



Call for papers - Special Session on **Planning and Governance in Border Regions**

We are pleased to invite you to contribute papers for a Special Session on **Planning and Governance in Border Regions**, which we will organize at the 11th RSAI World Congress on April 25-28, 2016. The RSAI World Congress will take place in Istanbul (Turkey) and will be a major international event.

Description: Border studies has become a well-established and renowned academic discipline in the past few years. It has been institutionalized, with several international associations, university departments, academic networks, devoted academic journals and dozens of special issues in distinguished academic journals. The works of border scholars have not only established the theoretical foundations and problematic of this discipline, but also through interdisciplinary research have contributed to various academic disciplines including geography, economics, political science and urban and regional planning. And especially in times of change, when the dynamics of globalization are argued to erode the sovereign power of nation states together with their fixed and solid borders, this subject has become more and more relevant for understanding and explaining the social, political and economic dynamics of societies across scales ranging from the local to the global.

The proposed special session aims to elaborate extensively and systematically the border context and the conditions of border regions from a spatial planning and governance perspective. By doing this, the session will give an update of the recent developments in border regions and spatial planning practices in these areas. Issues such as cross-border governance, cross-border regionalism, cross border cooperation and the impacts of EU enlargement and integration on the development of border regions are aimed to be discussed during this session. Moreover, scholars are also invited to critically engage with the theoretical challenges posed on understanding and planning of border regions.

Relevance of the Topic: Although studies on borders and border regions have gained popularity among scholars of various disciplines, the spatial planning aspect of the issue has remained arguably neglected. To the knowledge of the organizers, there are at least 20 special issues related to borders and border regions, published in prominent academic journals including *Regional Studies*, *European Journal of Social Theory*, *Geopolitics*, *Space and Polity*, *Journal of European Integration*, *European Planning Studies* and *Environment and Planning- D*, none of them paying attention to spatial planning. Even the ABS (Association for Borderlands Studies) World Conference-2014, which hosted more than 400 border scholars and covered almost 40 themes, has not systematically engaged with spatial planning.

However, the increasing amount of research papers demonstrates a considerable and growing interest on spatial planning and governance issues in cross-border context. Emerging research demonstrates that spatial planning practices in border regions are not passively reflecting the social and political

transformations, but are themselves agents of this change, providing powerful and unique insights for regional governance and planning. Therefore, the organizers argue that the time to bring together scholars from various academic disciplines to put spatial planning on the agenda of border research has already come.

The Subtopics of the special sessions could but not limited to:

1. Governance and Planning in a Cross-border Context
2. Planning Theory and Practice Meets the Border
3. Planning in/for a “Borderless Europe”: A Myth or Reality?
4. Actors, Networks, Structures in Cross- border Regionalism

Session Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Gülden ERKUT, Istanbul Technical University

Dr. Ervin SEZGIN, Istanbul Technical University

Submitting an abstract

Please submit an abstract (400-500 words) indicating title; authors(s), affiliations and emails (indicate the corresponding author); three keywords; and two potential topics to the session Organizers, by sending an e-mail to gerkut@itu.edu.tr and sezginerv@itu.edu.tr.

Abstract submission deadline: December 15, 2015

Details about the Conference: <http://2016worldcongress.regionalscience.org/>