

# Regional Studies Association Blog

## Special Issue: Asian Perspectives on Regional Development Understanding Regions Through Vernacular Terminologies and Concepts

The Regional Studies Association invites contributions for a special issue of our blog focused on **Asian Perspectives on Regional Development**. This initiative seeks to explore how regions are conceptualized, governed, and experienced across diverse Asian contexts through place-based terminologies and frameworks.

This special issue aims to uncover the rich tapestry of regional concepts embedded in Asian languages and policy frameworks. We are particularly interested in how terms like "kasba" (काशबा, Hindi for market town), "qu yu" (区域, Mandarin for region), "지역" (jiyeok, Korean for region), "kawasan" (Indonesian for area/region), and other regionally-specific terminology shape understanding and policy approaches in ways that might differ from Eurocentric regional development paradigms.

This blog series serves as a collaborative platform for dialogue across diverse regional perspectives, creating space for mutual learning and exchange rather than privileging any single framework or approach to regional development.

### Some Key themes

We encourage contributors to explore any of these themes. These themes are suggestive and do not limit ideas for a potential special issue of the blog.

#### Conceptual Frameworks and Terminology:

- What place-based spatial concepts in national languages capture regional relationships and how do they compare with dominant global terminologies?

#### Governance and Policy Implementation:

- In what ways do formal institutional frameworks acknowledge or incorporate vernacular spatial understandings?

#### Lived Experiences and Communities:

- How do everyday community experiences of "region" contrast with official policy designations?

#### Transnational and Global Dimensions:

- How do Asian regional frameworks interact with global development paradigms?

#### Multi-scalar Approach

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

- Multinational regions (e.g., ASEAN, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)
- Transnational economic corridors (e.g., Greater Mekong Sub-region)
- Cross-border regions with shared cultural or environmental features

- Sub-national regions with distinct identities or governance structures
- Micro-regional formations (e.g., innovation clusters, cultural districts)
- Urban-rural interfaces and peri-urban spaces



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.

### Submission Guidelines

- **Word count:** 500-800 words
- **Language:** English, with regional terms included in the original language (with transliteration if applicable)
- **Format:** Conversational style accessible to non-academic audiences while maintaining scholarly rigour
- **References:** Include at least two sources (with links if available online)
- **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
- **Images:** Please provide relevant images from your research context
- **Author information:** Include credentials, institutional affiliation, position/title, and funding acknowledgements
- **Geographical focus:** Clearly specify the country/countries and specific region(s) discussed

### Submission Process

Please submit your blog post as a Word document to [rsablog@regionalstudies.org](mailto:rsablog@regionalstudies.org) with "Asian Perspectives Special Issue" in the subject line.

Include:

- Author headshot(s) (.png or .jpeg)
- 1-3 relevant images (.png or .jpeg)
- Brief author bio (50-100 words)
- Social media handles (LinkedIn, ORCID, X, Bluesky, etc.)

### Deadline

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



For questions, please contact the RSA Blog Editorial Team at [rsablog@regionalstudies.org](mailto:rsablog@regionalstudies.org).

### Connect us at



- Regional Studies Association Blog Editorial Team Email: [rsablog@regionalstudies.org](mailto:rsablog@regionalstudies.org)
- Institutional Website: [www.regionalstudies.org](http://www.regionalstudies.org)
- Academic Network:



[@rsablog.bsky.social](https://rsablog.bsky.social)



[@rsa\\_blog](https://twitter.com/rsa_blog)



[Regional Studies Association Blog](https://www.linkedin.com/company/regional-studies-association-blog/)

*The Regional Studies Association Blog is committed to fostering intellectual dialogue that transcends traditional academic boundaries, promoting comprehensive understanding of regional developmental complexities.*