




## News, Conferences and Happenings

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### How Councils Work – A Guide to the Rules

[www.localgovt.sa.gov.au/hcw](http://www.localgovt.sa.gov.au/hcw)

A new internet resource is now on line in South Australia to help communities understand the workings of their local Councils.

Titled *How Councils Work: A Guide to the Rules*, the website aims to encourage participation in Local Government through informed dealings with councils.

It features a wealth of information and links. And to ease any complexity for readers, cartoonist, Ross Bateup has provided a light-hearted approach to the site with ingenious cartoons that explain the operating concepts and machinery of Local Government.


Local Government Minister, Rory McEwen hailed the website as a highly practical community guide. 'Local Government is taking on a growing importance as the third tier of our democratic structures, dealing with a host of matters which affect people and businesses at the local community level.'

*How Councils Work: A Guide to the Rules* features user-friendly drop-down menus and answers to Frequently Asked Questions. These include links and answers to issues such as:

- What are the roles and responsibilities of Local Government Councils?
- How are Councils accountable to their communities?
- How does the rating systems work?

- What do I do if I want to question a Council decision or action?

It is readily accessible from the Office of Local Government website on [www.localgovt.sa.gov.au/hcw](http://www.localgovt.sa.gov.au/hcw)



### Bureau of Transport and Regional Services Inaugural National Regional Research Colloquium 19 February 2004, Canberra

The Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics within the Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services is arranging an inaugural national Regional Research Colloquium in Canberra on 19 February 2004. The Colloquium is being held at Olim's Canberra Hotel.

The purpose of the day is to provide a forum for presentation of current or new work from a range of researchers across Australia, addressing the theme of Regional Dimensions in National Development.

The day will begin with keynote addresses from a panel of chosen speakers. A range of papers of no more than 20 minutes duration will follow, with time for questions. The presentations will be published by the Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics. A Colloquium dinner will be held on the evening of 19 February.

Expressions of interest in presenting a paper at the Colloquium are invited. An abstract of the proposed paper, of no more than 500 words, should be emailed to Dr Judith Winternitz, Deputy Executive

Director, Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics by 16 January 2004 at [judith.winternitz@dotars.gov.au](mailto:judith.winternitz@dotars.gov.au). The proposed papers must address the theme. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposals by 23 January 2004, with a view to providing an electronic version of the full paper to the Bureau by 6 February 2004.

Registration is required to attend the Colloquium by 6 February on the official registration form. Registration covers morning and afternoon tea and lunch. Participants are asked to indicate their intention to attend the dinner and to cover their own dinner costs (maximum \$50).

If you wish to register to attend the Colloquium or present a paper, please email Dr Judith Winternitz at the address above to receive registration form.

Olim's Canberra Hotel is situated at the corner of Ainslie Avenue and Limestone Avenue, Braddon, within easy walking distance of the city centre. For those requiring accommodation, Olim's has a range of rooms available at reasonable rates. See <http://www.olimshotem.com> or ring (02) 6248 5511.

Please note that following the Colloquium, on 20th February, a policy research forum is being planned by the National Research Network of the Standing Committee on Regional Development (the officials supporting the Commonwealth/State Ministers' Regional Development Council) at the same venue, to bring researchers and policy makers together to discuss research needs in a number of key policy areas.

Attendees at the Colloquium on 19th February may wish also to participate in the forum on 20th February. Further information about the forum will be provided separately.

## International Housing Conference Housing in the 21st Century: Challenges and Commitments Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre 2-4 February 2004

The extraordinary socio-economic changes in recent years in many parts of the world, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, and the further globalization of the world economy have brought tremendous changes in housing, posing unprecedented

challenges to governments, the private sector and housing consumers. While some countries may have already launched reforms to deal with the changes, many are still searching for new directions and are looking to the reform experiences of counterparts elsewhere.

The conference will provide an opportune forum for policy makers, academics and practitioners from different countries to exchange experiences and ideas, as well as to discuss issues of common concern. It will also provide opportunities to examine and analyse regional problems in an international perspective, to identify challenges ahead, and to explore new dimensions and innovative solutions.

### *Themes*

- Transformations in housing policies, the role of government and the market
- Globalization and housing development
- Sustainable housing for healthy living

### *Conference Organiser*

Hong Kong Housing Authority

### *Supporting Organisations*

The Asia-Pacific Network for Housing Research and Hong Kong Housing Research Network, and professional institutions in housing and planning etc.

Conference Website:

<http://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/en/ihc>

## APNHR Conference Housing and Social Development: Emerging Theoretical Issues in Asia-Pacific Graduate House, University of Hong Kong 5-6 February 2004

The Asia-Pacific Network for Housing Research (APNHR), established in 2001, provides a platform for researchers, policy makers, practitioners and students to exchange ideas on policies, research and training in the housing field. Its aim is to enhance research, strengthen networking and facilitate education for all related parties in the housing field in the region.

This conference provides a forum to explore theoretical issues emerging in the housing systems of Asia-Pacific, given their social-cultural, political and economic contexts. Theorization of housing experience in other regions is also welcome to provide comparisons. Researchers, policy makers, practitioners and students in housing related fields are invited to present papers and attend the conference.

### *Themes*

- Housing and Culture
- Housing, social policy and social justice
- Housing and development strategies
- Urban growth and housing poverty
- Housing theories

Workshops will be organised around the above themes, participants are also welcome to convene workshops on other topics relating to the aims and themes of the conference.

### *Conference Organisers*

Centre of Urban Planning & Environmental Management, The University of Hong Kong, APNHR Hong Kong Sub-committee.

Conference Website:

<http://web.hku.hk/~apnhr/ap/conference.htm>

Regional Science Association  
International World Conference  
PE Technikon, Port Elizabeth,  
South Africa  
14-17 April 2004

### *Main Conference Theme*

Regional Science: from both a micro and macro perspective.

### *Plenary Session Themes*

- Regional studies
- Urban studies
- Environmental studies
- Transportation studies
- Methodology
- Migration studies

- Labour market analysis
- Urban revitalisation
- Public facilities
- Entrepreneurship and the region
- Land use and infrastructure
- Spatial econometrics
- Aviation economics
- Urban systems
- Local identity and regional development
- Industrial location

Delegates will visit the Coega IDZ and a typical South African township.

### *About South Africa*

Currently, South Africa is in a process of transitional change, facing major challenges in the field of urban and regional development, including housing, social equity, demography, labour and transport. The South African scientific community is keen to be part of global initiatives and is therefore pleased to host this prestigious world conference.

### *Port Elizabeth*

The RSAI World Conference will be held in the friendly city of Port Elizabeth, a well-known port city on the shores of the warm Indian Ocean. The city boasts excellent sport and recreation facilities and great accommodation with living costs that compare favourably with other major cities. With exciting opportunities for shopping, safaris, game park visits, water sports, historical outings and cultural events, PE (as it is known by locals) is a most suitable destination for delegates and visitors. The weather in April is exceptionally good and perfect for outdoor activities. Port Elizabeth is also the gateway to the picturesque Garden Route and is situated 500 miles (800 km) from Cape Town.

### *South African Organising Committee*

Gideon Horn, Alta Botha (secretary), Michelle Bothma, Hendrik Lloyd, Pieter Swart, Karin Coetzee.

### *International Programme Committee*

Yoshiro Higano, Kingsley Haynes, Lay Gibson, Jacques Poot, Roger Stough, Aura Reggiani, Peter Batey, Kieran Donaghy, Graham Clarke, Antoine Bailley, Peter Nijkamp.

## Contacts

Convenors:

Profs Gideon Horn and Hendrik Lloyd

Email: [altab@petech.ac.za](mailto:altab@petech.ac.za)

Internet: [www.petech.ac.za/rsai](http://www.petech.ac.za/rsai)

## Western Regional Science Association 43rd Annual Meeting Wailea Marriott, Maui, Hawaii 25-28 February 2004

The Maui program is shaping up to be both large and diverse.

To facilitate planning, here is an overview of our 2004 schedule:

- **Tuesday, February 24:** Preconference Technical Seminar/Field Trip organized by Lay Gibson ([ljgibson@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:ljgibson@ag.arizona.edu) for more details)
- **Wednesday, February 25:** Golf Tournament (tentative); Registration, Opening Plenary Session in the late afternoon, Reception
- **Thursday, February 26:** Paper sessions all day; WRSA Board Meeting
- **Friday, February 27:** Paper sessions all day; Annual Banquet Luncheon; President's Reception
- **Saturday, February 28:** Paper sessions all day
- **Sunday, February 29:** No planned events; most participants depart or continue travels

### *Pre-register for the Conference*

Meeting planning and conference check-in is greatly facilitated if everyone is pre-registered. Please print out the combined pre-registration and dues form from the website and mail it to the Association office in Tucson as soon as possible and not later than 1 February. The special combined pre-registration and 2004 dues amount is \$200.

On-site registration will be \$220, so pay early and save 10%! Please note that per WRSA Board policy all persons whose names appear on the Program and who are in attendance must be current year (i.e. 2004) members of the Association.

For more information go to the WRSA homepage at: <http://geog/Arizona.edu/wrsa>

## XI World Congress of Rural Sociology, Trondheim, Norway Globalisation, Risks and Resistance 25-30 July 2004

### *Call for Abstracts*

The theme of the XI World Congress of Rural Sociology is unevenness, risks, resistance and dialogue in relation to rural economies and societies throughout the world. In exploring the role of agency in mediating and negotiating change, congress papers will pay particular attention to the associated processes of social inclusion and exclusion for people in rural areas. Papers will be presented in Working Group and Symposia sessions, which broadly address the following themes:

Rural governance: local partnerships, decentralization and the state, New social movements, Resistance, transformation and challenges, Gender issues in rural societies, New developments in food supply chains. Globalization and the family farm: struggles, strategies and new opportunities, Rural development policy and practice, Resources, territory and environment, Alternative agricultures

The XI World Congress will be held in Trondheim (pronounced Tron-heim): Norway's third largest city with a population of about 150,000. Trondheim is a modern city with a highly respected university and a research community ranking among the best in Europe. It is also a popular stop for tourists pursuing the summer Midnight Sun or the Northern Lights (aurora borealis) of winter.

Abstracts of 250 words for paper or poster presentations that address the conference theme are now being invited. Abstracts should be submitted to Working Group Chairs through the on-line submission form on the IRSA website. Please log onto the web site at: <http://www.irsa-world.org/XI/index.html> for further information on the conference and the procedure for abstract submission. Inquiries may also be directed to the Deputy Programme Chair, Lynda Herbert-Cheshire, at [l.herbertcheshire@uq.edu.au](mailto:l.herbertcheshire@uq.edu.au).