

RESEARCH NETWORK GRANT SCHEME (RN)
Event Report Form

RESEARCH NETWORK TITLE:	Knowledge, Innovation and Regional Development in South America (KIRDSA)
EVENT TITLE:	II International Conference on Regional Development in South America
DATE AND PLACE OF EVENT:	February 25, 26, and 27, 2025, Campinas (Brazil)
ORGANISER(S)' NAME(S):	Andrea Belmartino; Pablo Galaso; Sergio Palomeque

1. What was the aim of this event?

The International Conference on Regional Development in South America aimed to bring together researchers focusing on the creation and dissemination of knowledge in the South American context, emphasizing development processes with a territorial approach in the region's countries. While researchers at various career stages participated, the conference also aimed to provide a dedicated space for young scholars from the region. To achieve this, we received support from the YSI.

The event presented discussions on various topics, including innovation and development in territories specializing in extractive industries, collaboration networks in innovation processes, productive specialization and technological diversification in South American regions, local development, clusters, and industrial districts, environmental challenges and green transitions, migration dynamics, and the role of cities as poles of development, innovation, and inequality. The conference aimed to foster a multidisciplinary dialogue, encouraging theoretical contributions, methodological innovations, and empirical studies. Proposals presenting implications for designing public policies for innovation and regional development in South American countries were particularly discussed, reflecting the conference's broader goal of empowering knowledge flows and collaboration networks in the region.

2. How many people attended (speakers and delegates) the event?

During the conference, 46 papers were presented, selected from among the 85 submissions received following the call for papers. To present these 46 papers, a total of 53 researchers from 11 countries and 29 universities participated in the conference. Additionally, the director of the Institute of Economics – University of Campinas attended the congress, along with four academic/policymakers from countries in the region, who comprised the panel on public policy (see the program below). In total, 60 speakers and delegates attended the event.

Affiliation	Participants	Universities
Argentina	8	4
Brazil	25	16
Bolivia	2	1
Chile	3	1
Colombia	4	1
Perú	2	1
Spain	1	1
Sweden	1	1
Italy	1	1
Uruguay	4	1
Netherlands	2	1
	53	29

Table 1. KIRDSA Participants' affiliation

3. Program and outline of the event

The conference program was designed to offer a diverse range of sessions, workshops, and keynote presentations aimed at addressing various facets of regional development in South America. Sessions included paper presentations, panel discussions, workshops, and keynote addresses, providing ample opportunities for participants to engage with cutting-edge research and exchange ideas. Notable sessions included seminars on economic complexity, skills, and racial inequality in Brazil, as well as workshops focusing on paper development. Additionally, parallel sessions delved into specific topics such as regional specialization, urban innovation ecosystems, and sustainable development strategies. The program also sought to provide space for sessions dedicated specifically to young scholars, integrating these sessions with others open to established researchers, fostering a dynamic and inclusive academic environment.

This program, including details about the venue, social activities, useful links, and a map was distributed via QR code instead of being printed to reduce the environmental impact of the event.

Below is a copy of the program:

Tuesday, 25-2-25

09:00: Registration

10-11: Opening remarks | Room: Auditório Zeferino Vaz

- Renato Garcia (UNICAMP)
- Celio Hiratuka (Director IE, UNICAMP)
- Ron Boschma (RSA)
- KIRDSA - YSI Organisers

11-13: Parallel sessions - 1

Session 1.1 | Room 35 | Innovation in Rural and Peripheral Regions | Chair: Andrea Belmartino

- Carlos Gonzalo Acevedo Peña and Jazmin Estefania Olivares Ugarte: Innovation in Rural Regions: The Role for Universities in Developing Interactive Learning Spaces.
- Fernando Mesquita: The Concept of Region in Regional Innovation Systems: A Proposal for Peripheral Regions.
- Silvia Limberger: Dinâmica Produtiva da Agroindústria do Vinho no Brasil
- Andrea Belmartino: The role of social capital in the adoption of sustainable practices and innovations in agriculture: insights from a systematic review of the literature.

Session 1.2 | Room 36 | Sectoral Innovation and Technological Development | Chair: Suelene Mascarini

- Erick Alonso: The Dynamics of Relatedness and Innovative Capabilities in the Semi-conductor Sector in Brazilian Regions.
- Pablo Lavarello: Proximities in the Argentine Biopharmaceutical Industry: Challenges in the Preparadigmatic Nature of Biotechnology and the Internationalization of Local Networks.
- Bianca Vasconcellos: Industrial Complexity and Diversification: A Network Analysis of the South Fluminense Region.
- Joao Guilherme Marques Augusto Monteiro: Import Coefficient and Interindustry Linkages: An Assessment of the Intermediate Consumption of Brazilian Manufacturing Sectors (2000–2018).

13-14: Lunch break

14:16 Parallel sessions - 2

Session 2.1 | Room 35 | Sustainability and Green Transitions | Chair: Andrea Belmartino

- Mariane Francisco: Prospects for Green Transition and Technological Catch-Up in Brazil.
- Daniele Malpelli and Ana Beatriz Moraes: Twin Transition in Water Utilities and Wastewater Treatment Companies: A Technological Capabilities Assessment in Brazil and Spain.
- Franco Arandia Arzabe: Sustainability Approaches and Business Model Innovation of SMEs: Insights from University-Led Cluster Initiatives in Bolivia.

- Sergio Palomeque: Green technological innovation in Latin America

Session 2.2 | Room 36 | Regional and Cross-Border Development | Chair: Mauricio Serra

- Ledys Franco: Cross-Border Regional Planning and Multilevel Governance Challenges: Insights from South America - The Case of the Bioceanic Road Corridor.
- Jose Peres Cajias: Regional Growth and Divergence in Bolivia, 1900–2025.
- Janaina Ruffoni: Regional Analysis of the Economic-Industrial Health Complex (CEIS) in Rio Grande do Sul: Local Demand and Supply of Medical, Hospital, and Dental Equipment.
- Gregory Moraes and Diogo Ferraz: Complexidade Econômica e Propriedade Intelectual: uma análise econômica mundial

16-16:30: Coffee break

16:30-18:30: Round table - Academics and Policy Makers | Room: Auditório Zeferino Vaz

Sponsored by Sao Paulo Research Foundation, FAPESP, Brazil

- Chair: Renato Garcia (UNICAMP, Brazil)
- Panelists:
 - Veronica Robert (UNSAM, Argentina)
 - Carlos Bianchi (UDELAR, Uruguay)
 - Carlos Pacheco (UNICAMP and FAPESP, Brazil)

Wednesday, 26-2-25

8:30: Registration

9-10:30: Parallel sessions - 3

Session 3.1 | Room 35 | Economic Shocks and Poverty Analysis | Chair: Mauricio Serra

- Lázaro Cezar Dias: Extreme Poverty in Espírito Santo, Brazil: Analysis of an Income Transfer Simulation Using the Input-Output Matrix.
- Paulo Henrique Eberhardt: Technological Jobs in Paraná.
- Roberto Salvador Santolin: Contractional Shocks and Crises: Impacts on Productivity and Resilience in Minas Gerais.

Session 3.2 | Room 36 | Business and Entrepreneurship | Chair: Franco Arandia Arzabe

- Angela Montoya-Hernández and Norida Vanegas-Chinchilla: Inclusive Conditions in Informal Entrepreneurship with an Intersectional Perspective: A Case Study of Informal Entrepreneurs in Medellín (Colombia).

- Jhoana Calvo: The Influence of Social Norms on the Probability that a Woman Starts a Business and Becomes an Entrepreneur by Non-Necessity in Cali.
- Vinicius Muraro: Exploring Chilean Student Perceptions of Entrepreneurship: Opportunity or Necessity?

10:30-11: Coffee break

11-13: Parallel sessions – 4

Session 4.1 | Room 35 | Industrial and Sectoral Analyses | Chair: Janaina Ruffoni

- Mirela Oliveira: Deindustrialization and Sectoral Disarticulation in the Brazilian Economy in the 21st Century: An Input-Output Analysis.
- Sören Scholvin: Dark Side, Not the Bright: Development Outcomes of Argentina's Integration into the Global IT Sector
- Anelise Peixoto dos Santos: Industry 4.0 Technologies and the Economic Growth of Brazilian Regions
- Abimael Francisco de Souza: Exports from the Northeast Region of Brazil (2010 to 2022): Impacts of the Exchange Rate and World Income, Application of a VAR Model

Session 4.2 | YSI Session | Room 36 | Industrial Innovation and Regional Development | Chair: Igor Tupy

- Mariano Olivieri: Industrial Policies for the Development of Wind Energy: Comparative Analysis of Brazil and Argentina
- Felipe Smolski: Influence of Industrial R&D on the Economic Complexity of Brazilian Microregions (2004 to 2020)
- Melquesedeque Sage Brilhante: Diversification of Industry 4.0 Employment in Brazilian Microregions.
- Sofia Maio: Innovation and Digitalization: The Relevance of Local Networks in the Uruguayan Forestry Industry

13-14: Lunch

14-16: Parallel sessions - 5

Session 5.1 | YSI Session | Room 36 | Policies, Networks, and Innovation | Chair: Sergio Palomeque

- Josefina Moya: Transition in Science, Technology, and Innovation Policies as a Platform for Evidence-Informed Policies.
- Florencia Fiorentin: Gender Gaps in Evaluation and Allocation Processes of Public Funds for Startups in Peru.
- Bernardo França Santos: Cooperative Research Networks and STI in Brazil: A Spatial Analysis – Learning Regions and Regions of Scarcity.
- Franco Manzo: Science-Industry Linkages in Low Innovative Regions: The Role of Proximity Dimensions and Knowledge Bases.

Session 5.2 | Room 20 | Regional Innovation Systems and Indicators | Chair: Mariane Francisco

- Daniela Scarpa Benelli: Regional Innovation System of the Campinas Population Arrangement: The Performance of Science, Technology, and Innovation Indicators in 2022.
- Marcio Henriques: Technological Diversity, Interregional Cooperation, and Diagnostics for Improvements in the Industrial Sector.
- Juan Carlos Castillo Sanchez: Assessing the Impact of Innovation Capabilities on Economic Performance: Evidence from Brazil.
- Federico Moscatelli: Can we map innovation capabilities?

16-16:30: Coffee break

16:30-18: Keynote speaker | Room: Auditório Zeferino Vaz

- Ron Boschma (Utrecht University, University of Stavanger)
- Title: Institutional change and place transformation: an evolutionary perspective.

Thursday, 27-2-25

9-11: Room 36 | YSI - Paper Development Workshop - Mentors: Sergio Petralia and Ron Boschma

11-11:30: Coffee break 11:30-13: Parallel sessions - 6

Session 6.1 | Room 35 | Regional Economic Complexity and Development | Chair: Mauricio Serra

- Jordana Silva: A Regional Analysis of the Relation Between Economic Resilience, Economic Complexity, and CO2 Emissions: The Brazil's Case.
- Caio Cezar Fernandes: Economic Growth and Productive Complexity: Ambivalences Between Expansion and Crisis in Brazil.

Session 6.2 | Room 36 | Entrepreneurship and Governance | Chair: Marcia Siqueira Rapini

- Diego Mauricio Carrera Melo: Trapped in Sugarcane? Challenges to the Growth and Development Engine of Agroindustrial Regions in São Paulo and the Cauca Valley, Colombia.
- Sara Correa-Pineda: Overcoming Vulnerability Barriers: Management Practices of Subsistence Entrepreneurs in Antioquia.
- Marcia Siqueira Rapini: An Analysis of Shared Leadership and Diversity in Scientific Teams: Evidence from Brazil.

13-14: Lunch break

14-16: Parallel sessions - 7

Session 7.1 | YSI Session | Room 36 | Technological Advancements and Knowledge Dynamics | Chair: Igor Tupy

- Darío Vázquez: Analyzing Argentina's Profile in the Knowledge Base of the Medical Devices Sector: An Exploratory Approach.
- Marcelo Fernando Molina: Self-Selection, Learning by Exporting, or Both? Analysis of Exporting Companies That Patent in Argentina (2007–2021).
- Danielle Vasconcellos: Priority Map for Medicine Production: A Technology Foresight Study Based on Expert Expectations.
- Antero Alves Pereira Neto: Mapping Technological Trajectories with Patents: A Study of Hydrogen Generation Through the Electrolysis Process.

16-17: Closing remarks | Room: 36

4. Social activities organised as part of the event

In addition to its academic program, the conference offered participants a range of social activities aimed at fostering informal networking, cultural exchange, and community building.

- On the first day, an early social gathering took place at the campus hotel restaurant (Casa do Professor Visitante), where most of the participants were staying.
- The second day participants went to the Emporio do Nono restaurant, where they enjoyed drinks and typical Brazilian food, in a setting with a strong local character.
- The highlight of the social activities was the Roda de Samba to which the participants went after the conference closed. This was an excellent opportunity to experience the carnival atmosphere in the city of Campinas, enjoying a typical Brazilian artistic show at Alma Campinas.
- To facilitate communication among participants, a WhatsApp group was created. This chat remained active throughout the event and in the days following, allowing participants to share links, locations, photos, and announcements.

5. Conclusions of the Event: Advancing Regional Studies

This second conference significantly advanced the objectives of the KIRDSA research network. Through diverse sessions and workshops, the conference promoted education and stimulated research in regional studies. Keynote presentations by renowned scholars such as Ron Boschma, Carlos Bianchi, Verónica Roberts, Gabriel Pacheco and Sergio Petralia showcased the latest advancements in the field, contributing to intellectual leadership. Parallel sessions and mentorship workshops provided platforms for knowledge exchange, supporting the development of members and fostering collaboration within the community.

The conference delivered high-quality regional research, covering topics like economic complexity, innovation ecosystems, and research collaboration networks. These contributions expanded our understanding of regional dynamics and laid the groundwork for future investigations. Influence on policy debate and practice emerged as another significant outcome of the event. Roundtable discussions, such as the one chaired by Renato García, brought together policymakers and academics, to deliberate on key challenges facing Latin American regions. By bridging research and policy, the conference aimed to inform evidence-based decision-making and promote sustainable regional development initiatives. Finally, emphasizing innovation in publishing, the

conference encouraged novel approaches to disseminating research outcomes. Interactive workshops and paper development sessions aimed at young scholars explored creative avenues for communication, ensuring widespread access to knowledge.

In conclusion, the II International Conference on Regional Development in South America has been instrumental in advancing the goals of KIRDSA. By promoting education, stimulating research, fostering collaboration, influencing policy, and innovating in publishing, the event has made significant strides toward addressing the complex challenges facing South American regions.

6. Future actions (planned events, outputs, follow-up of the event, publications)

During the conference, discussions were held regarding the organization of the third KIRDSA event. Meetings were conducted with potential collaborators, and as a result, at the closing session of the event, it was announced that the III International Conference on Regional Development in South America will take place in Buenos Aires in February 2026. Additionally, opportunities have emerged to organize additional events in collaboration with participants, further expanding the reach and impact of KIRDSA activities.

Furthermore, the KIRDSA network is exploring the possibility of preparing a special issue for the journal *Regional Studies*. While this initiative is in the planning stages, the network is confident in the response from potential contributors given the high quality of submissions received and the promising outlook for future events.

Finally, the mailing list of the research network will be updated including all participants in the conference to keep them informed about upcoming events and news related to KIRDSA. This will ensure ongoing engagement and communication within the network.

7. Promotion and follow up actions (please outline below how you promoted the Association at your event and whether any follow up actions are planned.)

In the opening session of the conference, it was highlighted that the Association received support from the RSA, emphasizing the collaborative relationship between the two organizations. In this session, Prof. Ron Boschma encouraged attendees to apply for RSA funding opportunities, such as the MeRSA and Research Network Grant, underlining the RSA's interest in incorporating projects and researchers from the Latin American region. Information about these funding opportunities was shared in the conference's WhatsApp group to ensure widespread dissemination among participants.

Looking ahead, it was announced during the conference that KIRDSA research network will organize a third event next year, with details to be published soon.

Overall, these promotional efforts aim to strengthen the Association's presence within the academic community and foster ongoing collaboration and engagement with the RSA and its affiliated networks.

8. Authors of this report

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Pablo Galaso



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Sergio Palomeque



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9. More information

- Photographs of the event:
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/196ztsqfdzj2jye7bnj6t/AK4FUjV-j49IDvAdpOMlok4?rlkey=0udf34gh3l2u8n86s99xwea8b&st=5ezl7wmz&dl=1>
- Complete program:
 - https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/il5pk549eelw7z6dko9zy/KIRDSA_2025_program.pdf?rlkey=vo4nkg9qgyk9rqwysvwerf3t0&st=1nbc56l&dl=1