

The Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2016

New Pressures on Cities and Regions

Thursday 24th – Friday 25th November 2016

Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, London, UK

#RSAWINTER2016

Call for Papers – Abstract submission deadline: 24th August 2016

The focus

This conference provides an intellectual and policy-relevant platform for scholars around the world to address the new and emerging challenges facing cities and regions. The global economic slowdown poses major concerns to many territories – through shortfalls in employment, household incomes, corporate profitability and tax revenues. The steel industry has been one of the hardest hit, forcing massive plant closures and redundancies from China to the UK. Austerity in public finances threatens the infrastructure required to lay the foundation for future growth and development. Economic uncertainties and uneven development also contribute to growing social unrest and new waves of international migration. Heightened regulation of the banks and other financial institutions is bound to have an impact on the funding of house-building and other real estate development, with uncertain consequences. Meanwhile the accelerating pace of technological change in many industries and occupations means different skills and capabilities are required of the workforce, causing painful adjustments for many communities. And looming concerns about climate change and accelerating environmental degradation complicate the task of urban and regional revitalisation.

The 2016 Winter Conference of the Regional Studies Association presents a timely opportunity to discuss these issues, to clarify the research imperatives, and to consider the challenges facing policymakers and practitioners. The conference organisers are keen to attract papers and sessions that address a broad research and policy agenda, including contributions from any discipline which can offer relevant insights into the urban-regional-global nexus.

The broad themes:

Economic Malaise and the Social Consequences

Unemployment, migration, hardship and social tensions

Austerity and the financing of urban and regional investment

Public-Private financial investments and ventures, new patterns of ownership and control, transport

Whose City and Region: liveability and inclusion

Sustainable human settlements, cohesion and inequality, demographic shifts, environmental responsibility and justice

City and Region Building: Governance and Institutions

Multilevel governance, devolved governance, federalism, trust and accountability

Smart(er) Cities and Regions: The role of technology

Security, participatory urbanism, smart cities, and big data infrastructures

Submission Details

Please submit your abstract (400 word abstracts) through the Regional Studies Association conference portal by **24th August 2016**.

To submit please go to www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsawinter2016. Proposals will be considered by the Conference Programme Committee against the criteria of originality and interest, subject balance and geographical spread. For questions please contact Wanda Miczorek at wanda.miczorek@regionalstudies.org.

Academic Organisers: Professor Martin Jones, the University of Sheffield, UK and Professor Ron Martin, the University of Cambridge, UK

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