



REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION
STUDENT AND EARLY CAREER 2020 *CARBON CHOICE CONFERENCE*

RESEARCH FOR IMPACT?
SHAPING AND INFLUENCING REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
24th-25th March 2020

Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent, UK with integrated remote participation

Call for Abstracts

Abstract submission deadline: 9th February 2020

This event is the RSA's inaugural carbon choice conference allowing both attendance in person at Staffordshire University and also remote, virtual participation from your own location. The development of this conference recognises both the environmental impact and the social, financial and opportunity costs of travelling to conferences.

The conference will give students and early career researchers* the opportunity to network, collaborate and socialise with others in the fields of regional and urban studies, planning, geography, politics, development studies, economics and related disciplines.

This new style event is something of an experiment and the RSA is pleased to partner with leading digital learning provider Staffordshire University. The Staffordshire Business School's state of the art facilities will allow us to trial the technologies which permit real-time, remote interaction across several workshops. Participants, both in-person and remote, will find a multi-disciplinary, welcoming, supportive and stimulating environment.

The workshop and training areas addressed will include aspects of academic publishing, funding applications, managing early career research projects, optimising impact from your research, preparing for appointment and promotion panels, and negotiating a pay rise.

Call for abstracts:

This conference welcomes any papers addressing any aspects of regional and urban policy.

Given the experimental nature of this event, we particularly encourage submissions of papers addressing smart cities, communities and regions, as well as social inclusion in the digital age, sharing and the gig economy.

Papers are also welcomed that reflect the regional implications of emerging digital enablers, such as big (social) data, digital and other entrepreneurship, digital transformation strategies, blockchain, artificial intelligence and machine learning, Internet of Things (IoT), e-sports, digital marketing/social media, and issues around cyber and data security and consumer protection.

Call for local hub hosts:

We are calling for local hub organisers who could arrange gatherings at their institution for students and early careers. Local hub groups will remotely, but actively, participate in the conference; watching and discussing

presentations, participating in the training sessions, presenting papers, and contributing to discussions with both the group and those attending the conference in-person.

If you are interested in running a local hub, please get in touch by 21st January the latest with Lesa.Reynolds@regionalstudies.org.

Submission Details for on-site and remote participation:

To be considered for inclusion in the conference please submit a 250-word abstract to the Regional Studies Association conference portal at by **9th February 2020**. Abstracts will be considered against the criteria of originality and interest, subject balance and geographical spread.

Scientific Committee:

Professor Fang Zhao, Associate Dean, Research and Enterprise, Staffordshire University

Professor Jon Fairburn, Professor of Sustainable Development, Staffordshire University

Professor Martin Jones, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Staffordshire University (RSA Editor on *Territory, Politics, Governance*)

Dr Elvira Uyarra, Reader in Innovation Policy and Strategy, University of Manchester (RSA Editor on *Regional Studies, Regional Science*)

Dr Dieter Kogler, Associate Professor in Economic Geography, University College Dublin (RSA Editor on *Regional Studies*)

RSA Conference Manager: Lesa Reynolds, lesa.reynolds@regionalstudies.org

** for the purpose of the conference, early career researcher is defined as less than 5 years from award of PhD or since starting employment in a research or teaching and research role.*