ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH

URBAN CENTRES AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday 1 September 2017, DIT Grangegorman, Dublin

Confirmed invited speakers:

Andy Pike
Henry Daysh Professor of Regional Development Studies,
Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS), Newcastle University

Mike Danson
Professor of Enterprise Policy, Heriot-Watt University

(Full list of speakers included below)

Theme:

The theme of this year's RSA-Irish Branch Annual Conference is "Urban Centres and Regional Economic Development". Within this broad theme we consider the National Planning Framework, issues surrounding housing, regional spatial and economic strategies and international comparator cases. The issues facing urban development are increasingly prominent on national policy agendas. Urban areas are major contributors to national economies and play a key role in balanced regional development. Key issues facing urban centres include managing urban expansion and congestion as well as promoting competitiveness, innovation, and environmental sustainability. There are increasing calls for support of regional economic development through diverse infrastructure investments determined by regional and national priorities to foster linkages between urban centres in Ireland. It is widely accepted that a planning process need to be put in place for the development of city-regions and it is recognised that without the implementation of appropriate planning frameworks there will be significant costs on the national economy, as it will limit the growth of rural, regional and urban areas.

.

Keynote Speakers:

Andy Pike

Professor Andy Pike is Henry Dash Professor of Regional Development Studies at the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS), Newcastle University. His research interests are in the geographical political economy of local and regional development. He is widely published in international journals, author of *Origination: The Geographies of Brands and Branding* (2006), co-author of *Local and Regional Development* (2017) and co-editor of *Handbook of local and Regional Development: Major Works* (2015). He has undertaken research projects for the OECD, UN-ILO, European Commission, UK Government and national, regional and local institutions. He is currently working on brands and branding geographies, evolution in economic geography, the governance of local and regional economic development, and the city-regional governance of infrastructure funding and financing. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, was an editor of Regional Studies and was the founding Director of the Postgraduate Local and Regional Development programmes in CURDS.

Mike Danson

Mike Danson is Professor of enterprise policy at Heriot-Watt University. He graduated with a MA in Economics and Statistics from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. He was recognised as an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2001, elected a Fellow of the Institute of Economic Development in 2007 and of the Regional Studies Association in 2010. Formerly at the University of Strathclyde, the University of Glasgow and Strathclyde Regional Council, he joined the University of the West of Scotland in 1988 and was appointed as Professor in Scottish and Regional Economics in 1995. After acting as Associate Dean (Research and Commercialisation) in the Business School and Director of Research for the Faculty at UWS, he joined Heriot-Watt University in October 2012. Mike has been a member of several government advisory groups on land reform, ageing and talent management, contributed to the volunteering strategy for Scotland and the employability framework, has advised governments and agencies across the world including the State of Chihuahua through a commission of the OECD.

Other Confirmed Speakers:

David Minton, Northern and Western Regional Assembly

Jim Conway, Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

Stephen Blair, Southern Regional Assembly

Ronan Lyons, TCD

Gerard Brady, IBEC

David Meredith, Teagasc

Niamh Moore-Cherry, UCD

Adam Whittle, UCD

Aidan Gough, Intertrade Ireland

Enrica Pinca, UCD

Proinnsias Breathnach, Maynooth University

Seán Ó'Riordáin, Sean O'Riordain and Associates

Jim Walsh, Maynooth University

Chris van Egeraat, Maynooth University

Justin Doran, UCC

Registration

It is possible to register for the conference online at

http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/register.html

Please note that there is a €70 fee for attending the conference and this includes lunch. Payments are processed via PayPal.

Conference updates

Updates on the conference will be available on the RSA-Irish Branch website at http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/ It is encouraged to subscribe to the RSA-Irish Branch's newsletter to have updates delivered to your e-mail as they become available as well as news of other RSA events.

It is possible to subscribe to the newsletter at

http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/mailing-list-and-newsletter.html

Any queries regarding registration should be sent to

justin.doran@ucc.ie

The RSA-Irish Branch would like to acknowledge the support of the following:

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

School of Spatial Planning and Transport, Dublin Institute of Technology