

NOIR 2023 RSA Annual Conference Special Session Travel Bursary

NOIR is proud to be one of the [2023 RSA Annual Conference partners and supporters](#).

As part of the 2023 RSA [Annual Conference](#), there are a number of Special Sessions running throughout the academic programme. The RSA Research Network on Infrastructural Regionalisms (NOIR) has organised [SS34: Regional Infrastructure and Infrastructural Regionalism: Contexts, Concepts, and Cases](#)

**Funding Support**

Thanks to the support of the RSA, NOIR is able to offer several travel bursaries of up to £500 for early career researchers, graduate students, and/or participants from band B/C/D countries to support attendance and presentation at the conference. Please contact [Jen Nelles](#) if you wish to be considered for a NOIR bursary when submitting your abstract.

**Special Session Description:**

This special session both assesses work at the intersection of infrastructure and regional studies and will help chart future directions for research on 'infrastructural regionalism' (Addie, Glass, and Nelles, 2020; Glass, Addie, and Nelles, 2019). Infrastructure is fundamental for the production of regions. Regardless of the region in question, infrastructure forms the foundation of urban and regional development in material and discursive terms. Infrastructures including highways, airports, bridges, transit systems, pipelines, sewers, and fibre optic cables are more than banal or apolitical engineered artefacts. Rather, they are the central elements that make the urban possible in its myriad forms. Calls to open the 'black box' of infrastructure are a major concern for urban and regional scholars, both as a focus for empirical research (i.e., examining socio-technological networks within and between cities or, disclosing regional development logics) and as a methodological orientation (exploring socio-natures, risks, and disruptions). Indeed, analysing regions through infrastructure provides a novel perspective on the regional question as investment and disinvestment in infrastructure reveals vital discursive and material elements that produce, structure, and modify metropolitan regions worldwide.

We welcome papers engaging research at the intersection of urban infrastructure and regional studies broadly considered, with the aim of (non-exhaustively) interrogating:

- How do we study, and thus produce knowledge of, regions through infrastructure?
- How are decisions on infrastructure made and regionalized?
- Who develops regional infrastructural visions and how are their spatial imaginaries legitimized?
- What technologies of power and infrastructure arrangements concretize the region?
- What types of infrastructure are more amenable to/successful at the regional scale?
- Who benefits, and is excluded, from regional infrastructural formations?

- In what ways do state and non-state actors adopt a regional infrastructure politics?
- How do infrastructure issues shape regional imaginaries and interpolate regional political subjects?
- How can key actors shift from producing an infrastructural region 'in itself' to a region 'for itself'?
- How are the dynamics of 'power over' and 'power to' articulated through regional infrastructural politics?

Addie, J.-P.D., Glass, M.R., and Nelles, J. (2020). Regionalizing the infrastructure turn: A research agenda. *Regional Studies, Regional Science*, 7(1), 10-26.

Glass, M.R., Addie, J.-P.D., and Nelles, J. (2019). Regional infrastructures, infrastructural regionalism. *Regional Studies*, 53(12), 1651-1656.

#### Conference and Submission

You can submit your abstract to the conference portal, indicating that you are joining SS34, until the 14th March 2023 through this

link: <https://lounge.regionalstudies.org/Meetings/Meeting?ID=413>.

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Jean-Paul Addie, Georgia State University [jaddie@gsu.edu](mailto:jaddie@gsu.edu).

Click [here](#) for more information on the 2023 RSA Annual Conference "Transforming Regions: Policies and Planning for People and Places" Ljubljana, Slovenia  
14 June 2023.