



The Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2014
‘Sustainable Recovery? Rebalancing, Growth, and the Space Economy’
Thursday 27th – Friday 28th November 2014
Holiday Inn London Bloomsbury

Call for Papers – Abstract closing date 18th August 2014
Full Paper submission date 6th October 2014.

This conference provides a platform on which to address the new economic order and its spatial manifestations. The world has seen a series of shifts in socio-economic relations over the past decade, which has picked up pace since the global financial crisis of 2008, particularly in relation to the complex inter-related processes of industrialisation, urbanisation, and regional and local development. Is the mediation between *economic logic* and *political institutions* leading to new patterns of economic activity at a local, regional, national and global level?

The 21st Century has been an era of devolution, predicated on ‘realising’ place-based assets and assembling these as the building-blocks of agglomeration for a new brand of local and regional economic development. On the one hand, political devolution has happened through constitutional change (see Spain and current events in Scotland), and on the other hand, economic devolution has occurred through the explosion of state rescaling. City-regions are the outlet for some of this thinking. In the context of urban and regional austerity, post-crisis, politicians and policy-makers argue this is a more ‘balanced’ approach to growth than past interventions. Crisis in the Eurozone though is having highly differentiated impacts, with some places benefiting, while others have seen a worsening of problems. These outcomes appear complex, and relatively unpredictable, challenging prevailing narratives of places and their future. This begs the question as to whether recovery is sustainable and/or is spatially selective growth occurring at a cost?

This Regional Studies Association Winter Conference 2014 presents a timely opportunity to discuss these issues, to establish the need and nature of future research imperatives, and to address the concerns and challenges confronting policymakers and practitioners. The conference organisers are keen to attract papers and sessions which address a broad research and policy agenda, including contributions from any discipline which can offer relevant insights associated with the remaking of the world space economy and its shaping of our cities and regions.

• EU and OECD agendas for Smart, Inclusive, and Sustainable Economies	• Modelling and theorising the space economy: urban renewal and regional growth
• The future of work and work-welfare regimes: labour market policy, flexibility, resilience or exploitations?	• New approaches to agglomeration and the clustering of economic life
• Creative city-regions and urban leadership	• The impacts of devolution and constitutional change on economic policy, and vice versa
• The politics and policies of urban and regional austerity	• Cities, Regions, or City-Regions: searching for scalar and institutional fixes
• The lived experience of urban and rural change in times of austerity	• Post-suburbia and governance of metropolitan areas
• Social enterprise, the third sector, and alternative economic geographies	• New industrial spaces of the 21st Century and the future of old industrial regions
• Low Carbon Futures: Green deals and beyond	• Methodological challenges for studying crisis, austerity, and the space economy

Submission Details

Please submit offers of papers in the form of 400 word abstracts through the Regional Studies Association on-line conference portal by 18th 2014. A full paper will be required 6th October 2014 at the latest, which can be any length, and contain pictures, graphs, tables etc. To submit go to www.regionalstudies.org/conferences and follow the **Winter Conference Call for Papers 2014** link. Proposals will be considered by the Conference Programme Committee against the criteria of originality and interest, subject balance and geographical spread.

Academic Organiser: Professor Martin Jones, Sheffield University, UK; Dr Pedro Marques, Cardiff University, UK
RSA Organiser: Elizabeth Mitchell - Elizabeth.mitchell@regionalstudies.org