

RSA Annual Conference 2025

Navigating Regional Transformation

Tuesday 6th – Friday 9th May 2025,
School of Economics and Management, University of Porto, Portugal
#RSA25

The Regional Studies Association's Annual Conference 2025 **#RSA25** is being held in partnership with the School of Economics and Management at the University of Porto, Portugal. This four-day conference brings together academics and policymakers to exchange news, views and research findings from the fields of regional studies and science, regional and economic development, policy and planning. There will be representation from around 55 different global territories as we gather both established experts and early career researchers in the beautiful city of Porto.

The conference will feature 550+ presentations, high-profile plenary speakers, a number of specially convened sessions, workshops, professional development and networking sessions, walking tours and field trips. The social programme will include the conference dinner and a reception, side events, exhibitor stalls and post-conference tours to explore Porto and the North of Portugal.

Call for abstracts

In recent years, the landscape of regional development has undergone significant shifts. While technological advancements keep disrupting work, innovation, and consumption paradigms, regions grapple with an enduring global 'polycrisis', intertwining geopolitical instability, threats to democracy, and climate-related tension. Multiple actors became increasingly involved with regional development affairs, but this did not prevent many regions to fall into regional economic development traps. Simultaneously, policy agendas strive to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), inclusive growth and well-being, and multiple transitions are accelerating, but progress remains highly uneven across geographical contexts. Regional actors are not just passive observers but can actively shape their destinies and be transformation agents within this dynamic playing field. But what knowledge can regional studies contribute? How can regional studies help envision, conceptualize, understand, and – importantly – catalyze action toward new regional futures?

Navigating Regional Transformation provides a timely opportunity to engage in dialogue and renewed debate on these fundamental issues. It invites exploration of the challenges faced by diverse regions worldwide and underscores the manifold ways in which regional studies can help addressing these pressing issues and collectively navigate the complexities of our changing regional world.

Conference themes

Innovation and Technological Change	University Missions and Civic Action
Land, Housing, Informality	Geopolitics and North-South Relations
Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems	Sustainability Transitions and the Environment
Agglomeration, Networks and Clusters	Digitalization, AI, and its Implications
Value Chains and Foreign Investment	Politics, Governance, Leadership and Institutional Change
Spatial Economy, Transport, and Infrastructure	Populism, Nationalism, Regionalism and Democracy
Industrial Transformation and Policy	Race, Gender and Social Inequalities
Regional Disparities and EU Cohesion Policy	Peripheral, Remote and Cross-Border Regions

Sustainable Tourism	Inclusive Growth, Housing and Well-Being
Regions, Culture, and Creativity	Finance, Space, and Regional Development
Demography, Labour Markets and Migrations	Planning Urban, Rural and Regional Futures

Special Session proposals: Please submit your through the portal on the webpage:

www.regionalstudies.org/events/2025rsaac25/

Abstract 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=529>

We welcome papers from all – academics, researchers, students, and those working in policy and practice. The event is inclusive and offers networking opportunities for all in our field. The organisers welcome proposals for special sessions, themed workshops and innovative forms of networking and collaboration. If you would like to organise or offer a session to the conference, please contact Nicola Pilling at Nicola.pilling@regionalstudies.org.

Deadlines

Special Session submission deadline: 28th November 2024

Abstract submission deadline: 19th December 2024

Conference bursary application: 19th December 2024

Academic Organizers

Luís Carvalho, School of Economics and Management, University of Porto, Portugal

Isabel Mota, School of Economics and Management, University of Porto, Portugal

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