

**Regions in Recovery Second Edition 2022:  
Re-imagining Regions  
21<sup>st</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, Online**



***Extended abstract submission deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022***

The significant shock of Covid-19 and its implications are becoming clearer for all to see. Over the past twelve months regional research has led the way in revealing the unfolding geographies of the crisis and the factors explaining why some regions are (and will be) affected more than others. And although it may be too soon to talk about a ‘from pandemic to recovery’ transition, regional research now has an important role as attention shifts towards establishing regional development priorities and the implications for regional policy, planning and development. This next stage for regions in recovery relies on understanding what recovery should look like for people and places now, as well as in the medium to long term. Add in the global climate and migration crises, populism, social tension, geopolitical manoeuvrings, and the question on most people’s lips is: what happens next?

Against this backdrop, regional studies is more vital than ever to inform public debate and invoke appropriate policy responses. Regional studies has tools tailored to understanding the spatial impacts of significant shocks, be they economic, political, social or environmental. For this reason, regional research will once more be asked to spearhead major efforts to provide the type of reliable, robust knowledge necessary to support cities and regions in their recovery. As we look ahead though, it is critical to consider fundamental questions about the significance of these changes: Which changes will ultimately endure? Which changes will be short-lived and fizzle away? Why is this and what are the implications for cities and regions? What does this tell us about the capacity for regional research to influence policy and affect meaningful societal change? Alongside continuing to map (and understand the reasons for) the uneven regional geographies and impacts of the pandemic, the question of what kind of recoveries for what kind of regional futures is where attention is shifting.

**Regions in Recovery Second Edition** presents a timely opportunity to discuss and debate these important issues, to establish the need and nature of future research imperatives in the field, and to address the concerns and challenges confronting practitioners and policymakers.

We are keen to attract papers and sessions which rethink cities and regions by identifying new fields of enquiry, address a broad research and policy agenda, and include contributions from any discipline which can offer relevant insights at local and regional levels. Papers which are highly innovative, collaborative, international or multi-disciplinary are especially welcome.

**Broad themes and key agendas** the organisers are keen to facilitate discussion around include, but are not limited to:

- Social, spatial and economic impacts of the pandemic
- Re-imagining the form and function of cities and regions
- Alternatives to the winner-takes-all mantra of economic development and their (dur)ability to disrupt current growth models
- Energy transitions, environmental sustainability, and designing future cities and regions
- Fiscal frameworks and spending priorities for ensuring a balanced recovery
- Addressing racial, ethnic, gender and other divides in cities and regions
- Theories, concepts, approaches and methods for researching cities and regions in (post-) Covid times
- Re-imagining planning, governance, and devolution for a rapidly changing world
- Industry 4.0 and the future shape of innovation, industrial development and strategy
- The changing geographies and spatial impacts of global investment flows and value chains
- Regional implications arising from recent geopolitical manoeuvrings by the United States, Russia, China, and EU on trade, climate and foreign affairs

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The event will be wholly virtual and powered by the Regional Studies Association through its new app – RSA Hub, available to download for free from all major app stores. Sessions will be held on Zoom. The RSA provides the conference secretariat and will work in collaboration with all the partners to bring this event to the community.

If you would like more information about how to join with one or more sessions, please contact the conference secretariat, Katharina Bürger, email [katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org](mailto:katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org)  
Or call +44(0)1273 099 620

We also welcome Special Session submissions. Please see the separate Call for Special Sessions and email your proposal to Katharina Bürger, [katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org](mailto:katharina.buerger@regionalstudies.org)

**Abstract Submission Guidelines:**

- Title
- Indicate which gateway theme the paper is being submitted under
- Between 250-500 words in length
- Text only; no diagrams, graphs, pictures, citations or maps
- All contributing co-authors must be named, with their country and Institution

**[Submit your abstract now on our conference portal.](#)**

There will be an upper limit to the number of papers that can be accepted so early submission is advised. Payment is required on submission but if the paper cannot be accepted a refund of the conference fee (excluding bank charges etc.) will be made.

Please note the following:

Abstracts submitted to the conference will go through a refereeing process depending upon the stream in which it is submitted. Refereeing practices may therefore vary across the conference.