



University of  
South Australia

# Future Work, Future Communities

*DASSH Conference Adelaide 2024*

Professor Andrew Beer, Executive Dean: UniSA Business

September 2024

# A five-year *research program* exploring the impacts of industry restructuring.

In partnership with major industry and a leading group of international researchers, and funded by the *Australian Research Council*, the *Future Work Future Communities* research team aims to shed light on how Australia's workforce and communities will engage with the world of work in a future shaped by new business models and disruptive technologies.

Have you been invited to complete one of our *surveys* for former *auto-workers* and would like to find out more about participation? Click on the link below!

[Participate](#)

[About the program](#)

FUTURE



## SPOTLIGHT

### RSA Network Special Session in Florence, Italy.



Project Partners and Partner Organisations



## Research



RSA Network on Putting the 'Just' into Just Transitions for Cities and Regions



Conferences and Workshops



### Stream One

Five-year longitudinal study of workers affected by the automotive closures across Australia.



### Stream Two

A series of qualitative interviews designed to add depth to our understanding of the Stream One longitudinal workers survey.

### Stream Three

Discrete Choice Experiments investigating labour market and retraining preferences.



### Stream Four

Community survey of affected regions.



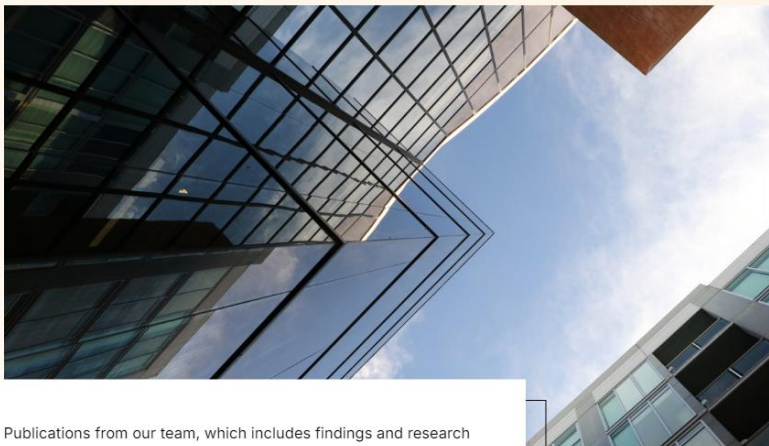
# RSA Annual Conference (Main Event) - Florence, 2024

The 2024 Regional Studies Association Annual Conference was held in Florence, Italy, in partnership with the University of Florence from June 11 to 14. Split across two campuses, the conference offered participants the opportunity to explore the old and new districts of the city and its university campuses, and Florence itself provided a charming backdrop that exemplified the uniqueness of place. The capital city of Tuscany, Florence is a living, breathing example of how regions can offer place-specific cultures and opportunities that enhance the experiences of visitors. Certainly, the city shone with perfect summer weather, the best of Italian cuisine, and historic and cultural offerings to enhance participants' experiences.



Florence, Italy (Photo Credit: Ensar)

# Findings & Publications



Publications from our team, which includes findings and research outcomes.

## Agency and the structural determinants of regional growth: towards a retheorisation

This paper addresses debates on the role of agency in shaping the economic future of regions. Scholarship on agency departs from the earlier focus of evolutionary economic geography, which highlighted the role of pre-existing structural conditions. This paper challenges the notion that agency is only found in intentional action and is limited to key actors within a region. It questions exclusive focus on the impact of entrepreneurial leaders, place leaders and government, and identifies agency in the accumulated micro-decisions of multiple decision-makers, using the example of workers affected by the closure of Australia's passenger vehicle industry. In so doing, it underscores the twin roles of collective vision and meaningful implementation in the successful transformation of regions.

Related

Research

News

Participation

[Read the publication](#)

**KEYWORDS:** agency; Australia; economic transformation; regional pathways; plant closure; policy intervention


Helen Dinmore, Andrew Beer, Jacob Irving & Markku Sotarauta (2023) Agency and the structural determinants of regional growth: towards a retheorisation, Regional Studies, DOI: [10.1080/00343404.2023.2259944](https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2023.2259944)




# Documents

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Closure of the Australian Automotive Industry: Wave 4 Report

 Updated 22nd March 2023 • Stream 1

Closure of the Australian Automotive Industry: Wave 3 Report

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Closure of the Australian Automotive Industry: Wave 1 Report

 Updated 22nd March 2023 • Stream 1

Closure of the Australian Automotive Industry: Wave 2 Report



# News

25th June 2024

RSA Annual Conference (Special Session) - Florence, 2024

25th June 2024

RSA Annual Conference (Main Event) - Florence, 2024

1st February 2024

Asian and Australasian Society for Labour Economics Conference, Taiwan | 2023

13th September 2023

Kathryn Anderson Wins UniSA 3MT Competition!!

23rd August 2023

HOLDEN STEERS WORKERS TO A POSITIVE FUTURE

31st July 2023

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