



## Caring geographies: the coproduction of care and sustainable living in urban and non-urban areas

### *Invitation and call for papers*

*This is an invitation and call for papers for a conference organised by Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam on 4 November 2022. In this open call, we invite researchers, both junior and senior, to participate in and contribute to the conference.*

Regional areas are increasingly being (re)discovered and addressed by policymakers and practitioners as places for organising public services. For instance, “regionally-based” healthcare policies are considered suitable for handling contemporary challenges in healthcare, like increasing demands for older persons in the face of a declining workforce. The regional scale promises an unambiguous and therefore tempting solution as a space to break through restrictive institutional frameworks or abrasive and long-existing systems.

The emphasis of policymakers and practitioners on regionalisation more or less implies that regions are singular and bounded geographical spaces that are well defined, tangible, and ‘useable’ to develop a policy strategy. This overlooks how they, as socio-technical assemblages of knowing and doing, are made to care—and are being cared for—in return. Regional geographical boundaries in the organisation of healthcare are often taken for granted and seldom a topic of social scientific inquiry. However, their assumed, a priori, and clearly demarcated geographical boundaries can be questioned. The socio-political literature on regions shows that regions are not just ‘out there’, but emerge from multiple (and often contested) geographical and cultural constituencies, raising questions of how regions can be empirically studied and theorised.

### Keynote speakers

The aim of this conference is to reflect on the region as a research object in the domain of medical and social care, and more particularly the current re-evaluation of the region in healthcare governance and policy. We are excited to announce the following **keynote speakers** during the conference: **Colin Lorne** (Lecturer in Geography, Open University); **Louise Meijering** (Professor in Health Geography, University of Groningen); and **Roland Bal**, **Iris Wallenburg** and **Jitse Schuurmans** (Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam).

## Call for papers

In the call for papers, we invite researchers, both junior and senior, to participate in and contribute to the conference. Specifically, we look for applications that can shed light on the following issues:

1. Caring for the region: What can we learn from regional care experiments? How do healthcare professionals contribute to regional care infrastructures (i.e. through which practices)?
2. Valuing the region: How do policymakers and healthcare professionals value the region? How can (cultural) differences between regions be accounted for in healthcare provision, and how can regional democratic legitimacy be sustained?
3. Building regional networks and infrastructures: How are regional networks and infrastructures built? What interactions between organisational and policy levels can be observed? How are governance scales and accountability structures reconfigured? How can the region be made an object of inspection?

## Interested?

Interested applicants are invited to submit abstracts of approximately 500 words before the extended deadline of **30 September 2022** at 23:00 CET. The selected applicants are to present their paper during one of the panel sessions during the conference. We also offer the possibility to present other contributions (e.g. a research programme with preliminary findings). Please send your abstract to [office.hcg@eshpm.eur.nl](mailto:office.hcg@eshpm.eur.nl).

## Venue

The conference will be held at the Erasmus Paviljoen building, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Burgemeester Oudlaan 350, Rotterdam, and takes place between 09:30 and 17:00. There is no fee required to participate.

## Contact information

Please do not hesitate to contact the organisers if there are any questions regarding the invitation and open call ([office.hcg@eshpm.eur.nl](mailto:office.hcg@eshpm.eur.nl)).

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