



The 29th Pacific Conference of the RSAI (PRSCO 2026)

RMIT UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

1-3 DECEMBER 2026

PROSPEROUS FUTURES? CONTESTED KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABLE REGIONS

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

The Pacific Regional Science Conference Organisation (PRSCO) is one of the four supra-regional associations of RSAI (Regional Science Association International) which is founded in 1954. This year, Australia New Zealand Regional Science Association International (ANZRSAI) jointly with PRSCO is organising 29th PRSCO Conference at RMIT University, Melbourne. PRSCO welcomes proposals for contributed papers, for themed panels, or for special sessions, on any topic related to regions.

This year's conference is hosted by RMIT University, Melbourne. To register, and for more information on the conference, visit the ANZRSAI website at:

<https://www.anzrsai.org/conference/conference-2026/>

Or PRSCO website:



INVITATION FROM THE PRSCO PRESIDENT



This year is the 29th PRSCO Conference and I am delighted that we are being hosted on the RMIT University Melbourne Campus.

I am very grateful to Prof. Andrew Butt and Prof. Bruce Wilson in the School of the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies (GUSS) at RMIT for their outstanding work to host the conference in Melbourne, and to organise an exciting programme of keynote speakers. This will be a conference with something for everyone that has an interest in regional policy and practice.

The core theme of our conference is “Prosperous Futures? Contested Knowledge for Sustainable Regions”. I hope that both the conference program and its location will be an irresistible temptation to join us in December 2026.

Prof. In Kwon Park
PRSCO President

TIMETABLE

February 15, 2026	Abstract & award submission opening
April 30, 2026	Abstract submission deadline
May 31, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of abstract acceptance • Early bird registration open
July 31, 2026	PRSCO awards deadline
July 31, 2026	Full paper submission deadline
September 30, 2026	Early bird registration end
October 31, 2026	Paper Presenter registration deadline & Finalise Program
December 1-3, 2026	Conference

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The program committee invites contributions from academics, practitioners and policy advisors on any aspect of regional science for presentation at the conference. The program will include *PowerPoint presentations, academic papers* (which may be peer reviewed), *themed panels* and *special sessions* on topics in regional science theory, regional development practice or regional planning policy. The conference includes an Awards Dinner on Thursday 2nd December, at which the following awards will be made.

- PRSCO Award for Best Paper by a Young Regional Scientist
- The PRSCO Award for Best Conference Paper by a Student

Papers that are submitted in full by the 31 July 2026 will be double-blind peer reviewed for publication in formal conference proceedings. Papers submitted to the conference may also be submitted to the Association’s journals: the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Regional Science, Regional*

Science Policy and Practice and *Australasian Journal of Regional Science*, ranked as a tier B Journal by the Australian Business Deans Council.

The first step is to submit an *Abstract* giving a brief introduction to the content of the contribution or proposed special session. The abstract should be no more than 150 words, explaining the topic of the contribution and its main points or conclusions. The abstract should make clear that the topic is suitable for a conference of people engaged in regional science theory, practice or policy.

To submit an abstract, please go to the following website:

<https://www.anzrsai.org/conference/abstract-upload-form/>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS PRSCO AWARD FOR BEST PAPER BY A YOUNG REGIONAL SCIENTIST

The Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization (PRSCO) offers a Best Paper Award annually. The Award is aimed at encouraging young regional scientists within the Asia-Pacific region to participate in research within the PRSCO community and to achieve research excellence. PRSCO now invites submissions for the 2026 Award.

The Award will be made for the best submission to the PRSCO Best Paper competition by a young regional scientist, under the age of 35 (on December 31, 2026), who is from a PRSCO-relevant part of the world.

The Award rules can be found on the PRSCO web site.

Papers submitted for the Best Paper Award should be presented to the 28th Pacific Conference of the RSAI in 2026 at Melbourne on December 1-3, 2026.

The LOC of the PRSCO 2026 will waive the registration fee for the Prize winner.

Eligible authors who wish to submit a paper to the PRSCO Best Paper competition should email a pdf copy of their paper to the PRSCO Executive Secretary, Soushi Suzuki, soushi-s@hgu.jp, by no later than July 31, 2026.

Papers will be assessed by a PRSCO Best Paper Selection Committee, and the author of the winning paper is expected to be notified by October 31, 2026. The decision of the Selection Committee will be final.

Submissions should include a cover page with the paper's title, the author's full name, affiliation, and contact details. Award applicants should either: state that the paper is single-authored; or provide the name of the co-author(s), together with evidence that the applicant is the lead author and has contributed over 70 per cent of the paper's content. The applicant should also affirm that they meet the Award's age criterion.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

RMIT University Melbourne City Campus is located in the cosmopolitan heart of one of the world's most liveable cities and is surrounded by public transport, restaurants, cafes, theatres, galleries and parks. There is a wide range of accommodation close to the campus, including reasonably priced hotels. These details will be provided in the second call for papers and made available on the conference website at www.anzrsai.org or PRSCO website <http://www.ab.cyberhome.ne.jp/~soushi-s/PRSCO/index.html>.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The 29th PRSCO Conference will open at 9am on Tuesday 1st December. There will be three days of stimulating plenary addresses, panels of expert speakers and parallel sessions of submitted papers.

Registration for the conference includes morning tea, lunches and afternoon tea as well as admission to all plenary and parallel sessions. It also includes complimentary membership of PRSCO/ANZRS AI.

There are two social events: a reception hosted by the President of PRSCO at the conclusion of the first day on the evening of Tuesday 1st December; and the PRSCO Awards Dinner on Wednesday 2nd December.

	Fees (AUD)
Early Bird Standard Registration (paid before 30 September)	\$400.00**
Standard Registration for full conference (paid after 30 September)	\$450.00**
One Day Registration	\$300.00**
Student or Emeritus Registration for full conference	\$200.00
President's Reception (Tuesday 1 st December, 6pm)	\$25.00
PRSCO/ANZRS AI Awards Dinner (Wednesday 2 nd December, 7pm)	\$125.00

** Participants from countries with a GDP per capita of US\$20,000 or less (based on latest World Bank figure) are eligible for a 25% discount.

Note: Registration fees include the membership fee with ANZRS AI and PRSCO Sections/supra regional associations; however, registration fee does NOT include PRSCO dinner fee.

To register for the conference, please go to:

<https://www.anzrsai.org/conference/conference-2026/reg>

Queries about the conference can be sent to the PRSCO Conference Secretariate:

Professor Delwar Akbar
PRSCO Vice President
Email: d.akbar@cqu.edu.au