

## Rethinking Institutions and Local Economic Development from the Peripheries

Call for Papers for the Regional Studies Association (RSA) - Latin American Division conference  
Sept 30-Oct 1, 2019. Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

Session Name: Rethinking Institutions and Local Economic Development

Open Special Session

Organizers:

Michael Storper (UCLA & London School of Economics)

Sergio Montero (Universidad de los Andes)

Miguel Atienza (Universidad Católica del Norte)

Much of our understanding of local economic development is based on large urban agglomerations as nodes of innovation and competitive advantage that connect territories to global value chains (Storper et al. 2015, Saxenian 1996). This framework, however, often fails to address the challenges of smaller cities and peripheral regions in both the global North and the South. This can be seen not only as a worrying gap in the literature, but also as a problem for practitioners and planners in small and medium-sized cities. Theories and policies that seek to support the ascent of global city-regions, such as export zones, high-tech clusters, and creative talent attraction strategies do not transfer well to the economic development reality of smaller cities and peripheral regions. This is where local economic development practitioners and planners are striving to diversify their economic base in the face of youth migration to large urban centres (Berdegué et al., 2015), to improve public-private synergies in the context of fragile governance and low levels of trust (Montero & Chapple, 2018) or to manage the environmental consequences of extractive industries (Phelps, Atienza, & Arias, 2015).

Despite decades of local and regional development policies and planning, uneven development and inter-regional differences continue to persist between large urban agglomerations and peripheral regions, both in the global North and the South. In recent decades, institutions have been highlighted as a key factor that explain why certain cities and regions perform better than other in terms of local and regional development (Rodríguez-Pose, 2013; Storper, 2013). In this panel, we seek researchers interested in understanding the formal and informal institutional processes through which local economic development occurs. It will have a particular emphasis on peripheral regions and small and medium-sized cities, both in the North and the South, as well as on how the relationship with large urban agglomerations affects their opportunities for development. We welcome papers that explore new and interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological approaches in regional studies to better capture the potential of institutions in promoting local economic development and reducing inter-regional development disparities, particularly when institutions are from the peripheries of local economic development debates.

### References

- Berdegué, J. A., Carriazo, F., Jara, B., Modrego, F., & Soloaga, I. (2015). Cities, territories, and inclusive growth: Unraveling urban-rural linkages in Chile, Colombia, and Mexico. *World Development*, 73(1), 56–71
- Montero, S., & Chapple, K. (2018). *Fragile Governance and Local Economic Development: Theory and Evidence from Peripheral Regions in Latin America*. London: Routledge.
- Phelps, N. A., Atienza, M., & Arias, M. (2015). Encore for the enclave: the changing nature of the industry enclave with illustrations from the mining industry in Chile. *Economic Geography*, 91(2), 119-146
- Rodríguez-Pose, A. (2013). Do institutions matter for regional development? *Regional Studies*, 47(7), 1034–1047
- Saxenian, A. (1996). *Regional advantage*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press

Storper, M. (2013). *Keys to the city: How economics, institutions, social interaction, and politics shape development*. Princeton: Princeton University Press

Storper, M., Kemeny, T., Makarem, N., & Osman, T. (2015). *The rise and fall of urban economies: Lessons from San Francisco and Los Angeles*. Stanford: Stanford University Press