



Regional Studies Association Annual Conference 2016
'Building Bridges: Cities and Regions in a Transnational World'
3rd – 6th April 2016, Karl-Franzen-University, Graz, Austria

Registration deadline: 31st January 2016

Throughout history, cities and regions have been cornerstones of economic, social and cultural institution building and centres of communication and trade across borders of empires and nations. In a globalised world dominated by multi-level governance and declining economic and political significance of the nation-state, cities and regions are becoming ever more so important in building bridges across nations, supra-national unions, and even continents.

These challenges surpass the usual aspects of integration: it is not sufficient to reduce barriers for the mobility of labour, goods, services and capital, to create a homogenous competitive environment, and a solid monetary system. What is needed in addition are more elements of a new regionalism, which is based on non-hierarchical relationships, on self-government, and on the creation of flexible alliances leading to interregional transnational cooperation. The development of a region is affected by its competitive and complementary relationships with other increasingly distant regions.

These relationships have to be embedded in an overall structure of relations which encompass the purely economic ones and have strong social, cultural, legal and political dimensions. The objective of the conference is to initiate an interdisciplinary dialogue about the future of a transnational world of urban and regional cooperation. We welcome submissions from researchers, policy makers and practitioners working in all areas of regional analysis on the following themes:

Plenary Speakers confirmed

Prof. Iain Begg, European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

Prof. Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, Regional Economics Applications Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

Dr. Andrea Mairate, Directorate for Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions and North-West Europe, European Commission, Belgium

Prof. Philip McCann, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Prof. Jenny Phillimore, University of Birmingham, UK

Dr. Martin Kahanec, Central European University in Budapest, Hungary

Prof. Dr. Ewald Engelen, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel, Former Federal Chancellor of Austria (2000 -2007), Austria

Submission of papers

Please submit proposals for papers in the form of a 400-500 word abstract (text only, no pictures, graphs or tables) through the Regional Studies Association online portal by **Sunday 31st January 2016**. Proposals will be considered by the Conference Programming Committee against the criteria of originality, interest and subject balance.

To register and submit your abstract please visit the [conference website](#).

Academic Organiser

Professor Michael Steiner, Karl-Franzen-University Graz, Graz, Austria

RSA Organiser:

Please contact Wanda Miczorek at wanda.miczorek@regionalstudies.org for further details and questions regarding abstract submission.