

Regional Studies Association (RSA) Annual Activity Report – RSA Ambassador for Mexico (2025)

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Throughout 2025, my work as RSA Ambassador for Mexico focused on strengthening the presence of the Regional Studies Association in Mexico and across Latin America, supporting the development of regional studies research, and encouraging greater engagement with RSA activities among scholars in the region. The year was particularly active and productive, combining the organization of a major regional conference, the launch of an RSA-funded research project, and ongoing outreach efforts within the academic community.

As RSA Ambassador, my role involves promoting the Association's mission, sharing information about its conferences, funding schemes, and journals, and helping to build connections among researchers, institutions, and policy-oriented communities working on regional development issues. During 2025, these responsibilities were addressed through a mix of academic events, research activities, and direct engagement with researchers and postgraduate students.

One of the most significant achievements of the year was the successful organization of the RSA Latin America Conference 2025, which took place at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico, from October 22 to 24, 2025. The conference theme, "***Adapting Local and Regional Development to Changing Environments***," reflected the major challenges currently facing regions in Latin America, including environmental change, technological transformation, economic restructuring, and geopolitical uncertainty. The event brought together around 80 participants, including academics, policymakers, practitioners, and postgraduate students from across Latin America and other regions. The conference provided an open and collaborative space for discussion and exchange, and it played an important role in increasing the visibility of the RSA in Mexico while strengthening academic networks in regional studies.

In parallel with these conference activities, I began work on a research project funded through the RSA Membership (MeRSA) Grant Scheme, following the approval of my application in January 2025. The project, titled "***Mapping Remittance Resilience: A Regional Analysis of US-Mexico Flows During and After the COVID-19 Crisis***," received £5,000 in funding and runs from February 2025 to August 2026. The research focuses on understanding how remittance flows between the United States and Mexico responded to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with

particular attention to regional patterns and resilience. During 2025, the project advanced through the development of the research design, the collection and preparation of regional-level data, and initial spatial analyses. I also began developing a dedicated project website, which will be used to share research updates, visualizations, and findings with the wider academic and policy community.

Alongside research and conference organization, I carried out several outreach and dissemination activities during 2025, particularly through participation in academic conferences and events in Mexico City. In these settings, I delivered informal and informative sessions introducing the Regional Studies Association to researchers and postgraduate students. These sessions covered the benefits of RSA membership, available funding opportunities such as the MeRSA and FeRSA schemes, the Association's journals and publication outlets, and upcoming RSA events and conferences. These efforts helped raise awareness of the RSA among Mexican academics, encouraged greater interest in RSA activities, and supported the development of stronger connections within the regional studies community.

Overall, 2025 was a very positive year in my role as RSA Ambassador for Mexico. The organization of the RSA Latin America Conference, the launch of an RSA-funded research project, and continued outreach activities all contributed to strengthening the Association's presence and relevance in the region. I remain committed to building on this work in 2026, with a focus on completing and disseminating the results of the MeRSA-funded project, expanding engagement with RSA across Mexico, and further supporting the growth of regional studies in Latin America.