



## Regional Studies Association Inaugural Australasian Conference

### *'Rethinking the Region and Regionalism in Australasia: Challenges and Opportunities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'*

31<sup>st</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

#### Call for Papers

Cities and regions in Australia and New Zealand have experienced more than 30 years of social and demographic dynamism as a consequence of micro economic reform, greater engagement with the global networks of production, new patterns of migration, rising national prosperity and the shift towards a service based economy. In many respects, the antipodean nations have led the world in the process of economic liberalisation, stripping away regulations to move from being some of the most protected economies in the OECD in the 1960s to amongst the most open economies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. For some regions, cities and towns change has resulted in growth, while for others the last three decades have been marked by fluctuating fortunes and even decline. Public sector reform at the national, provincial/state and local levels have contributed to these processes of change, calling into question both previous paradigms and policy settings. These changes have had immense impacts for academics and other researchers involved in the study of regions, resulting in the development of new theoretical positions and the need to engage with a much broader set of intellectual arguments. This, the first Regional Studies Association, event in Australasia seeks to contribute to the growth in academic dialogue at the local and global scales.

*Rethinking the Region and Regionalism in Australasia* seeks contributions from researchers, policy makers and practitioners working in all areas of regional analysis, especially those focused on Australasia. Themes will include:

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| Regions at the end of the mining boom                           | Ecological sustainability                                |
| Governance and the regions                                      | Climate change & the future of regional systems          |
| The institutional determinants of growth & development          | Smart specialisation                                     |
| Population processes in the regions                             | Regions and the global financial crisis                  |
| First nations – Maori & Indigenous Australians & the regions    | City regions in Australasia and other parts of the globe |
| Housing, social services & infrastructure                       | Achieving local economic growth                          |
| Measuring wellbeing, happiness & progress at the regional scale |  |

One aspect of these themes that could be considered and will be welcomed is the 'cultural' dimension of change, as reflected in emerging approaches to addressing change by local governments across the world.

#### Attendance Fee

**The fee to attend is £350.00 (\$690.00)**

**A reduced fee is available for students and early career researchers; £285.00 (\$563.00). Please note that there is only a limited number of reduced fee places available.**

#### Submission of papers

Please submit proposals for papers in the form of a 400-500 word abstract (text only, no pictures, graphs or tables) through the Regional Studies Association online portal by 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Registration and submission is open now available on the Regional Studies Association website: [www.regionalstudies.org/conferences](http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences)

Please note that this conference has limited places, and successful candidates will be notified within two weeks of the closing date. Proposals will be considered by the Conference Programming Committee against the criteria of originality, interest and subject balance.

#### Conference organisation

Professor Andrew Beer, the University of Adelaide, Australia  
Professor Peter Fairbrother, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

#### RSA Organiser:

Please contact Elizabeth Mitchell at [elizabeth.mitchell@regionalstudies.org](mailto:elizabeth.mitchell@regionalstudies.org) for further details and questions regarding abstract submission.