

**The Regional Studies Association
Fifty Fifth Annual General Meeting**

held virtually by Zoom on

Wednesday 11th November 2020, at 4pm London time

Company no. 4116288 Charity no. 1084165

Meeting Participants

Mina Akhavan	Politecnico di Milano	Italy
Pedro Amaral	CEDEPLAR - Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	Brazil
Rose Marie Azzopardi	University of Malta	Malta
John Bachtler	European Policies Research Centre	UK
David Bailey	Birmingham Business School, Uni. of Birmingham	UK
Gill Bentley	University of Birmingham	UK
Frances Brill	Cambridge University	UK
Pawel Capik	University of the West of England	UK
Dorota Celinska-Janowicz	EUROREG), University of Warsaw	Poland
Tom Christoffel	Regional Intelligence-Regional Communities, LLC	United States
Seamus Cleary		UK
Alexandra Maria Colcer	Babeş Bolyai University	Romania
Daniela Constantin	Bucharest University of Economic Studies	Romania
Dimitri Corpakis	former European Commission	Belgium
Rimantas Dapkus	Vytautas Magnus University	Lithuania
Olga Dorokhina		Georgia
Stefania Fiorentino	University of Cambridge	UK
Rachel Franklin	Newcastle University	UK
Renato Garcia	Institute of Economics - University of Campinas	Brazil
Vanessa Guerra	Virginia Tech	United States
Martin Guillermo Ramirez		Belgium
Maxwell Hartt	Queen's University	Canada
Simona Iammarino	London School of Economics	UK
Annika Jaansoo	University of Twente	The Netherlands
Camilla Jensen	Roskilde University	Denmark
Veronica Junjan	University of Twente	The Netherlands
Dieter Kogler	University College Dublin	Ireland
Karen Lai	Durham University	UK
Stephen Little	University of Bolton	UK
Martin Maris	Slovak University of Agriculture	Slovakia
Alejandro Mercado-Celis	Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana	Mexico
Olga Mrinska	European Bank for Reconstruction & Development	UK
Marjan Nikolov	Center for Economic Analyses	Macedonia
Raquel Ortega Argiles	Birmingham Business School, Univ. of Birmingham	UK
Nickson Otieno	Kenya Museum - Nairobi	Kenya

Keston Perry	University of The West of England	UK
Igor Pilipenko	Financial University	Russia
Verena Radinger-Peer	BOKU Uni. of Natural Resources & Life Sciences	Austria
Raul Ramos	Universitat de Barcelona	Spain
Rima Rubčinskaitė	Faculty of Economics of Vilnius University	Lithuania
Jana Schmutzler	Universidad del Norte	Colombia
Mark Tewdwr-Jones	University College London	UK
Emmanouil Tranos	University of Bristol	UK
Igor Tupy	Federal University of Viçosa, UFV	Brazil
Matt Wilton	Newcastle City Council	UK

RSA Staff in Attendance

Katharina Bürger	Regional Studies Association	UK
Daniela Carl	Regional Studies Association	UK
Sally Hardy	Regional Studies Association	UK
Judy Pepper	Regional Studies Association	UK
Lesla Reynolds	Regional Studies Association	UK
Klára Sobeková	Regional Studies Association	UK
Suede Stanton-Drudy	Regional Studies Association	UK

This AGM was held virtually under the emergency rules introduced by the UK Companies House to allow for business to continue during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Voting was held via the poll function within Zoom software and the results of the polls were displayed to all meeting attendees immediately following the vote.

The Chair, Mark Tewdwr Jones, welcomed everyone to the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Regional Studies Association (and the thirty seventh AGM since the Association incorporated).

1. Presentation by RSA Chief Executive

Sally Hardy, Chief Executive of RSA, gave a presentation to the meeting on the RSA response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Association's planned future activities.

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 13 November 2019

The AGM agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and these were signed and dated by the Chair and would be given to the Chief Executive for the file once England was out of lockdown (hopefully 3rd December 2020).

3. To Receive, and if Thought Fit, to Adopt the Report of the Board and the Statement of Accounts 2019

The Report of the Trustees and the Statement of Accounts for 2019 were circulated electronically to all members in the summer of 2020 and were available on the Association's website. Copies had been provided to attendees prior to the meeting.

The Chair noted that the report had been fully independently audited, had been agreed unanimously by Board members and had been lodged in accordance with the regulations, with both the Charity Commission and Companies House in the UK.

The report and accounts were adopted by the meeting.

4. To Appoint and Fix Remuneration for an Auditor for 2020

The meeting agreed to delegate to the RSA Treasurer and Chief Executive, the decision on appointment and remuneration for the auditor for 2020.

5. To Elect Directors (Trustees) to the Board and to Accept Resignations, Retirements and Co-Options

Sally Hardy, RSA Chief Executive, as the Company Secretary, was invited to take the meeting through the retirements and appointments of trustees and report of co-opted members and observers to the Board.

Sally noted that the Board must consist of not less than three and not more than 12 elected trustees and that the Board may appoint additional trustees and co-optees, who are not trustees in law and who will only be appointed until the next AGM. She noted that the number of co-optees should not equal or exceed the number of elected trustees.

It was noted that a call for nominations had been circulated to the membership in September 2020 and that there had been three nominations from the membership. There were also a number of recommendations to the meeting.

Trustee Retirements

The AGM accepted the retirements of Mark Tewdwr Jones, Andrew Beer and Dieter Kogler who had all come to the end of their terms of office as Trustees at this AGM. The AGM thanked Mark, Andrew and Dieter for their service on the board and their assistance and dedication to the Association in their complex and at times challenging roles which they had performed with great skill and commitment.

It was announced that as a result of the retirement of the Chair of the Board, a Professor Jessie Poon (University of Buffalo, New York) had had been appointed as the incoming Chair at a recent Board meeting.

Trustee Continuations

The AGM noted that the following people remained in post from previous years and had experienced no change of role during the year and would continue through to the AGM in 2021:

- Jessie Poon, International Territorial Committee Nov 2021
- John Bachtler, Europe, Nov 2021
- Mia Gray, Board Secretary, Communications and Public Engagement, Prizes and Awards, Nov 2021
- Ron Boschma, Research, Nov 2021
- Neil Lee, Policy Committee, Nov 2022
- Olga Mrinska, Treasurer, 2022

- David Bailey, Editor in Chief, *Regional Studies*, Nov 2023

Trustee Appointments

Three nominations were received from the membership for Trustee positions. Copies of CVs and the manifestos of potential new Trustees had been provided to registered AGM participants prior to the meeting.

The AGM agreed the following new Trustee appointments:

- Simona Iammarino, London School of Economics, UK – Publications Committee Chair
- Rachel Franklin, Newcastle University, UK – Diversity and Inclusion
- John Harrison, Loughborough University, UK – Conferences and Events Coordinator

These appointments resulted in a total of 10 Trustees on the RSA Board, which exceeded the proposed number of Co-optees as required by the RSA Articles of Association.

The Chair congratulated the successful candidates and thanked them for their commitment to the Association and their offer to assist in the governance.

Co-optee Retirements

The following individuals came to the end of their appointments as Co-optees during this year:

- Alex De Ruyter, co-optee Brexit advisor to the Board
- Julie Tian Miao, co-optee Editor, *Regions E-zine*

The AGM thanked Alex and Julie for their dedicated service on the Board.

- Josh Barrett had stepped down from his role as Blog Editor which he had carried out for several years. It was noted that this role had been advertised and nominations were sought.

The Chair thanked Josh warmly for his contribution and for steering the Blog so expertly for so long.

Co-optee Continuations

The AGM noted the following co-opted appointments and agreed their continuation for the 2019/2020 year:

- Stephen Hincks, to continue as Editor in Chief, *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science* to Nov 2021
- Joan Fitzgerald, to continue as Editor, *Regions and Cities Book Series* to Nov 2021
- Weidong Liu to continue as a co-optee Editor, *Area Development and Policy* to Nov 2021
- Klaus Dodds, to continue as co-optee Editor, *Territory Politics Governance* to Nov 2021
- Paul Elhorst to continue as co-optee Editor-in-Chief, *Spatial Economic Analysis* to Nov 2021
- Phil Tomlinson to continue as co-optee Editor of the RSA Policy Impact books to Nov 2021
- Stefania Fiorentino to become co-optee Editor, *Regions E-zine* to Nov 2021

Observer Retirements

The AGM noted that there had been four Observers to the Board during the year and that two Observers, Michael Taster as RSA funded PhD student and Vanessa Guerra as Student Representative came to the end of their terms of appointment as Observers during the year. The Chair thanked them for their valuable service on the Board. The AGM noted that the position of Student Representative was currently being advertised by the Association.

Observer Continuation

The AGM noted the continuation of Fulong Wu as Editorial Advisory Board Member, Area Development and Policy and Frances Brill as Early Career Representative as Observers for the 2020/2021 year.

Sally Hardy closed by noting that Board membership was critical to the success of the Association and that the Board would continue to carefully review Board membership with respect to the balance of skills, knowledge and experience and she added her own, personal thanks to all those leaving the Board for their work, their assistance to the RSA office and their contribution to the Regional Studies and Science communities.

6. To Agree Authorisation of the Chief Executive and the Finance Executive with regard to Financial Institutions

It was agreed to authorise the Chief Executive and Finance Executive to make all necessary changes to the Association's financial and governance arrangements including but not limited to, amending the signatories to the financial accounts and updating the records at the Charities Commission and Companies House.

7. To discuss and decide upon the proposed conferral of the honorary title of President of the RSA on Professor John Agnew

It was noted that the term of office of the current President of the RSA, Ron Martin, expired in November 2020. It was further noted that the RSA Board had discussed his replacement in depth and agreed to present to the AGM the proposal for the conferral of the honorary title of President of the RSA on Professor John Agnew of UCLA. John had been a long-term friend and supporter to the Association and was the founder editor of the successful journal *Territory, Politics, Governance* which he edited for many years. John's CV had been provided to all registered participants prior to the AGM.

The AGM agreed to confer on John Agnew the honorary title of President of the RSA.

The Chair warmly thanked Professor Ron Martin for his five years of service as the RSA's President. He noted that Ron had worked for many years prior to this on the Board of the RSA including two key roles as Conference Coordinator and of course, Editor, *Regional Studies*. Sally Hardy added her thanks to those of the Chair.

8. To discuss and decide upon the resolution to amend the RSA Articles of Association

It was noted that the RSA Articles of Association did not provide for virtual general meetings but that nevertheless the RSA was able to hold the current AGM virtually as the UK Government has implemented legislation permitting this. It was suggested to the meeting that it would be prudent going forward, to amend the RSA Articles of Association to allow for virtual and hybrid (physical and virtual) general meetings in the future.

The AGM agreed the resolution to amend the RSA Articles of Association as follows in red:

3.2 **Notice of General Meetings**

3.2.1 An Annual General Meeting and an extraordinary general meeting called for the passing of a special resolution or a resolution appointing a person as a Trustee shall be called by at least 21 days written notice specifying the business to be discussed, date, time and venue (or electronic platform in the case of an electronic meeting) of the meeting. All other extraordinary general meetings shall be called by at least fourteen clear days written notice specifying the business to be discussed, date, time and venue (or electronic platform in the case of an electronic meeting) of the meeting.

3.2.4 The Board shall determine whether a general meeting is to be held as a physical general meeting, or an electronic general meeting, or a combination of the two. The time and place (including electronic platforms) at which the general meeting will be held shall also be determined by the Board. In the case of electronic general meetings, the electronic platform may vary from time to time and from meeting to meeting as the Board, in its sole discretion, sees fit. **THIS ARTICLE IS NEW.**

3.5 **Votes**

3.5.7 At all electronic general meetings a resolution put to the meeting will be voted on by a poll. Poll votes will be cast by such electronic means as the Board, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate for the purposes of the meeting. **THIS ARTICLE IS NEW**

11. **Interpretation**

11.1 In the Memorandum in and in these Articles:

...

'present' means, for the purposes of physical general meetings, present in person or, for the purposes of electronic general meetings, present by electronic means **THIS CLAUSE IS NEW**

...

References to electronic platforms include, without limitation, website addresses and conference systems, and references to persons attending meetings by electronic means, means attendance at electronic general meetings via the electronic platform(s) stated in the notice of such meeting. **THIS CLAUSE IS NEW**

References to speaking in relation to General Meetings include communication via electronic platform messaging systems as well as verbal communication and speech shall be construed accordingly. **THIS CLAUSE IS NEW**

9. Any Other Items for Discussion but not Decision

No other business was raised.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive and staff team and the Board members for their commitment to the Association as well as their flexibility, resilience and innovation during the year

The Chief Executive thanked the outgoing Chair, Mark Tewdwr Jones, for working alongside her for three years and in particular for his championship of the diversity and inclusivity agenda which had seen several changes during the year including an active and self-organised early career women's group, a Board member with this role as their portfolio and a shift in the number of women actively engaged in the Association's work.

The Chair declared the meeting closed.

Minutes end.