



***Special Session (SS04) on:***

***Regional Science is the Embodiment of the Engaged University***

**Organizer:**

**Steven Deller** - University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. E-mail: [scdeller@wisc.edu](mailto:scdeller@wisc.edu)

**The aim and scope:**

Across the United States most public universities have embraced the notion of what the Kellogg Foundation refers to as the “Engaged University”. For the University of Wisconsin this is embodied in the concept of the “Wisconsin Idea”. Here the University has a responsibility "to the government in the forms of serving in office, offering advice about public policy, providing information and exercising technical skill, and to the citizens in the forms of doing research directed at solving problems that are important to the state and conducting outreach activities". Upon reflection of regional science, as a field of study or a discipline, scholars such as Andy Isserman, Luc Anselin, and Ann Markusen, among many others, argue that at its very nature regional science has two audiences for its work: internal and external. Internal to the academy in terms of trying to better understand regional systems and advancing the science, but also external stakeholders included elected officials, policy makers and concern citizens. Many social scientists are drawn to regional science because of its focus on shedding light on current policy debates. The notion that their work is helping to inform policy at the local, state and national level is particularly relevant to many in regional science. This Special Session will focus on what the “Engaged University” means to regional science and address the question: “is regional science the embodiment of the engaged university?”

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