



Regional Studies Association European Conference 2012
Sunday 13th - Wednesday 16th May 2012 (Field trip on Sunday 13th May)
Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands

Networked regions and cities in times of fragmentation: Developing smart, sustainable and inclusive places

Call for papers

For the most up-to-date version of this call for papers visit: www.regionalstudies.org

Regions and cities are increasingly interdependent; economically, socially and environmentally. They are, for example, becoming more reliant on interregional flows of trade, labour and resources. Patterns of interactions between regions are experiencing rapid changes as a result of dramatic shifts in production and consumption patterns, advances in communication technologies and the development of transport infrastructure. These changes pose many challenges for the analysis and management of regions. They are also leading to new patterns of activities and relationships and new forms of clustering and networking between regions. At the same time, regions are becoming increasingly fragmented in many ways; economically, socially, environmentally and also politically. Classic forms of government based on clear cut arrangements between administrative levels, policy sectors and the public and private domain are no longer sufficient. The governance of regions faces multi-level, multi-actor and multi-sectoral challenges. New spatial interactions at new scales demand new approaches for consultation and coordination. More flexible ('softer') forms of governance are beginning to emerge which seek to work around traditional governmental arrangements. The result is a complex pattern of overlapping governance and fuzzy boundaries, not just in a territorial sense but also in terms of the role of both public and private actors. These new arrangements pose many as yet unresolved dilemmas concerning the transparency, accountability and legitimacy of decision-making. The 2012 RSA conference in Delft provides a timely opportunity for participants to come together and reflect on the various strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities of networked cities and regions within these different contexts of fragmentation.

Papers that consider these issues in relation to the development of smart, sustainable and inclusive places (the three dimensions of the Europe 2020 Strategy) are particularly encouraged.

**Deadline for Abstract submission:
10th February 2012**





Gateway Themes

A. EU Regional policy and practice	I. Borders, border regions and cross-border learning
B. Climate change, energy and sustainability	J. Industries, entrepreneurship, and regional competitiveness
C. Migration, housing and labour markets	K. Innovation and knowledge economies
D. Social and environmental justice and inclusive places	L. Creativity, identities and branding
E. Rural and peripheral challenges	M. Territorial governance: planning policy and practice
F. Territorial cohesion and cooperation	N. Infrastructure and development
G. City-regions, networks and urban systems	O. Local and regional economic development
H. Spatial analysis and regional economies	

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: Elizabeth Mitchell at events@regionalstudies.org and we will assist you.

Academic organisers: Wil Zonneveld: W.A.M.Zonneveld@tudelft.nl, Evert Meijers: E.J.Meijers@tudelft.nl, Dominic Stead: D.Stead@tudelft.nl
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(Excursion, walking tour and evening drinks reception Sunday 13th May)

CALL FOR PAPERS

[Register here](#)

Economic development paths within demographic shrinking regions 01

Session Organiser:

Anne Lorentzen (al@plan.aau.dk)

Anke Matuschewski (matuschewski@uni-bayreuth.de)

The ongoing process of demographic change poses several challenges for regional economies – both in the public and in the private sector. Whereas the impacts of shrinking on settlement structures and public infrastructure have been dealt with rather intensively, the impacts on private enterprises and their reactions have not gained similar attention. Thus, the special session will focus on the business perspective of demographic shrinkage. Enterprises within demographic shrinking regions face various changes, e.g. shrinking regional markets, changing structure of demand, shortage of (qualified) labour force and human capital, or changes within the regional supplier and service-network. In contrast to export oriented firms, enterprises - mainly SME's - with a more regional market focus are not able to easily compensate these changes within the regional market. The scope of the session will be on the specific impacts of demographic shrinkage on private businesses in different sectors, their perception and the strategic consequences as well as the firm's networks, the institutional setting and possible policy options that may encourage the strategic reaction of firms. The session is open for theoretical as well as empirical contributions.

Anyone interested in participating in the session should register for the conference before 10th February 2012 by visiting <http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/2012/May-Delft/> and follow the link.