

## **Regional Researcher-at-Risk Policy**

### **Regional Studies Association**

Approved May 2025

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The Regional Studies Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee  
Company Number 04116288, Registered Charity Number 1084165.

## **Regional Researcher-at-Risk Policy**

### **1. Overview**

The aim of the Regional Researcher-at-Risk Policy is to provide the framework and principles to underpin practical support for regional and urban researchers whose research and career-building have been severely impacted by conflict, crisis, and fragility.

As a learned society, the RSA's charitable objectives are grounded in the promotion of research and education in regional studies. It therefore attaches importance to trans-national scholarship, inter-cultural understanding, collaboration, and cooperation. It seeks to enhance and support the sharing of research-based scholarship and its contribution to global understandings in regional and urban studies and their related fields. The RSA is also committed to encouraging the examination of, and research into, the regional studies dimensions and implications of conflicts and fragilities, and to building knowledge of post-conflict regional development.

This policy also gives expression to the RSA's longstanding commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

### **2. Academic Freedom**

The RSA believes that academic freedom forms a fundamental pillar of the research environment of its members and the broader regional studies community. The RSA supports the academic protections outlined in the 1997 UNESCO Recommendation which defined academic freedom as:

'The right, without prescription by prescribed doctrine, to freedom of teaching and discussions, freedom in carrying out research, and disseminating and publishing the results thereof, freedom to express freely their opinion of the institution in which they work, freedom from institutional censorship, and freedom to participate in professional or representative academic bodies.'

The RSA supports the concept of academic freedom for individuals and institutions and considers that freedom from interference, censorship or restriction is fundamental to a productive and ethical research forum.

### **3. Individual Support Available**

Support provided to at-risk researchers by the RSA will be adapted to the specific conditions and circumstances, but may include:

- complimentary membership; and/or
- APC waivers for journal article authorship;
- RSA travel grants;
- RSA Start-up grants.

This policy was last reviewed and approved May 2025.

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