



**Regional Studies Association  
Research Network on  
Creative Industries and the Region:  
Relationships between Places, Local  
and Regional Policies and Creative  
Production.**

***Call for Papers***

***First Research Seminar***  
**Measuring and Understanding the Creative  
Economy in the Regions: Methodological  
Approaches and Issues.**

**24-25 September 2008 - School of Geography,  
University of Southampton, UK**

Deadline to submit your abstract: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008  
Final paper submission: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2008

For information: [Creative.Regions@soton.ac.uk](mailto:Creative.Regions@soton.ac.uk) or visit

[www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk](http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk) & [www.creative-regions.org.uk](http://www.creative-regions.org.uk)

**Research Network Organisers:**

Dr. Roberta Comunian, School of Geography, University of Southampton  
Dr. Caroline Chapain, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Birmingham  
Dr. Nick Clifton, Centre For Advanced Studies, Cardiff University

## *Aim of the Research Network*

This research network aims to address trends and issues around the development of the creative and cultural industries at the regional level in UK and abroad, fostering a multi-disciplinary debate among researchers, practitioners and policy makers in the field. The research network will address four themes which are central to the research on creative industries and the regions, and which require further analysis and investigation:

- How to study the relationship between creative industries and city-regions. What are the methodologies which address the way creative industries produce and interact with their markets?
- What is the role of place at various levels (city, neighbourhood, regions) in fostering creativity and creative production?
- What is the importance of public support policies and frameworks in developing the creative industries sector?
- Does fostering creative industries mean enabling regional growth?

The research network will try to gather a solid knowledge-base around these topics and move them forward. Various disciplines have been looking at the way these industries operate generally, or in particular places, but a common theoretical framework seems lacking. While regional studies and geographic disciplines offer a wide contribution to the debate, major developments come also from social studies, business and management studies, cultural and media studies and economics.

The research network activities will be centred around three main research seminars held in:

- September 2008 at the University of Southampton on **Measuring and understanding the creative economy: methodological approaches and issues.**
- April 2009 at Cardiff University on **Creative industries, scenes, cities and places: idiosyncratic dimensions of the cultural economy.**
- September 2009 at the University of Birmingham on **Creative industries and regional policies: making space and giving space.**

If you want to be involved in the activities of the research network or if you want to keep informed about future events, please contact: [Creative.Regions@soton.ac.uk](mailto:Creative.Regions@soton.ac.uk)



## ***The First Research Seminar - Call for Papers***

The first seminar will focus on the methodological approaches used and the issues encountered when investigating the creative industries and their regional dimension. Speakers will be asked to present papers on various methodologies used to the study of the creative and cultural industries. Quantitative, qualitative and ethnographic approaches should be considered. The range of papers should cover both theoretical perspectives and practical examples of the issues and challenges faced by researchers in trying to capture the economic, social and cultural dimensions of the creative economy.

The first seminar will be held on the **24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2008** at the University of Southampton. The programme for the two days will be as follow:

- **24<sup>th</sup> of September afternoon** (2pm – 5pm) – **Ph.D. and Young Researchers Workshop**. Papers will be presented by Ph.D. students and discussed in a friendly atmosphere in order to facilitate interaction between students and more experienced researchers. Ph.D. students should focus on their research perspectives and methodology for this session. The Ph.D. and Young Researchers workshop is supported by funding from the University of Southampton ‘Skills Enhancement Fund’ for Research Students and Early Career Researchers.
- **25<sup>th</sup> of September (10am – 5pm) – Research Seminar: Measuring and Understanding the Creative Economy in the Regions: Methodological Approaches and Issues.**

PhD students, academics, researchers, practitioners and policy makers are invited to participate in the seminar on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. They are also welcome to attend the PhD and Young Researchers Workshop on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. Papers are welcome on relevant case studies and research experiences providing a critical overview of approaches and methodologies in the study of creative and cultural industries and their national, regional or local dimension.

The organisers, with the support of the Regional Studies Association, aim to develop a journal special issue and/or a book from this seminar series which will provide an opportunity for participants to disseminate their research and papers. In addition, a special issue of *Regions*, the Regional Studies Newsletter, will be produced at the end of the seminar



series in order to reach a wider audience. Presentations and relevant information will also be made available electronically at [www.creative-regions.org.uk](http://www.creative-regions.org.uk).

## ***Submitting an Abstract***

All interested scholars, PhD students and practitioners are invited to submit, by email, a paper proposal (abstract) of around 1,000 words by **no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2008** to the Research Network's organisers at:

[\*\*Creative.Regions@soton.ac.uk\*\*](mailto:Creative.Regions@soton.ac.uk)

Abstracts must include full contact details. You should also specify if you are submitting to present at the PhD and Young Researchers Workshop or at the seminar. Applicants will be contacted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2008 about their submission. Full papers are requested by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2008.

## ***Participation costs***

Participation to the main Research Network Seminar on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September is subject to a small fee of £25.00 to cover catering expenses, while attendance to the PhD and Young Researchers Workshop on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September is free of charge, but places need to be booked in advance.

## ***Bursaries***

Thanks to the support of the Regional Studies Association, a limited number of bursaries are available to assist with travel expenses. Financial support must be requested at the time of the abstract's submission or anyhow before the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. The bursaries will be prioritised towards PhD students, post-docs and young researchers interested in the topic but needing support for travel to the seminar. The award of bursaries will be made on the basis of the expected benefits deriving from the participation to the seminar by the applicant. If you are interested in applying for a bursary please send a short biographical profile and a paragraph explaining how you think attending or presenting at the seminar would benefit you.

We are looking forward to your submissions and to hearing from your inspiring research in Southampton.

*Roberta Comunian, Caroline Chapain and Nick Clifton*

