

Regional Studies Association (RSA) Blog Series Mobile Regions

Mobile Regions: Immigration, Infrastructure and Policy Making

Deadline: 15 April, 2026

Introduction

Movements of people across borders, between regions, and within everyday rural-urban spaces are shaped by a wide range of policies, infrastructures, and lived experiences. This theme invites contributors to consider how different forms of mobility emerge and interact, and how regional connections are produced through both formal systems and everyday practices.

Theme Overview

Contributors may explore how **immigration policies** and administrative categories influence the ability to move or settle. They may also consider how rules, documentation processes, and border arrangements shape opportunities, constraints, and forms of navigation within and across regions. Infrastructures such as checkpoints, transport routes, registration systems, and shelters can shape experiences of access, waiting, circulation, or settlement, often in different ways.

Urban spaces often add another dimension. Design choices, including accessible transit routes or forms of hostile architecture, influence how different groups experience public space. The way such spaces are planned and maintained affects who feels able to move, linger, or participate in regional life. **Rural contexts** raise different but related questions, where limited economic or social options, the withdrawal of key services, demographic change, and uneven development contribute to ghost villages, left-behind places, or longer-term rural decline. Mobility intersects with these conditions but does not fully explain them.

At larger scales, geopolitical corridors such as the **Belt and Road Initiative, the International North–South Transport Corridor, and the Trans-European Transport Network** continue to receive attention in policy and academic discussions. These initiatives reflect shifting investment priorities and strategic decisions, and they shape how regions are connected, elevated, or bypassed through evolving patterns of circulation and connection.

Everyday access also shapes regional mobility. Factors such as the affordability of public transport, the safety of routes for different social groups, the availability of accessible design, and the reliability of communication networks influence how people participate in regional life. Short pieces may reflect on how individuals experience these conditions in practice, how they navigate different mobility systems, and how infrastructures either create barriers or open up possibilities for movement.

This theme welcomes reflective and empirically informed writing.

Contributors are encouraged to draw on both white and grey literature when examining how mobility across borders and within daily life intersects with regional development, policy environments, and the lived geographies of inclusion and constraint.

Who Can Contribute

The call welcomes contributions from academics, early-career researchers, students, practitioners, and writers across disciplines and geographies. Interdisciplinary, comparative, and reflective approaches are especially encouraged.

We also warmly invite authors who have previously published with the RSA and whose work intersects with themes of historical regions. We would be delighted to see earlier discussions evolve in dialogue with new perspectives on regions, governance, and spatial change.

Submission Guidelines

- **Length:** 600–800 words (hard cut-off at 1,000 words).
- **Format:** Submit in Word (.docx) format, including a short author bio (100 words).
- **Visuals:** Include 1–2 images, maps, photographs or videos where relevant, with permission or appropriate attribution.
- **References:** Use complementary links, narrative or in-text citations (author, year) where necessary. Attach a brief reference list at the end, including any additional readings, if any.

Writing Approach

Blogs should be clear and engaging, speaking to both scholarly and broader audiences. Authors are encouraged to develop a coherent narrative that connects ideas and examples, drawing on specific cases, comparisons, or observations to bring regional change to life. Reflection and storytelling are welcome alongside analytical insight; references to policy, planning, or historical detail can help anchor broader arguments. These are indicative rather than prescriptive suggestions; contributors are invited to shape the piece in their own disciplinary voice and style.

Submission and Review

Please send your blog and author bio to rsablog@regionalstudies.org

Deadline: 15 April 2025.

All submissions will be reviewed for clarity, relevance, and coherence. Selected blogs will be published on the RSA Blog from May 2026 as part of the *Mobile Regions* series. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss early ideas or drafts before submitting. We are happy to support contributors at any stage of the writing process.

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We look forward to receiving your submissions and continuing conversations on Mobile regions.