

Call for Papers
2024 RSA Student and Early Career Conference

Researchers as Agents of Regional Change

2nd-3rd September 2024, Cambridge, UK

Are you a PhD student or an early career researcher, within the first five years of completing your PhD, specializing in areas such as regional and urban studies, planning, geography, politics, development studies, economics, or related fields?

If so, mark your calendars as the Regional Studies Association welcomes submissions of abstracts to our annual Student and Early Career Conference to be held in Cambridge, UK, in September 2024.

As the world faces unprecedented challenges such as climate change, the rise of AI, social inequality, and economic instability, researchers have a critical role to play in supporting regions in their transformation towards more sustainable and inclusive futures by leverage their expertise, research findings, resources, and networks. Co-organised by the Anglia Ruskin University's Centre for Inclusive Societies and Economies and the [Global Sustainability Institute](#) and in partnership with The University of Cambridge's [Department of Land Economy](#) the RSA Student and ECR Conference invites papers discussing topics including, but not limited to:

- The role of research(ers) in informing regional policy and practice
- Strategies for fostering real-world impact from regional research
- Innovative research methods and technologies for envisioning more sustainable and inclusive urban-regional futures
- Collaborative processes for engaging with stakeholders and communities locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- Challenges and opportunities for scaling up regional initiatives
- The role of universities as anchor institutions in promoting regional development

The RSA Student and ECR conference serves as a vibrant platform for emerging scholars from across the world to present their research, engage in thought-provoking debates, and cultivate valuable connections. We offer a welcoming, supportive, and intellectually stimulating environment where participants from diverse backgrounds and disciplines converge to share knowledge and insights.

What You Can Expect:

1. **Networking and Collaboration:** Connect with like-minded peers and establish valuable collaborations in your field. Forge connections that can shape the future of your research and career.
2. **Constructive Feedback:** Receive expert feedback on your research. Gain fresh perspectives and insights that can elevate your work to new heights.
3. **Career Advancement:** Attend workshops designed to equip you with essential skills and knowledge that will empower your academic and professional journey, including "How to Get Published?"; "How to Win External Research Funding?"; "How to Manage Your Own Research Project?"; and "How to Take the Next Steps in Your Career?"
4. **Practical Takeaways:** Join a panel discussion with local leaders from both politics and business, and the Directors of CISE's three strategic research themes (Health, Performance, and Wellbeing; Sustainable Futures; Safe and Inclusive Communities) to explore fresh perspectives on how to drive

positive regional change, promote sustainability, and nurture inclusivity within your community and beyond.

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=502> by 4th June 2024.

Abstracts will be considered and reviewed by the Conference Programme Committee against the criteria of originality, interest, subject balance and geographical spread.

Conference Website: www.regionalstudies.org/events/2024student-earlycareer

Academic organiser: Franziska Sohns, ARU, Centre for Inclusive Societies and Economies

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