



# RSA Annual Conference 2025

## Navigating Regional Transformation

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025, University of Porto  
#RSA25

### Draft Conference Programme

#### Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025

- 10.00-16.00 Board Meeting (invitation only)  
10:00-17:00 Academic Tours  
15:00-17:00 Conference registration  
18.00-20.00 **Welcome Reception** (separate registration needed)  
Alan Kinder, Chief Executive, Regional Studies Association  
Rui Moreira, Mayor of Porto, Portugal

#### Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

- 08.00-17.30 Conference registration  
08.45-09.00 **Welcome to the Conference**  
Sarah Ayres, Chair, Regional Studies Association  
António Cunha, President of the Regional Coordination and Development Commission of Norte Region, Portugal  
09.00-10.30 **Opening Plenary – Navigating Regional Transformation**  
**Speakers:** Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms (2019-2024), EU & FEP, University of Porto, Portugal  
Pedro Conceição, United Nations Development Plan  
Michaela Trippel, University of Vienna, Austria  
Early Career Speaker: Zhiwu Wei, University of Cambridge, UK  
**Chair:** Mário Vale, University of Lisbon, Portugal  
10.30-11.00 Coffee Break  
11.00-13.00 Parallel Workshop Sessions 1  
13.00-14.00 Lunch Break  
13.00-14.00 Territorial Ambassadors Meeting (invitation only)  
14.00-16.00 Parallel Workshop Sessions 2  
16.00-16.30 Coffee Break  
16.30-18.30 Parallel Workshop Sessions 3

#### Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

- 08.30-17.00 Conference registration  
09.00-10.30 **Plenary 2 – The Future of Regional Policy**  
**Speakers:** Duarte Rodrigues, Portuguese Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal  
Renata Calak, Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, Poland  
Raphael L'Hoest, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany  
**Chair:** John Bachtler, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, UK  
10.30-11.00 Coffee Break  
11.00-13.00 Parallel Workshop Sessions 4  
13.00-14.00 Lunch Break  
14.00-15.30 Spotlight Sessions



- 15.30-16.00 Coffee Break  
16.00-18.00 Parallel Workshop Sessions 5  
**19.00-22.30 Conference Dinner** (separate registration needed)

**Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

- 08.00-13.00 Conference registration  
08.30-10.00 Parallel Workshop Sessions 6  
10.00-10.30 Coffee Break  
10.30-12.00 Parallel Workshop Sessions 7  
12.00-12.45 Lunch  
12.45-14.15 **Closing Plenary – Knowledge for Regional Transformation**  
**Speakers:** Louise Kempton, Newcastle University, UK  
Maribel Guerrero, Arizona State University, USA  
**Chair:** Joana Resende, University of Porto, Portugal  
14.15-14.30 Conference Close  
Alan Kinder, Chief Executive, Regional Studies Association  
Luís Carvalho, Associate Professor, FEP, University of Porto  
14:45-18:00 Academic Tours