



Call for Papers

The CJRES Annual Conference, 11-12 July 2024

**Theme 1: 'The Entrepreneurial State and Mission-Oriented Innovation Policy'; and
Theme 2: 'Rethinking Path Dependence and Lock-Ins'.**

Hosted by the CAMBRIDGE JOURNAL OF REGIONS, ECONOMY AND SOCIETY
<https://academic.oup.com/cjres>

Venue: St Catharine's College, Cambridge UK

The 2024 CJRES Annual Conference will be based on two major themes: ***The Entrepreneurial State and Mission-Oriented Innovation Policy and Rethinking Path Dependence and Lock-Ins.***

Theme 1: The entrepreneurial state and mission-oriented innovation policy: effects on regions and implications for regional policy

Under this theme, the conference will explore the effects of the entrepreneurial state and mission-oriented innovation policy on cities and regions and the implications for regional policy, and possible contributions might address the following topics.

- How do entrepreneurial states and mission-oriented innovation policies affect regional innovation ecosystems?
- What are the implications of mission-oriented innovation policies for regional policy, and how can regional policymakers best support and leverage these policies to achieve regional development goals?
- How can regional policymakers ensure that the benefits of mission-oriented innovation policies are equitably distributed across different regions and stakeholders?
- Do the concepts of the entrepreneurial state and mission-oriented innovation policies presuppose economic growth as an (auxiliary) outcome of innovation activities, or could these concepts also fit into postgrowth or even degrowth thinking? Would this imply a rethinking of regional development policy?
- What are the challenges and limitations of the entrepreneurial state and mission-oriented innovation policy, and how can these be addressed in regional policy? What are the main risks with these types of programs and how can we assess the opportunity costs involved?
- What national-regional tensions need to be considered by a policy maker involved in implementing mission-driven policy at regional levels?

Theme 2: Rethinking Path Dependence and Lock-Ins in Regions, Economy and Society

This theme will reconsider the impact of path dependence and lock-ins on regions, the economy and society from different disciplinary perspectives, and consider common phenomena and mechanisms that either strengthen or weaken the effects of path dependence and lock-ins.

Possible contributions to the conference could examine the following topics

- How do we measure lock-ins? What are criteria? What are appropriate methods? Is QCA an appropriate method to uncover the complexity of lock-ins?
- Does regional economic path dependence always involve lock-ins?
- What are the mechanisms that lead to lock-in?
- What role do lock-ins play in regional economic evolution?
- Are lock-ins always bad?
- What role do spatial scales play for lock-ins?
- When and why does 'positive' lock-in turn into 'negative' lock-in?
- How are lock-ins avoided?
- How do institutional structures influence lock-in and path breaking?
- How do digitalization and digital platforms influence lock-ins and path breaking?
- How can regions escape from negative lock-ins? What role do 'lock-out', 'innovation', 'path break-out' and 'path plasticity' play in that respect?
- What can we disciplines learn from each other concerning lock-ins?
- What are the effects of crises on lock-ins? Do lock-ins hinder systems from bouncing back rather than bouncing forward better in times of crisis?
- Can lock-in explain the ways in which incumbents and vested interests block and constrain regional and urban change, or do we need a retheorisation and rethinking?
- What sort of policies can prevent regional lock-in? Are co-ordination and policy failures produced by lock-in?

Submission

Those interested in presenting a paper at the conference should submit an abstract of no more than 400 words to Philippa Millerchip at pm436@cam.ac.uk by 12 April 2024 (deadline extended).

It is not necessary to give a paper to attend; those wishing to attend can book a place at the conference at: <https://cpes.org.uk/events/cjres2024>

As in previous years, potentially the contributions arising from the conference could be included in future themed editions of the [Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society](#).

We invite submissions from researchers and practitioners in the fields of geography, economics, public policy, innovation studies, regional studies, and related fields. We welcome theoretical and empirical papers, as well as case studies from different regions and contexts.