Mentored Early Career Section of RSRS & Scope to publish from India

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Mentored Early Career Section

Type of article: Short article (5000 words including references)

Shown as Short article on publication. 2025 Best Paper of the journal from ECR section.

Structure: Requires primary data (detailed structure later)

Peer review: Double blind peer review

Time frame of publication: Approximately one year from first submitted to acceptance (depends on authors, stage of work, review report etc)

Call for submission: Twice a year

Open access: APC waived for RSA members (Expected to be member upon acceptance of interest).

Who are ECRs?: Upto five years after PhD degree awarded (eight years with career break)

Potential topics to publish on from India

- **Vikshit Bharat @2047 (Econ development through urbanisation); Urban and regional transformation;**
- City regions (including focus on informality, sectors of infrastructure, affordable housing, climate action etc)
- Urbanisation, transforming urban hierarchy, migration (labour mobility, climate change induced migration);
- Regional economic resilience, Evolutionary economics and regional development, Small and medium sized towns as economic hubs; Inter-city transport/railways;
- Megaregion (eg Bengaluru mega regional mobility; DMIC as megaregion, from Southern urbanism perspective);
- Economic and industrial corridors, Transnational corridors (eg South Asia, SE Asia),
- Clusters,
- Urban expansion (eg Third Mumbai)
- Industrialisation, GVC and GPN, Connecting local, informal industries to GVC;
- Just Green transition (Building sector, Mobility, Industrial decarbonisation),
- Economic Geography, Economic Environmental Geography;
- Regional future- narratives, spatial regional imaginaries.

RSA Priority areas

Regional Studies Association

North-south relations and southern urbanism

Informal economies, urbanisation and development

Digitalisation, AI, Industry 4.0

Governance, planning and place leadership

Global production networks, value/supply chains and trade

Entrepreneurship, technology and innovation

Agglomeration, industrial districts, clusters and networks

Finance, knowledge and skills

Health, well-being and creativity

Food, water and poverty

Inequalities, cohesion and spatial justice

Planning, design and the built environment

Settlements, land and housing

Climate change adaptation, energy and sustainable transitions

Demography, migration and work

How to define the scope of an article (short paper)?

Scale wise: Regional scale (NOT a city scale, or urban scale; anything from and above- metropolitan regional scale)

Topic wise: Interdisciplinary that may include topics related to natural science, urban and regional issues, urbanisation, demography, migration, inter-city infrastructure development, just green transition, regional economic resilience, economic geography….

Length wise: A short article is 5000 words including references. Hence, narrow down the scope.

How to structure the proposal?

- Six ‘research highlights’ in bullet points that summarize the key fresh idea in the paper, its contribution to the literature, relevance of the research, lessons for practice, etc.;
- Short biographical note (including information on whether the Author is currently a PhD candidate or indicating the date of completion of the PhD);
- Six sections of max. 150 words covering the following points: Introduction, Literature review and gap, Methodology and Case Study overview, Data/Empirics, Discussion, Conclusion.

1. Introduction (150 words)

Sets the wider context and the debates that the research is contributing to

Explains the relevance of the issue to people outside the region covered

Makes a clear claim for novelty and relevance

Contains a clear research question

Explains what data has been gathered

Sets out a flavor of the findings

2. Literature Review (150 words)

Highlights the main field of literature to address the research question

Identifies a tension in existing understandings that the research will attempt to resolve

Sets out a limited number of key concepts that are used to interpret the data

Presents a clear evidentiary framework, setting out how data can be analysed

3. Methodology & case study overview (150 words)

Sets out precisely what evidence has been gathered and how

Gives detail about the methods used and justifies this choice

Provides information on the context of the region or regions covered in the paper

4. Data / Empirics (150 words)

Only presents the base data without analysis or reference

Is arranged using the model, heuristic or framework developed in the literature review.

It is transparent and potentially verifiable with sufficient information for reader to judge it

Uses text to point out the most salient issues and join up the dots of the relevance

5. Discussion (150 words)

Makes claims about how the data can be interpreted using the analytic framework

Uses the framework to argue that the situation is an example of a larger category (‘diagnosis’)

Uses that diagnosis to indicate which aspect of the tension is most pertinent (‘analysis’)

Explains how widely the findings can be generalized

Explains what the relevance of these findings are for policy-makers and/ or practitioners

6. Conclusions (150 words)

Answers the research question

Tells us the implication for the empirical context (‘bigger picture’) described in the introduction

Tells us how the research invites us to think differently about the issue at stake

Explains the relevance of the findings for an academic, a policy-maker, a practitioner

Points out the limits of its applicability and any remaining uncertainties.

Criteria for evaluation

3Rs of Scientific integrity: Robustness, Replicability, Reproducibility

a. **Robustness:** if it remains valid and holds true even when minor changes, variations, or perturbations are introduced to the methods, models, or analysis conditions.

b. **Replicability:** Getting the same results as a previous study using the exact same raw data, code, and computational or analytical steps.

c. **Reproducibility:** Getting the same results when an experiment or study is repeated independently by different researchers using new data, fresh samples, or new experimental runs

How to improve global readability?