

## RESEARCH NETWORK GRANT SCHEME (RN) Event Report Form

Please complete the form below and email the form back to: [researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org](mailto:researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org)

Events and research network reports for Regions eZine- <https://regions.regionalstudies.org/>  
In order to publish your report in Regions eZine, we would request that your report outlines the key discussions occurring during the event and how these discussions contribute to the scholarship and readership of the regional studies community. We would value linkages being made between the take-away messages of the event and the current literature, for instance from open access articles published in one or more [publications of the Regional Studies Association](#).

Alternatively, more general description of the event can be submitted for publication on our website.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING THIS REPORT TO REGIONS OR FOR OUR WEBSITE:

RESEARCH NETWORK TITLE: Regional Studies Association Research Network on Knowledge, Innovation and Regional Development in South America (KIRDSA)

EVENT TITLE: RSA Annual Conference, Special Season “**SS03: Global Knowledge Flows and their Role in the Window of Opportunity for Latin America.**”

DATE AND PLACE OF EVENT: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Porto, Portugal

ORGANISER(S)' NAME(S): Andrea Belmartino, Pablo Galaso and Sergio Palomeque

### PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH DETAILS OF YOUR EVENT

- What was the aim of this event?

Digitalisation and decarbonisation are two of the main strategies for countries to move towards sustainable and inclusive development, impacting the way goods and services are produced and distributed, as well as lifestyles around the world. Both strategies are driven by digital and green technologies. On the one hand, the digital transition infrastructure depends on critical minerals. On the other hand, the green shift paradigm, based on renewable energy technologies, is a turning point compared to previous technology paradigms, based on fossil fuel power generation technologies, as it requires not only significantly larger quantities of critical minerals and minerals, but also a wide range of them. The Latin American region concentrates a high proportion of the world's production of some of the minerals needed for both transitions, which may open windows of opportunity that will depend on local capabilities and access to knowledge flows.

This session seeks to open a space for discussion on these opportunities for Latin America, and will therefore mainly accept papers dealing with the following topics:

- Just Transition
  - Twin transition
  - Innovation and sustainability
  - Innovation and inequality
  - Development of 4.0 technologies
  - Green and digital transitions
  - Theoretical debate under sustainable transition literature
- How many people attended (speakers and delegates) the event? Please add an approximate number of countries.

5 presenters from 3 countries.

- Please list the speakers of the event and title of their presentations (please give a description of how and why these papers were selected).
  - Renato Garcia: Evaluating Place-based Innovation Policy: Assessing the Long-Term Impact of a SME-Oriented R&D Grants Program in Brazil
  - Igor Tupy: Skill Diversification into Industry 4.0 in Brazilian Regions
  - Pablo Galaso: Support Networks for Local SMEs and Innovation Performance: Evidence from a Region in Latin America
  - Sergio Palomeque: Green Technological Innovation in Latin America
  - Andrea Belmartino: Two Sides of the Same Coin? A Systematic Literature Review on the Green Window Opportunities and Hidden Risks of Critical Raw Materials in Latin America

This special session explored the intersection of global knowledge flows with innovation, regional dynamics, and green technologies in Latin America. By five insightful research presentations, the session examined how place-based policies, industrial transformations, sustainability goals, and support mechanisms at the regional level contribute to fostering innovation. The studies highlighted the importance of localized approaches to innovation, the uneven distribution of Industry 4.0 capabilities, the role of institutional networks, and the opportunities and risks associated with green transitions in the region.

- Please send us the program and outline of your event.

<https://www.regionalstudies.org/news/2025-rsa-annual-special-sessions/#!>

- Please describe any social activities organised as part of the event.

The session drew an engaged audience of approximately 20 participants, who actively contributed to the discussion and expressed strong interest in the presented research. At the end of the session, KIRDSA organizers—Sergio Palomeque, Pablo Galaso, and Andrea Belmartino—announced the upcoming III KIRDSA Conference, scheduled to take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in February 2026. The announcement was warmly received, signaling growing momentum and enthusiasm within the KIRDSA community. More information about the conference will soon be available on the Regional Studies Association (RSA) website and will be shared via email and social media with all KIRDSA members.

- Please provide us with conclusions of the event (how it contributed to the overall aim of the network and an outline of the key discussions occurring during the event).

The special session represented an important milestone for KIRDSA, reaffirming our presence within the RSA's flagship event. The quality of the papers presented and the lively exchange of ideas highlighted the

urgent need for a dedicated platform to discuss regional development through a distinctly South American lens.

- Please outline any future actions (planned events, outputs, follow-up of the event, publications).

The next confirmed event will be the "III INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AMERICA".

- Please outline below how you promoted the Association at your event and whether any follow up actions are planned.
- Please include a short biography from/on behalf of the author of this report (author's title, institutional affiliation, and research interests, max 40 words) and attach an ID picture (this may be published in *Regions*) in Jpeg format.

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Research focus: regional development challenges in the context of the sustainable transition.



- Please send an email addressed to [researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org](mailto:researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org) attaching any photographs of the event the RSA may use.
- Please send an email addressed to [researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org](mailto:researchnetwork@regionalstudies.org) attaching any presentation or additional material that you have permission to display on the Association's website.
- Please confirm that you have either provided the RSA with a list of delegates' emails or that you have sent an email to the delegates containing a paragraph on the RSA and the link to sign up to the e-Bulletin as follows:
  - The Regional Studies Association (RSA) is a learned society concerned with the analysis of regions and regional issues. It is the multidisciplinary global community for regional and urban research, development and policy. An RSA membership gives you access to publications, funding opportunities, conferences and events, networking opportunities, discounts and much more. The RSA sends out news on its activities and deadlines via its monthly newsletter, so if you have not yet signed up to the monthly e-Bulletin, please do so [here](#).