RSA Annual Conference 2027

Connecting Regions, Bridging Knowledge

08-11 June 2027, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain #RSA27

Call for Early Career Plenary Speaker

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) has a deep-seated commitment to furthering and supporting the career development of early career researchers (within 5 years after finishing their PhD). Part of this commitment is to offer the opportunity to present in a Plenary session at the RSA's major Annual Conference. Other initiatives include the Early Career Grant Scheme; the inclusion of early career editors on RSA journals; the early career mentored paper route to publication in the journal *Regional Studies, Regional Science;* student & early career conferences / summer schools and having an active student and early career network run by the members in those categories supported by lively social media activity.

We now seek applications from early career researchers (within 5 years after finishing their PhD) to present an Early Career Plenary presentation at the forthcoming Regional Studies Association Annual Conference 2027 in Madrid, Spain. The proposed paper should be in line with Plenary 3 - The Metropolitan Horizon: Navigating Economic Growth, Inclusivity, and Sustainable Transition.

The application should include the following:

- Name and contact details
- Place of employment
- Short version CV (4-page maximum)
- Up to 500-word abstract of the paper to be presented
- Short video (maximum 4 minutes) featuring you and an outline of the paper to be presented
- Evidence of eligibility to apply/PhD certificate – *early career researchers are defined as being within 5 years after receiving their PhD certificate.*

Videos filmed on a smartphone with reasonable clarity of vision and sound are perfectly acceptable for the purpose of the competition. Applicants should clearly present their name and institution in the video. They should outline their research, its relevance to the conference topics and explain why they should be selected for the plenary presentation.

The successful candidate will be informed as soon as possible following the closing date. The award includes a complimentary place at the conference, economy class travel expenses and two nights' accommodation.

Applicants must be an RSA member on application.

Submission deadline: **29th January 2027**

Please email your application to Nicola Pilling at nicola.pilling@regionalstudies.org