

## 2025 JOINT ANZRSAI/RSA CONFERENCE

# POPULATION CHANGE AND REGIONAL RESILIENCE

48<sup>th</sup> Australian and New Zealand Regional Science Association International,  
and the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Studies Association Australasian Conference

**1-2 December, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand**

## SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS

This conference is convened jointly by the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association International (ANZRSAI) and the Regional Studies Association (RSA). The two associations bring together researchers across academic and policy fields to explore the cutting edge of regional science and regional analysis in Australia, New Zealand and around the world. The event will be hosted by the University of Waikato on 1-2 December 2025.

The 2025 conference theme explores the evolving dynamics of population change and its interrelationship with the resilience of regions across Australasia and beyond. This theme embraces a broad spectrum of issues, including ageing populations, migration trends, urbanisation and rural depopulation, and their intersections with housing, infrastructure, employment, and regional and rural development. The theme invites discussions on how local and central government, Indigenous and local communities, and other stakeholders can adapt to these changes to foster social, economic, and environmental resilience, and ensure that regions are vibrant, inclusive, and future-ready.

Proposals for contributed papers, for themed panels, or for special sessions, will be welcomed on any topic related to the theme, or to regional science or regional studies more generally.

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) and the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association International (ANZRSAI) Council invite contributions from academics, practitioners and policy advisors on any aspect of regional studies and regional science for presentation at the conference. We especially encourage submissions from Indigenous researchers and early career researchers. The programme will include *PowerPoint presentations*, *academic papers*, *themed panels* and *special sessions* on topics in regional science theory, regional development practice or regional planning policy. Presentations will be made in person, in two or three parallel sessions.

## ***TIMETABLE***

<b>29 August</b>	Final date for submission of proposals for themed panels or special sessions on particular topics.
<del><b>19 September</b></del>	<del>Final date for submission of abstracts for papers.</del>
<b>26 September</b>	<b>Extended final date for submission of abstracts.</b>
<b>3 October</b>	Date for notification of acceptance of paper.
<b>10 October</b>	Date for publication of programme.
<b>7 November</b>	Final date for conference registration for paper presenters, for their paper to be confirmed in the programme.
<b>7 November</b>	Final date for submission of full paper by authors (full papers are only required for those wishing to be considered for the Best Paper Award).
<b>30 November</b>	Hamilton Gardens tour and informal welcome party (optional, time TBC)
<b>1-2 December</b>	Conference
<b>1 December</b>	Conference Dinner 7pm ( <a href="#">Camarosa</a> , 11 Davison Road, Newstead)

[Click here](#) to submit your abstract.

## **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

This joint Regional Studies Association (RSA) and ANZRSAl conference will start with a walking tour of the visually spectacular Hamilton Gardens and informal welcome drinks at a venue to be confirmed in Hamilton East on the evening of Sunday 30 November 2025 (optional, and time TBC) and be followed by two days of stimulating plenary addresses, panels of expert speakers and parallel sessions of submitted papers.

This is an opportunity for Regional Studies Association members and ANZRSAl members and others interested in regional issues to share experiences and network with each other, to keep up-to-date with latest developments in regional research and to address important issues in regional planning.

Registration for the conference includes light lunch, morning and afternoon tea, as well as admission to all plenary and parallel sessions.

	Fees
Early Bird Standard Registration (paid before 31 October)	AU\$400.00
Standard Registration for full conference (paid after 31 October)	AU\$450.00
Student or Emeritus Registration for full conference	AU\$200.00
ANZRSAI Awards Dinner (Monday 1 December, 7pm)	AU\$125.00

[Registration is open now.](#)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Bruce Newbold** is a Professor in the School of Earth, Environment & Society (EES) at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He received his PhD in Geography from McMaster University in 1994, and worked at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign between 1994 and 2000 before returning to McMaster in 2000. Since returning to McMaster, he has held Guest Scholar positions at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, University of California San Diego (2004), and the Medical Research Council's Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow (2008), a position which included a Fellowship through the Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow. His research interests focus on population issues as they relate to immigration, migration, health, and aging. Recent research has focused on the nexus of mobility and health, commuting and sustainability questions, immigrant health, and the immigrant settlement process.

**Michelle Thompson-Fawcett** (*Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Te Ata*) FRSNZ is Distinguished Professor in the School of Geography at the University of Otago Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka. Michelle completed her doctorate at the University of Oxford in 1999. She is recipient of the NZGS Distinguished Geographer Award, the NZPI John Mawson Award of Merit, and the National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award: Kaupapa Māori. She is Associate Dean Māori in Humanities at Otago, a former Head of the School of Geography at Otago, and programme lead on the Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga CoRE Toitū He Kāinga research programme. Michelle's research explores urban and environmental planning activities by Indigenous communities at the local level. In particular, she examines the extent to which groups are able to engage in, influence, and achieve self-determination in regard to urban and environmental decision-making. She works with Māori communities on their aspirations for urban development, cultural landscape management, indigenous impact assessment, and the management of natural and physical resources.





**Iain White** is Professor of Environmental Planning at the University of Waikato and is currently the Assistant Vice-Chancellor Impact and Horizon Europe National Contact Point for Climate, Energy and Mobility. Prior to this he was the Director of the Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology at the University of Manchester in the UK. In 2020 he won the University of Waikato Vice Chancellor's award for Research Excellence and in 2021 the New Zealand Planning Institute John Mawson Award of Merit. He is also the Co-Chair of the Australasian Cities Research network. Iain is a spatial planner who is committed to engaging beyond the discipline to researchers, practitioners and

communities to conduct science in a way that generates real world impact. He has recently applied this intellectual approach to analysing why systemic change within institutions is so difficult, in particular with regard to new forms of spatial development, climate change adaptation, and addressing the housing crisis.

Queries about the conference can be sent to the Chair of the Local Organising Committee:

Professor Michael Cameron  
Waikato Management School  
University of Waikato

[mcam@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:mcam@waikato.ac.nz)

Local Organising Committee:

*Professor Michael Cameron (University of Waikato)*

*Professor Jacques Poot (University of Waikato)*

*Professor Matthew Roskrugs (Massey University)*

*Professor Etienne Nel (University of Otago)*

*Dr Georgia McLellan (University of Auckland)*