planning.* Andrew Barry-Pursell. Greater London Authority, UK

The sessions highlighted shared concerns and opened up ways of thinking about the governance of metropolitan regions in highly productive ways. The dialogue between researchers was very fruitful and the comparative lens enabled participants to situate the experience of particular cases within a broader framework.

Contact between network members has been maintained since the third seminar and options for collaborative research and publications are under consideration.

**Additional information (not to be published):**

1. Details on how the RSA funding was used.

Funding was used in accordance with the submitted budget to cover:

a) Bursaries for eligible attendees: London – one bursary for retired member and for one early career international member; Paris – 1 bursary for an early career international member; Berlin: No bursaries claimed.

b) London: speakers dinner; Paris- seminar lunch; Berlin: speakers dinner and conference lunch. For London event, conference lunch was covered by University of Westminster.

University of Westminster, UPEC and TUB all covered costs of travel and accommodation for visiting speakers and other administrative costs.

2. Problems/ difficulties encountered with Research Network

The restrictions on use of RSA funds ( ie not allowing funding of costs of visiting speakers) meant that three hosting Universities incurred significant costs.

The Berlin seminar was delayed by the original TUB network lead withdrawing from the project.

Fortunately the role was taken over by Prof Cordelia Polinna, which produced a very successful and well attended event.

**II. Please send photos of your events that can be published in *Regions* to [daniela.carl@regionalstudies.org](mailto:daniela.carl@regionalstudies.org)**

**III. The RSA is constantly trying to improve its procedures and increase the impact of its funding. Please help us to do so by providing your feedback on your RSA Research Network experience:**

The team was generally helpful. The restrictions on use of RSA funding did however generate some difficulties with the division of costs between the RSA and the three Universities hosting the seminars. The process for passing invoices could be speeded up.

*Thank you for taking the time to complete the Research Network report,  
Your RSA Team.*