

2026 RSA Annual Conference
Regions as Arenas in a Changing World
15 to 18 June 2026 | Gothenburg, Sweden



Event Overview²

The 2026 RSA Annual Conference will take place from 15 to 18 June 2026 in Gothenburg, Sweden, under the theme “Regions as Arenas in a Changing World”. The conference is organized by the Regional Studies Association (RSA) in partnership with the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. The conference is recognized as one of the leading international events in regional studies, economic geography, regional development, and spatial policy. According to the organizers, it is expected to bring together participants from around 55 countries and feature more than 700 presentations, alongside keynote lectures, workshops, networking opportunities, field trips, and professional development sessions.

The 2026 edition focuses on the evolving role of regions as key arenas shaped by major global transformations. The call for contributions highlights several pressing challenges, including the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI), environmental and sustainability challenges, the slowdown of globalization, rising policy protectionism, and the increasing strategic importance of natural resources and infrastructure. It also draws attention to growing tensions in scientific discourse and public debate. In this context, the organizers emphasize the need for renewed theoretical approaches and stronger empirical research to better understand regional interdependencies and policy responses in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

The conference program covers a wide range of thematic areas, such as:

Agglomeration, Clusters, and Externalities	AI and Big Data in Regional Studies
Circular Economy, Green and Just Transitions	Demography, Labour Markets, and Migration
Entrepreneurship and Innovation Systems	Financing Regional Development and Change
Gender, Diversity, and Equity in Regional Development	Regional Governance, Policies, and Institutional Change
Global Value Chains and International Business	Peripheral and Cross-border Regions
Populism, Nationalism, and Social Change	Regional Development in the Global South
Regional Inequalities and EU Cohesion Policy	Regional Innovation and Technological Change
Spatial Economy, Infrastructure, and Housing	

The Academic Organizers of the conference are Martin Henning, Roman Martin, Hanna Martin, and Sarah Franz from the Centre for Regional Analysis (CRA), School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. The plenary program includes four major sessions across 16-18 June 2026, addressing themes such as spatial theory, place-based policy approaches, historical path dependencies of regions, and future directions for regional studies under uncertainty.

Key administrative dates include the opening of registration on 1 April 2026 and the deadline for presenters and discussants on 19 May 2026.

More information: <https://www.regionalstudies.org/events/rsa26/>

² Event overview edited by Kreshnik Bello, Professor, SRDS J.