



The Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society 2026 Conference Call for Submissions

The 2026 Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society (<https://academic.oup.com/cires>) annual conference, will be held in St Catharine's College, Cambridge UK on 16-17 July 2026.

The 2026 Conference of the Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society will address two key themes that are current issues of academic debate and policy relevance. The first is "Urban Agglomeration: Who Gains and Who Loses from Density-Driven Development?" It has become a conventional wisdom that the larger and more dense a city, the higher its productivity and prosperity. This conference theme aims to interrogate this claim, and the attendant policy calls for increasing the 'densification' of cities in order to raise their economic performance. The second theme will examine "The New Economic Geographies of the Defence Industry". At a time when rapid technological change and heightened geopolitical conflicts are transforming the defence industry, what are the implications of the changing 'military industrial complex' for uneven regional development? This conference theme will address this crucial question. Both themes will also form the basis of two special issues of the journal. See further details of the themes:

Theme1: Urban Agglomeration and its Distributional Effects: Who Gains and Who Loses from Density-Driven Development?

The conference invites contributions that examine urban agglomeration from diverse vantage points, assess both positive and negative impacts and seek to shed light on who is likely to gain/lose and how more inclusive outcomes may be generated through agglomeration and density-based urban policies. Further details of this theme can be found at: <https://academic.oup.com/cires/pages/urban-agglomeration-and-its-distributional-effects>

Theme 2: Revisiting the Economic Geographies of the Defence Industry

The conference invites contributions on the recent geopolitical tensions and conflicts, related to increasing nationalism have had a profound effect on defence spending. Between 2015 and 2024 global defence expenditures increased by 37% (Liang et al., 2025), although there are strong differences between individual countries. These increasing expenditures strongly affect the defence industry, an industry going through both waves of international mergers and acquisitions, because of increasing costs, as well as national pressures of self-reliance and strategic autonomy. The increases in the defence budgets also affect national spending priorities and can distort other public policy priorities. Moreover, changes in current warfare technologies (drones, cyber war, AI) means that long-standing defence industry production is undergoing restructuring, with potentially changing locational requirements. Against this background, this conference aims to revisit the economic geographies of the defence industry. Further details of this theme can be found at:

<https://academic.oup.com/cires/pages/economic-geographies-defence-industry-cfp>

Submissions

Those interested in presenting a paper at the conference should submit an abstract of no more than 400 words, specifying Theme 1 or Theme 2, to events@cpes.org.uk by 6 March 2026.



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It is not necessary to give a paper to attend the conference, those wishing to attend can book a place at the conference at: <https://cpes.org.uk/events/cires2026>.

Submissions for related themes in the Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society should be submitted separately, using the journals usual submission process via: <https://academic.oup.com/cires>.