

# Regional Studies Association

[www.regionalstudies.org](http://www.regionalstudies.org)

## REGIONAL STUDIES

Call for Expressions of Interest:

Book Review/Regular Editor  
Early Career Editor

## FURTHER INFORMATION

May 2021

The **Regional Studies Association (RSA)** seeks to appoint Editors in two different categories for the international journal ***Regional Studies (RS)*** published by Routledge:

### **Book Review/Regular Editor (one position available)**

This is a combined role. As a Book Review Editor, the successful candidate will manage the commissioning, review and acceptance process for book reviews submitted to the journal. They will also be called on to support the existing team of Editors in managing the peer review of general submissions in their area of expertise, enhancing the journal's reputation as a world-leading publication in the field of regional studies, and ensuring that it is in a position to attract the best authors and papers for its readership. The Regional Studies Association offers administrative support in managing book reviews.

The Book Review Editor is responsible for:

1. Identifying books for review and obtaining review copies from the publishers.
2. Identifying potential book reviewers and commissioning submissions. This includes providing clear instructions as to the format and range of the book review and submission procedures; and organising for the book to be sent to the potential reviewer.
3. Corresponding with book reviewers (e.g., acknowledging receipt of a submitted book review; providing information about its editorial review as necessary).
4. Providing feedback to book reviewers (e.g., editing reviews to the standard of the journal, including content, references and book information, etc.; conveying the editorial decision and providing guidance for revisions).
5. Keeping accurate records to ensure that there is a sufficient flow of reviews to fill the journal.
6. Reporting when requested to the RSA Publications Committee or to the Editor in Chief/Executive Editor.

Although the editor will have independent authority for the reviewers and the books reviewed, at times the Editor in Chief may request that specific books be reviewed or specific reviewers be contacted.

The Book Review Editor is encouraged to be innovative in their approach. The journal welcomes book review sections (where important books on mixed themes are reviewed) and book review symposia (several reviews on newly published key books and comparisons of two or three related books by a single author). Other ideas would also be welcomed.

### **Early Career Editor (one position available)**

The appointment of the Early Career Editor is open to candidates within five years of the date on their PhD certificate on 31st August 2021. The Early Career Editor will join the existing team of Editors in managing the peer review of general submissions in their area of expertise, enhancing the journal's reputation as a world-leading publication in the field of regional studies, and ensuring that it is in a position to attract the best authors and papers for its readership.

The appointment is a mentored role and will normally have a fixed term of three years after which it will be re-advertised. Re-application as the Early Career Editor is not permitted as this position is designed to offer capacity building and training within the academy.

The successful candidates appointed to all positions will be expected to join the RSA as Members throughout their term. Current non-Members may apply. Further details on are available from the Regional Studies Association Office or from the Association website at <https://www.regionalstudies.org/about/memberships/>

### **Responding to the Call for Expressions of Interest**

In making expressions of interest candidates are invited to submit a manifesto (maximum 2000 words) setting out:

1. Their ideas for the journal, including but not limited to:
  - The historic and future strengths of the journal and its place in regional studies, broadly defined;
  - Article types (review, commissioned, etc.);
  - Special issue topics;
  - Sections within the journal (essential for Book Review Editor);
  - Article length and other general instructions to authors;
  - How the journal can have impact and be made more relevant to policy makers.
2. Any existing editorial experience and in particular any experience of managing the peer review processes. Any knowledge of legal and ethical issues in scholarly publishing should be outlined.
3. Any institutional support available, including any time allowance to undertake the editorial role.

Full CVs should be attached – these may be in summary form but should give enough information to demonstrate embeddedness in the field, e.g. information about networks, conferences attended, relevant publications, professional memberships, etc.

**Regional Studies** has a significant circulation footprint and far-reaching impact. It is distributed and promoted with its RSA sister journals, **Territory, Politics, Governance, Spatial Economic Analysis, Regional Studies, Regional Science** and **Area Development and Policy**.

**Regional Studies** is a leading international journal covering the development of theories and concepts, empirical analysis and policy debate in the field of regional studies. The journal publishes original

research spanning the economic, social, political and environmental dimensions of urban and regional (sub-national) change. The distinctive purpose of **Regional Studies** is to connect insights across intellectual disciplines in a systematic and grounded way to understand how and why regions and cities evolve. It publishes research that distils how economic and political processes and outcomes are contingent upon regional and local circumstances. The journal is a pluralist forum, which showcases diverse perspectives and analytical techniques.

Essential criteria for papers to be accepted for **Regional Studies** are that they make a substantive contribution to scholarly debates, are sub-national in focus, conceptually well informed, empirically grounded and methodologically sound. Submissions are also expected to engage with wider debates that advance the field of regional studies and are of interest to readers of the journal.

**Urban and Regional Horizons** is a periodic section dedicated to agenda-setting work that stimulates new thinking and novel approaches to addressing the big intellectual questions, issues and challenges in regional studies.

**Policy Debates** is a periodic section that provides a forum for analysis and debate about important policy issues of international relevance in urban and regional development.

**Special Issues** draw together contributions around key themes in regional studies from established and emerging researchers in the field.

**Book Reviews** provide analysis and comment on key recent publications in regional studies.

**Impact Factor** The 2019 Impact Factor is 3.312, ranking Urban & Regional Planning 8/39, Geography 14/84, Economics 50/371 and Environmental Studies 34/123. Learn more about the journal metrics here:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=journalMetrics&journalCode=cres20>

The journal was launched in 1967 and publishes 12 annual issues. The journal uses a fully supported online submission programme (ScholarOne Manuscripts) and is subject to double-blind peer review.

**Interested applicants with questions about the journal are invited to contact:**

Sally Hardy, Chief Executive, RSA  
Email: [sally.hardy@regionalstudies.org](mailto:sally.hardy@regionalstudies.org)  
Phone: + 44 (0)1273 698017

Submissions should be sent to: Klara Sobekova – [Klara.sobekova@regionalstudies.org](mailto:Klara.sobekova@regionalstudies.org) (subject line: Call for Editor, Regional Studies)

**Closing Date: 5pm (BST), Tuesday 31st August 2021.**

### **General Issues**

The journal is subject to the aims and objects of the Regional Studies Association and the editorial team is expected to have knowledge of the Association's activities, but the journal maintains editorial independence from the Association. The journal is international in scope and the editorial team and Editorial Advisory Board reflect this international reach. The day-to-day running of **Regional Studies** is supported by an Executive Editor and a peer review administration assistant as well as by a team at the publishers, Routledge.

## **Contractual Terms**

The editorial team for *Regional Studies* has a formal contractual relationship with the Regional Studies Association. This contract sets out the role and responsibilities of the Editors, the Association and the publishers. It will also set out the terms of the contract and the financial arrangements.

The editorial team receives editorial expenses to cover their costs in editing the journal. Monies not required to attend editorial meetings may be spent in the general promotion of the journal, for example through conference and other travel by Editors.

## **Management**

The Association has experience of managing five journals a magazine and two book series. Its structures and methods have worked well to support and protect editorial teams while providing freedom of editorial decision making.

The Editor in Chief of the journal has a place on the Regional Studies Association Publication Committee and on the Board of the Association.

The editorial team report to the Publication Committee which oversees the day-to-day management of the Association's journals including such matters as the negotiation of contracts and decisions on changes to the major format of the journals, for example increases in frequency or change in layout or design. Decisions are taken in close collaboration with the Editors of the publications. The Publication Committee also takes a lead on any legal or similar issues that are raised such as unattributed copying and redundant publishing.

The Publication Committee does not interfere with editorial decisions.

Within the RSA office the Chief Executive takes responsibility for the journal publishing programme assisted by other colleagues.

## **Promotion of the Journal**

This is primarily delivered by the publishers and Association, but all parties participate in terms of strategy and approach. The Editors will be expected to play a role in building the reputation of the journal through participating in "Meet the Editors" sessions at major conferences, writing calls for papers, etc. Editors would not be expected to draw up detailed marketing plans or to deliver them.

## **Financial Management of the Journal**

The Editors are not expected to be involved in the financial management of the journal other than in the transparent management of editorial expenses allocated to them. This function is managed by the Regional Studies Association office and the publisher. The Editors do not carry the financial risk of the journal.

## **Further information is available from:**

[www.regionalstudies.org](http://www.regionalstudies.org)

The Regional Studies Association is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee.

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