

Regional Studies Association Blog

Special Series: Regional Perspectives from Africa

Regional Studies: Space and Place Perspectives from Africa

The Regional Studies Association invites contributions for a special issue of our blog focused on Space and Place Perspectives from Africa. This initiative aims to explore concepts of territory, place, and spatial relations, specifically examining how they are understood from micro, national, or continental perspectives.

The goal of this special issue is to highlight African epistemologies of regional development that share concepts and terminology from regional languages that shape the understanding of community, space, territory, governance, and regional development. We are particularly interested in how these frameworks can inform alternative approaches to regional policy and development practices.

Key Questions

Contributors are encouraged but not limited to address one or more of these nuanced questions:

- How do spatial conceptualizations challenge or complement dominant theoretical frameworks in regional studies?
- What terminology in the national languages expresses regional concepts and the challenges of losing context while translating into languages like English??
- What terminology in the national languages expresses regional concepts, and what challenges arise in translating them into other academic language frameworks?
- In what ways have colonial legacies shaped regional boundaries and governance, and how are communities reclaiming or reimagining these spaces?
- How do oral traditions, customary practices, and indigenous knowledge systems inform contemporary regional development policies and practices?
- What role do traditional authorities play in regional governance alongside formal state institutions?
- How are climate change, resource extraction, and global economic forces being navigated through native/indigenous regional frameworks?
- What can global discourse on regional development learn from African approaches to collective welfare and spatial justice?

Multi-scalar Approach

We welcome perspectives that critically examine regional concepts across multiple scales, including:

- Continental frameworks (e.g., African Union, African Continental Free Trade Area)
- Regional economic communities (e.g., ECOWAS, EAC, SADC)
- Cross-border cultural regions that transcend colonial boundaries

- Indigenous territorial systems and their relationship with modern administrative boundaries
- Rural-urban linkages and peri-urban transformations
- Community-level spatial organizations and their integration with broader governance structures

Submission Requirements

- **Word count:** 500-800 words
- **Language:** English
- **Style:** Conversational yet scholarly, accessible while maintaining academic rigour
- **Multimedia:** We encourage the incorporation of relevant visualizations, maps, photographs, or brief audio clips that enhance your analysis
- **References:** Include at least two sources (with links if available)
- **For peer-reviewed work:** Please include DOI links to your original research if you're submitting a part or a summary discussion of your published paper as the blog.

Submission Process

Please submit your blog post as a Word document to rsablog@regionalstudies.org with “**Space and Place Perspectives from Africa**” in the subject line.

Include:

- Author headshot(s) (.png or .jpeg)
- 1-3 relevant images or multimedia elements
- Credentials, institutional affiliation, and position/title
- Brief author bio (50-100 words)
- Geographical focus information
- Social media handles (LinkedIn, ORCID, X, Bluesky, etc.)



If you have ideas you'd like to discuss or are unsure about any aspect of your potential contribution, please don't hesitate to contact us before submitting. We welcome early conversations about your blog ideas.

Deadline

Submissions are due by **30th June 2025**.



For questions, please contact the RSA Blog Editorial Team at rsablog@regionalstudies.org.

Connect us at



- Regional Studies Association Blog Editorial Team Email: rsablog@regionalstudies.org
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The Regional Studies Association Blog is committed to fostering intellectual dialogue that transcends traditional academic boundaries, promoting comprehensive understanding of regional developmental complexities.