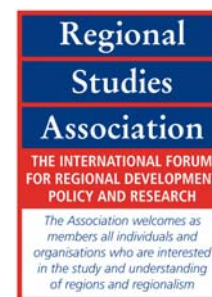


Regional Studies Association Winter Conference
**TRANSPORT, MOBILITY AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

Friday 23rd November 2007

London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre,
356 Holloway Road, London, N7 6PA



CALL FOR PAPERS

Transport is becoming increasingly important in creating cohesive, functioning regions. With the regional policy agenda's concern with the cross-cutting themes of regional competitiveness; social inclusion and environmental sustainability, developing innovative strategies that will enhance transport efficiency and social mobility are of paramount importance. Against the backdrop of an integrated world economy, developing effective transport infrastructure is the key to connecting regions to broader economic, social and political networks. At the same time, with climate change rising up the political agenda, the need to develop sustainable transport policies that can contribute to reducing pollution and CO² emissions is posing important dilemmas for regional actors.

Transport policies also have the potential to contribute, both positively and negatively, to ongoing problems of uneven development and spatial disparities between regions. Competition between cities and regions within national political spaces for valuable transport investment is intensifying, with outcomes reflecting differential power relations operating across and between political scales. For rapidly growing regions, problems of congestion and other spatial constraints to growth necessitate new transport solutions, alongside other policy initiatives (e.g. housing; property development) in connecting populations to jobs. Growing travel to work distances in many booming cities reflect problems of affordability in the context of rising housing prices and a shortage of public housing. Demands for new transport infrastructures that can also deliver on sustainability goals are consequently growing.

Economically lagging and peripheral regions face different, yet still critical, issues around transport policy. In particular, the problems of spatial connectivity are paramount. Growing competition between more peripheral regions to become hubs within broader European and global economic networks is leading to new transport initiatives around air, rail and road infrastructures. Issues of affordability, spatial effectiveness and opportunity cost inevitably arise from market-based approaches, prompting questions about the need for more integrated and planned initiatives at national and European levels.

Transport issues therefore pose governance dilemmas – for new sets of relations between regional, national and international scales in creating integrated transport networks that allow more efficient economic and social interaction, yet also contribute to combating climate change.

Papers are invited on the following themes:

- Regional development and trans-national transport networks
- Transport issues and policy in dynamic regions
- Connecting peripheral regions
- Transport and regional sustainability
- Personal mobility and transport policy
- The role of transport in contemporary regional policy
- Transport planning and multi-scalar governance
- Mobility and regional labour markets

Please submit offers of papers in the form of 400 word abstracts through the Regional Studies Association on-line conference portal by Friday 6th July 2007. Your MS Word file should contain your name, telephone, fax and e-mail details. To submit go to www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk and follow the Winter Conference Call for Papers link.

Proposals will be considered by the Conference Programme Committee against the criteria of originality and interest, subject balance and geographical spread.

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