

INVITATION FROM THE ANZRSAL AND RSA LEADERS

Our two regional studies organisations, the Regional Studies Association (RSA) and ANZRSAL, are delighted to be able to jointly host a conference bringing together regional researchers globally. After the difficulties of meeting in person since the pandemic, this conference is an opportunity to meet and share ideas with colleagues from Asia, Australasia, Europe and beyond.

Regions are experiencing the consequences of multiple global crises. This conference encourages researchers to contribute to mapping the implications of these crises for regional futures, exploring issues that are common to many but also recognising diverse patterns and challenges. We encourage the participation of those working at the front-line of these challenges, including policy makers and people involved in delivering regional programmes.

We are delighted that the European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT will host the conference in Melbourne, with a venue at the heart of this cosmopolitan and vibrant city. We are confident this conference will have a wide appeal for those working in regional studies and science and for related policy makers.

We, along with Professor Bruce Wilson, the conference's local organiser, also thank BCARR – the Bureau of Communications, Arts and Regional Research – in the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, for their financial support as the Conference's chief sponsor. This is a significant contribution to regional studies and science in Australia. In particular we thank Karen Malam and Lucy Williams for their ongoing support of the ANZRAL annual conference.

Among other publication opportunities, participants are welcome to submit papers presented at the conference to the *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies* or to any of the RSA's six journals – *Regional Studies*; *Spatial Economic Analysis*; *Territory, Politics, Governance*; *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science*; *Area Development and Policy* and finally the new start journal *Finance & Space*.

We hope that both the conference programme and its location will be an irresistible temptation to join us in November 2023.



Delwar Akbar

Delwar Akbar
ANZRSAI President, 2023



Sally Hardy

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Regional Studies Association CEO