

Regional and Federal Studies blog style guide

Statement of aims

The Regional and Federal Studies blog has three main purposes: to promote and disseminate the research featured on our journal to a wider audience; (ii) to raise the profile of the Regional and Federal Studies journal and our authors, editorial team, and advisory board; and iii) to enhance the academic impact of our research. In service of this, we present the below information regarding our blog. Please email sean.kippin@stir.ac.uk if you have any questions.

Format and Length

Blog articles should be between 800 and 1,200 words. Please send your draft to sean.kippin@stir.ac.uk in Microsoft Word (.doc/docx) format and include a brief author biography (2–3 sentences) for each contributor. Please also include a profile photograph for each named author. Our editor will supply a short introductory and summarising paragraph to accompany your piece, but you are welcome to propose one yourself as a guide.

This blog is associated with *Regional and Federal Studies* and is designed to bring research published in, and associated with, the journal to a wider audience. Most contributions will be based on articles published in the journal, but we will also consider related commentary and evidence-based perspectives from outside it. Please email our Editor if you have any questions about whether your submission idea is ‘in scope’.

Audience and Style

The aim of the blog is to communicate high-quality research in an accessible and engaging way. Please write with a broad audience in mind. Avoid excessive academic and technical terminology, abbreviations that may be unfamiliar to non-specialists, and detailed methodological discussions. Focus instead on clearly presenting your core findings, their relevance, and why they matter.

If your submission is based on a published journal article, please summarise the key arguments and insights directly. Avoid phrases such as “in our published article, we argue that...” and instead present the ideas as a standalone piece. We will provide a link to the full article at the end of the post.

While we are happy to publish opinionated contributions, we ask that all arguments are rooted in evidence and expressed in a measured and constructive tone. The blog is a place for insight, not polemic.

We use British spelling conventions (e.g., “decentralisation”, “organise”), though we do not enforce a strict style guide. Our editors will make light copyedits as needed to ensure clarity and consistency. Please also aim for paragraphs of 3-4 sentences.

Referencing and Hyperlinks

Rather than using formal citation styles, we ask authors to incorporate references through hyperlinks within the text. For example: *Research by John Smith and Laura Jones suggests that...* with the authors' names linked to the relevant article or report.

In Word, highlight the relevant text, press Ctrl+K (or Cmd+K on Mac), and paste in the full URL. Where a specific page is being cited, link to the publication and include the page number in brackets at the end of the sentence (e.g., p. 27).

We try to minimise the use of footnotes and endnotes, and do not typically publish reference lists or bibliographies at the end of blog posts.

Figures, Charts, and Visuals

We welcome figures, maps, and tables, especially where they help to distil research findings. Please submit visuals as high-quality images (minimum width of 1,000 pixels) or include editable formats (such as Excel files or images exported from R, Stata, or Python).

Titles

We encourage you to suggest a title for your piece, but our editors may revise this to align with the tone and house style of the blog. Our preferred approach is to use narrative-style titles that communicate the main point or finding of the article (e.g. “Why decentralisation is gaining ground in Southern Europe”), rather than more general or technical ones (e.g. “Regional governance in Italy and Spain”).

Timeliness and Coordination

If your post relates to a current event, recent policy change, or a newly published article, please let us know at submission so we can schedule accordingly. For contributions based on *Regional and Federal Studies* articles, we will coordinate timing to align with journal publication dates where appropriate.

Post-submission process

Once your submission has been received, the blog Editor will contact you to inform you whether we intend to move ahead with publication. If it is a positive decision, editing will then take place. If significant edits are made to bring the submission into scope, a final version will be returned to the author to check.

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