

CALL FOR PAPERS

Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2023 (#RSAWinter)

Cities and Regions of Tomorrow: Towards Better Regional Futures

9th-10th November 2023, The Cumberland Hotel, London, UK

Recent years have been dominated by external shocks (the Covid pandemic, war in Ukraine), crises (in energy, cost of living) and emergencies (the climate emergency, African food crisis). During this time regional research and debate has focused on regions 'in crisis', 'in transition' and 'in recovery'. While it is too early to declare an end to these turbulent times, the focus is switching to the impact of the changes to how people, work and human activity is taking place in, between and across regions. Discussion is also centring on planning the future design, form and function of regions, cities and rural areas.

The Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2023 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 assess options for practitioners and policymakers in working towards better regional futures.

The conference organisers are keen to attract papers and sessions which identify new fields of enquiry, address broad research and policy agendas, and include contributions from any discipline offering 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:

- Designing the regions, cities and rural areas of tomorrow
- Cities and regions in a post-Covid world
- Reviving left behind places and tackling uneven development
- Industry 4.0 and the future shape of innovation, industrial development and strategy
- Data analytics, smart cities, AI and the digital transformation
- Planning for demographic change, migratory trends and an ageing society
- Energy transitions, environmental sustainability, and the role of regions in achieving Net Zero
- Regional strategies for enhancing security (e.g. health, food, energy, data, financial, geopolitical, democracy)
- Alternative models for regional development (e.g. foundational, circular, post-growth)
- The role of data, research and evidenced based policy in a post-truth age
- Finance, investment, trading relations and their regional impacts
- The role of universities and other institutions in (re)shaping regions
- Tools and techniques for visualising and modelling regional trends
- The changing geographies and spatial impacts of global investment flows, Global Value Chains
- Global migration flows and the integration of migrants into cities and regions
- Technological change, innovation and its implications
- Industrial policy

Submission Details: Please submit your abstract (up to 250 words and text only) through the RSA conference portal at <https://lounge.regionalstudies.org/Meetings/Meeting?ID=471> by 7th September 2023.

Abstracts will be considered and reviewed by the Conference Programme Committee against the criteria of originality, interest, subject balance and geographical spread. For special sessions submission an additional criterion for assessment of proposals includes gender balance between the speakers.

Conference Website: www.regionalstudies.org/events/2023-winter-conference/

Academic Organiser: John Harrison, Loughborough University, UK

Conference Manager: Lesa Reynolds, Lesa.reynolds@regionalstudies.org, +44 (0) 1273 698 017