

RSA Territorial Representation for Brazil

Activity Report (June 2025 – June 2026)

Ambassadors: Prof. Fernanda Faria Silva (Federal University of Ouro Preto) and Dr. Igor Tupy (Institute for Applied Economic Research)

1. Purpose and scope

This report summarises the main activities delivered by the RSA Ambassadors to Brazil between the RSA annual conference in Porto (2025) and the annual conference in Gothenburg (2026) with emphasis on: (i) communications and outreach; (ii) promotion of RSA opportunities and publications; (iii) engagement through major Brazilian and RSA events; and (iv) support to RSA-affiliated research networks, particularly KIRDSA.

2. Strategic objectives (2025-2026)

Across the reporting period, the RSA Brazil Territorial Representation prioritised:

- **Visibility:** increase awareness of RSA membership benefits, journals, book series, funding and event opportunities among Brazilian scholars and practitioners.
- **Community building:** strengthen connections among Brazilian RSA members, and facilitate entry points for non-members into RSA networks and activities.
- **Internationalisation:** encourage and support Brazilian participation in RSA flagship conferences and research networks, using events as coordination hubs.
- **Institutional partnerships:** leverage Brazil-based conferences (e.g., ENEI, ANPEC regional meeting) and host institutions to position RSA as a key platform for regional studies dialogue in Brazil.

3. Communications and outreach

a. Social media presence and content strategy

The representation established RSA Brazil profiles on **Instagram** to disseminate RSA-related information and to create a consistent communications channel tailored to Brazilian audiences.

Core content lines included:

- Calls and opportunities (RSA funding, awards, calls for papers, conferences, webinars).

- Promotion of **Brazilian-authored work** published in RSA journals and RSA-related outlets.
- Visibility for Brazilian participation in RSA conferences and RSA research networks.
- Advertising of RSA presence in Brazilian events and special sessions (see Section 4).

4. Events and flagship engagement

a. RSA 60th Anniversary Commemorative Session in Brazil (Aracaju, 5 September 2025)

The RSA Brazil representation promoted and delivered the RSA's **60th Anniversary Commemorative Session in Brazil**, held during the **XXX Encontro Regional de Economia (ANPEC)** in Aracaju.



Main features and contributions:

- The session was integrated into the main programme and held on **5 September 2025 at 9:00 AM (BRT)**
- **Fernanda Faria Silva** presented the RSA's mission, activities and history, followed by a keynote by **Prof. Marco Crocco (UFMG)**, the first RSA Ambassador for Brazil and Patron of the RSA Latin America Division.
- The session attracted **approximately 130 participants**, and was publicised via multiple channels, including the RSA Brazil Instagram presence and the event's institutional communication outlets

- The event's objective aligned with mobilising academic and policy communities around regional development issues, consistent with ANPEC's framing of the meeting.

b. RSA KIRDSA Research Network – support, hosting, and regional integration

A major axis of activity in 2025-2026 was engagement with the RSA-funded research network **KIRDSA (Knowledge, Innovation and Regional Development in South America)**. [RSA Main](#)

- The Brazilian representation provided support and mobilisation for the **III International Conference on Regional Development in South America** held in **Buenos Aires (24–26 February 2026)**.



- **Igor Tupy** participated in the opening session of the event, representing the Latin America Division.
- The third KIRDSA conference has had a massive presence of the Brazilian academic community in many paper presentations.

c. Special Session X ENEI - Brazilian Meeting on Economics of Industry and Innovation



At the 10th National Meeting on Industrial Economics and Innovation (ENEI 2026), held in Aracaju (SE) from 19 to 22 May 2026, the Regional Studies Association (RSA) organised a special session entitled "Innovation Ecosystems: Strategies and Local and National Impacts". The session was chaired by Prof. Fernanda Faria (UFOP), RSA Ambassador for Brazil, and featured Prof. Renato Garcia (UNICAMP), RSA Fellow and a leading scholar in the economics of innovation, economic geography, and industrial policy in Brazil, alongside Prof. Fernando Rubiera Morollón (University of Oviedo), head of the Chair for the Analysis of Innovation in Asturias (C_InnovA) and researcher at the Regional Economic Analysis Laboratory (REGIOlab), with extensive work on territorial innovation, R&D policy, and regional cohesion across Europe.

5. Outputs and early outcomes (qualitative summary)

During the last year, the RSA Brazil Territorial Representation acted in four principal ways:

1. **A stable communications conduit** to circulate RSA opportunities and highlight Brazilian contributions to RSA journals and events
2. **Institutional embedding** of RSA visibility within major Brazilian conferences (ENEI; ANPEC regional meeting), improving exposure beyond existing RSA members.
3. **Engagement in South America research-network integration**, particularly through support for KIRDSA's conference model and training-oriented agenda.
4. **High-impact flagship moment in Brazil** via the RSA 60th Anniversary Commemorative Session, with documented attendance and strong visibility.