

RSA Annual Conference 2026

Regions as Arenas in a Changing World

Monday 15th June–Thursday 18th June, University of Gothenburg

#RSA26

Draft Conference Programme

Monday 15th June 2026

- 10.00-16.00 Board Meeting (invitation only)
10:00-15:00 [Technical Tours](#) (Separate registration needed)
14:00-16.00 Conference registration desk open
14.00-16.00 Women's Network Event
18.00-20.00 **Welcome Reception** – [Börsen](#) (free to attend, separate registration required)

Tuesday 16th June 2026

- 08.00-17.00 Conference registration desk open
08.30-08.45 Welcome to the conference
08.45-10.15 Opening Plenary – Regions as Arenas in a Changing World: Rethinking Spatial Theories
Speaker: Simona Iammarino, GSSI, Italy & LSE, UK
Speaker: Dominique Foray, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), France
Speaker: Cecilia Malmström, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Early Career Speaker: tbc
Chair: Sarah Franz, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
10.15-10.45 Coffee Break
10.45-12.45 Parallel Workshop Sessions 1
12.45-13.45 Lunch Break
13.45-15.45 Parallel Workshop Sessions 2
15.45-16.15 Coffee Break
16.15-17.15 **Plenary 2 – Area Development and Policy Annual Lecture – An Integrated Place-based Approach to Societal Challenges**
Speaker: Ron Boschma, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
Discussant: John Harrison, Loughborough University, UK
Discussant: Simona Iammarino, Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), Italy
19.30-22.30 **Conference Dinner** – [Kooperativet](#) (extra cost to attend and separate registration required)

Wednesday 17th June 2026

- 08.00-17.00 Conference registration desk open
09.00-10.30 Plenary 3 – The Long Shadows of History: Can Regions Escape their Past?
Speaker: Mark Tewdwr-Jones, University College London, UK
Speaker: Huiwen Gong, University of Stavanger, Norway
Speaker: Emma Ormerod, Newcastle University, UK
Speaker: Hans Westlund, Jönköping International Business School, Sweden
Chair: Martin Henning, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
10.30-11.00 Coffee Break
11.00-13.00 Parallel Workshop Sessions 3
13.00-14.00 Lunch Break

Wednesday 17th June 2026 - Continued

14.00-15.30 Spotlight Sessions

1. Policy Panel Session – EU Cities Agenda,
Speaker: Tony Venables, University of Oxford, UK
Speaker: Lewis Dijkstra, JRC
Speaker: Kadri Uustal, Regio
Speaker: Rudiger Ahrend, OECD
2. **Regions in Evolution: A History of Regional Planning**
3. **Regional Studies, Regional Science Journal Session** – More information available soon
4. **Meet the RSA Editors** – More information available soon

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

16.00-18.00 Parallel Workshop Sessions 4

18.00-19.00 Speed Networking

19.00-22.00 Informal get together (no food or refreshments included) – [Johan Scott's Avenyn](#),
Kungsportsavenyen 15-17, 411 36, Gothenburg

Thursday 18th June 2026

08.30-13.15 Conference registration desk open

09.00-10.30 Parallel Workshop Sessions 5

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00-12.30 Parallel Workshop Sessions 6

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 **Closing Plenary, Regional Studies Annual Lecture – Broadening Regional Horizons: Regional Studies, Policy and Development in an Age of Uncertainty**

Speaker: Joan Fitzgerald, Northeast University, USA

Speaker: Amy Glasmeier, MIT, USA

Speaker: Jennifer Clark, The Ohio State University, USA

Chair: John Harrison, Loughborough, University UK

15.00-15.15 Conference Close

15.15-various [Touristic Tours](#) (separate registration needed)