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**ANZRSAI 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Edition**  
***Towards the Future: Emerging Priorities in Regional Policy and Practice***

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***Conference Preview***

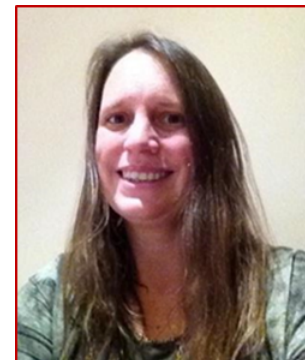
The theme of ANZRSAI's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is **Towards the Future: Emerging Priorities in Regional Policy and Practice**. Save the dates and Venue: 5-7 December in the Swanston Academic Building, RMIT University city campus, Melbourne. The conference is hosted by the European Union Centre at RMIT and the RMIT Social Change Enabling Platform.

Who should attend? If regional citizens matter to you then you should attend. ANZRSAI is a 'broad church' of geographers, town planners, economists, public policy professionals and other social scientists, all working together to make a difference to the lives of regional citizens. For 40 years ANZRSAI members have recognised that regional development issues arise from a multitude of factors and consequently, our members and conferences include a wide variety of disciplines and professions. Accordingly, the conference includes a wide variety of sessions on cutting edge research and practice on regional policy and regional development in Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere in the world.

Register now. Register here: <http://www.anzrsai.org/conference/>

**WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT: Robyn Eversole**

This year is the 40th Annual ANZRSAI Conference and so I am thrilled we are returning to the City of Melbourne for this landmark event. ANZRSAI has teamed up with the European Union Centre at RMIT and the RMIT Centre for People, Work and Organisation (with the RMIT Social Change Enabling Platform) to host the conference in the university's superb Swanston Academic Building in the heart of Melbourne. We are delighted they are helping us host this conference. It promises to be a very exciting programme, with something for everyone with an interest in regional policy or practice.



The core theme of our conference is ***Towards the Future: Emerging Priorities in Regional Policy and Practice***. On both sides of the Tasman, and indeed in many parts of the world, the future of regions, and how regions can be strengthened with well-designed regional policy and well-executed regional practice, remain hotly contested topics.

## **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**



The first day of the conference will conclude with a public presentation from one of our international guest speakers and a reception co-hosted by ANZRSAI and the RMIT. This will take place in the Swanston Academic Building, Level 7 (455 Swanston Street), and will begin at 5:00pm.

We anticipate a provocative and interesting presentation by Professor Karel Williams, from Alliance Manchester Business School, UK. His international research team argues that citizen welfare and capability can everywhere be improved by radical social innovation in the “foundational economy”.

### ***Two Plenary Panel Discussions***

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ANZRSAI, [Towards the Future: Emerging Priorities in Regional Policy and Practice](#) includes two plenary panel discussions open to all Conference attendees.

#### ***The Presidents’ Panel on Regional Research***

The organising committee for this year's conference is delighted to announce that three leaders of regional research associations and of regional research will participate in a Presidents’ Panel on Regional Research during a plenary session. The three international leaders will discuss the future of regional research and how it can be leveraged to better inform regional policy. They are:

- Professor Jacques Poot, President Elect of the Regional Science Association International;
- Professor Andrew Beer, Chairperson of the Regional Studies Association; and
- Associate Professor Robyn Eversole, President of the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association International.

#### ***The Plenary Panel on Regional Policy***

The organising committee for this year's conference is also delighted to announce that three leaders of regional policy in Australia and Victoria will participate in a Plenary Panel on Regional Policy during a plenary session. The panelists will include:

- A representative from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development;
- Jennifer Woolcott, Regional Development Victoria;
- John Daley, Chief Executive Officer, Grattan Institute; and
- And possibly another panelist to be confirmed

### *Conference Dinner and Awards*

The ANZRSAI Conference Awards dinner, on the evening of Tuesday 6 December, is much more than a three course meal and the opportunity to mingle with some of the best regional practitioners and scholars in the world. The Annual Awards dinner is where ANZRSAI, with the sponsorship of the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics, recognizes the achievements of regional students, researchers and practitioners

This year the ANZRSAI will present three major ANZRSAI Awards:

- The John Dickinson Memorial Award for best article in the Australasian Journal of Regional Science;
- The ANZRSAI Award for Best Conference Paper, and
- The ANZRSAI Award for Best Conference Paper by a Current or Recent Student.

### *Keynote Speakers*

Opening Address: [Senator Fiona Nash](#), Minister for Regional Development, Australia

[Associate Professor Rachel Franklin](#) is a population geographer and regional scientist at Brown University, Rhode Island, USA, where she is Associate Director of the Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4) initiative. Her research interests include internal migration, human capital and demographic change, and urban and regional population decline. She will speak on “Loss and Space: Scale, Measurement, and the Implications of Unequal Population Change”.

[Professor Karel Williams](#) Karel Williams is a professor at Alliance Manchester Business School who represents an international research team which argues that citizen welfare and capability can everywhere be improved by radical social innovation in the “foundational economy”. He will speak to the topic “Instead of regional policy: Radical social innovation in the foundational economy”.

[Professor Fiona Haslam McKenzie](#) is Co-Director of the Centre for Regional Development at University of Western Australia, who researches the socio-economic impact of workplace arrangements and uneven economic development in Western Australia. She was previously Principal Research Leader of the Regional Economies – Enduring Community Value from Mining program. Her topic is “FIFO and Long Distance Commuting Workers: A Government Cost Saving?”

[Dr Dave Maré](#) has been a Senior Fellow at Motu Economic and Public Policy Research since 2000. His current research interests include the economics of immigration, the economic performance of cities, and patterns of labour market adjustment - for individuals and in aggregate. Dave will speak on the topic of “Challenges for New Zealand Regional and Urban Policy”.

[Ed Morrison](#) is the Director of the Purdue Agile Strategy Lab at Purdue University, USA. Developing new, network-based models for economic and workforce development to address the challenges that are now presented to traditional regional development policy and strategy. He and his colleagues have developed a methodology for regional development called “Strategic Doing”.

## *Workshops*

Workshop 1: *The Australian Policy Online Regional Development Collection*. During the Monday lunch break, conference participants are welcome to bring their lunch to a workshop led by Bruce Wilson on the Australian Policy Online Regional Development Collection, which is a new collaboration between APO and RMIT as part of the APO Linked Data PolicyHub Project supported by an ARC LIEF grant. It focuses on issues that are vital to regional Australia, offering resources on city-regions, communities, infrastructure, employment, industries and the environment.

Workshop 2: *Sustainable Regions Applied Research Network (SRARN)* During the lunch break, conference participants are welcome to bring their lunch to a workshop led by Robyn Eversole on the Sustainable Regions Applied Research Network (SRARN), which has been created to enable knowledge exchange among researchers working to create sustainable regional development outcomes in rural regions of Australia, Chile and Argentina. SRARN is funded by the Australian Government, through the Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR).

Following the conference a special edition of AJRS will be published on 'Emerging priorities in regional policy and practice' edited by Bruce Wilson and Peter Fairbrother.

### **ANZRSai Council 2015-16**

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