

# RSA Annual Conference 2027

## Connecting Regions, Bridging Knowledge

Tuesday 8th-Friday 11th June 2027  
Complutense University of Madrid, Spain,  
#RSA27

In an increasingly interconnected and rapidly transforming world, regions are both sites of complex social, political, environmental challenges and places for unlocking innovation potential. This conference seeks to explore how connections - across disciplines, places, institutions, and communities - can enhance knowledge exchange and foster more just, diverse, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable regional futures.

The 2027 RSA Annual Conference challenges us to ask how regions connect, and knowledge is bridged. The conference will provide an opportunity to shine a spotlight on key themes, including: how we strengthen linkages between regions in a globalised and digital era, and in the context of geopolitical restructuring of uncertain outcomes; how we bridge complementary academic, policy, and practice-based knowledge; how we address inequalities across and within regions to ensure that no people or places are left behind; how we enable regenerative and collaborative approaches to regional development challenges. We particularly welcome contributions that examine how multi-scalar knowledge flows, networks, and partnerships shape regional dynamics in diverse contexts.

The RSA Annual Conference 2027 will serve as a global arena to bridge knowledge across disciplines, fostering exchange among scholars, policymakers, and regional stakeholders. This dialogue welcomes the contribution of new technologies and innovative research to address current challenges. Madrid's prominent position as a metropolitan hub, and its historical legacy as a strategic gateway and a crossroad between territories and cultures, align naturally with the conference's goals. RSA2027 invites participants to contribute through individual papers, sessions, and networking that generates discussion and debate over regional, urban, metropolitan, and rural futures.

### Conference themes

Globalisation, Value Chains & Trade	Touristification, Overtourism and Sustainable Tourism
Transport, Mobilities, Logistics, and Infrastructure	Housing, Financialisation and Affordability
Regional Innovation and Technological Change	Social Inequalities, Race, Gender and Spatial Segregation
Digitalisation, AI and Big Data	Informality, Peripheries and Spatial justice
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Systems	Planning Urban, Rural and Regional Future

Demography, Mobility, Migration and Labour	University Missions and Civic Action
Agglomeration, Networks and Clusters	Politics, Governance, Leadership, and Institutional Change
Regions, Culture and Creativity	Climate Resilience, Adaptation and Regeneration Urban Strategies
Sustainability Transitions, Circular economy, Just Transition	Regional Inequalities, Development Traps, EU Cohesion Policy
Geopolitics and North-South Relations	Regional and Urban Development in the Global South
Populism, Nationalism, Regionalism and Democracy	Healthy Cities and Wellbeing

Special Session proposals: Please submit your proposal through the portal on the webpage: <https://www.regionalstudies.org/events/2027ac/>

Abstract Submission Details: Please submit your abstract (up to 250 words and text only) through the RSA conference portal at: <https://lounge.regionalstudies.org/Meetings/Meeting?ID=606>

We welcome papers from all – academics, researchers, students, and those working in policy and practice. The event is inclusive and offers networking opportunities for all in our field. The organisers welcome proposals for special sessions, themed workshops and innovative forms of networking and collaboration. If you would like to organise or offer a session to the conference, please contact Nicola Pilling at [Nicola.pilling@regionalstudies.org](mailto:Nicola.pilling@regionalstudies.org).

## Deadlines

Special Session submission: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Special Session abstract: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2027

General pool abstract submission: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Conference bursary application: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Early Career Plenary Speaker: 29<sup>th</sup> January

## Academic Organisers

Simón Sánchez-Moral, Cándida Gago, Roberto Díez-Pisonero, Ana Condeso and David García  
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## RSA Conference Manager

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