

## 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
- 16.15-17.45 Parallel Workshop Sessions 3
- 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 2 – The Long Shadows of History: Can Regions Escape their Past?**
  - Speaker:** Mark Tewdwr-Jones, University College London, UK
  - Speaker:** Tom Brökel, 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 4
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch Break

**Wednesday 17th June 2026 - Continued****14.00-15.30 Spotlight Sessions**

Policy Panel Session – Confirmed Speaker, more to be confirmed soon

Tony Venables, University of Oxford, UK

Various Sessions with the Editors of RSA Publications – More information available soon

**15.30-16.00** Coffee Break

**16.00-18.00** Parallel Workshop Sessions 5

**18.00-19.00** PowerPoint Karaoke/Speed Networking

**Thursday 18th June 2026**

**08.30-13.15** Conference registration desk open

**09.00-10.30** Parallel Workshop Sessions 6

**10.30-11.00** Coffee Break

**11.00-12.30** Parallel Workshop Sessions 7

**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**

Confirmed Speaker - Joan Fitzgerald, Northeast University, USA

Chairs/Discussants –

Jennifer Clark, The Ohio State University, USA

John Harrison, Loughborough, University UK

**15.00-15.15** Conference Close

**15.15-various** Touristic Tours (separate registration needed)