



Call for papers - Special Session on **Small and medium-sized towns: performance and role in a globalized world**

We are pleased to invite you to contribute papers for a Special Session on “**Small and medium-sized towns: performance and role in a globalized world**”, 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.

Motivation and aim

During the last decades, metropolises and large city-regions around the world have been considered by many scholars and policymakers as the main drivers of development. In contrast, small and medium-sized towns have been left aside and far less a subject of a scientific discussion. But in spite of different economic performance across nations and of various processes of urbanization, non metropolitan urban settlements can prove to be dynamic. Such towns perform diverse functional roles and the town’s economic performance (positive or negative) is not necessarily determined by size. On the contrary, it is the degree of importance of functions for a wider territory and the degree of economic specialization that indicates to what extent a town succeeds or fails.

This session welcomes contributions dealing with small and medium sized towns in various national and continental contexts. In the global South, it seems important to explore the role of towns within rapid urbanization. In other continents, and especially in Europe, countries cohesion and development policies have been targeting rural regions and peripheral regions undergoing ageing and depopulation. Can secondary towns interface the metropolitan and the rural worlds? Can they form local networks of places in micro-system whose resilience is as important as that of larger metropolitan systems?

Potential topics:

- Networks of small and medium sized cities and their resilience to the crisis
- The social and cultural capital of small and medium sized towns
- Small and medium towns in the orbit of metropolitan systems: commuting, residence, and the knowledge economy
- Population mobility and tourism flows in small and medium towns

Session Organizer

Christophe Demazière, University of Tours, France

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 Organizer, by sending an e-mail to christophe.demaziere@univ-tours.fr.

Abstract submission deadline: December 15, 2015

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