

## 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:** 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 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. **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 PowerPoint Karaoke/Speed Networking

**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

**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)