

Call for Papers

XVI SOCHER Annual Congress 2026

UCN-Coquimbo, Chile — November 18, 19, and 20, 2026

*“Adaptation, territorial intelligence, and **AI** technologies:
What regions do we want in the era of transitions?”*

The Chilean Society of Regional Studies (SOCHER), together with the School of Business Sciences of the Universidad Católica del Norte, Coquimbo Campus, and the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), invites academics, researchers, practitioners, and graduate and undergraduate students to submit papers to the XVI SOCHER Annual Congress 2026, to be held in the Coquimbo Region on November 18, 19, and 20, 2026.

1. SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Submissions of **extended abstracts and full papers** will be received until **Friday, September 25, 2026**. Decisions by the Scientific Committee will be communicated starting on September 28 and no later than October 5, 2026.

At the time of submission, authors must indicate whether their paper is being submitted for the *Andrew “Andy” Isserman Award*.

Papers must be submitted exclusively through the official Congress platform: https://amvallone.github.io/Socher_2026_App/.

2. MODES OF PARTICIPATION

- **Contributed Sessions (Extended Abstract or Full Paper)**. Papers in all areas of regional and urban studies.
- **Young Researchers Space (Proposal)**. Dedicated to doctoral and master’s students at the thesis stage.
- **Special Sessions**. Coordinators may propose three or four papers on a common topic.

3. THEMATIC TRACKS

Contributions are invited in the following thematic tracks and their respective subtopics:

TRACK I. Territorial Governance in Transition

- Local and regional governance in contexts of change
- Public policies for territorial adaptation
- Smart urban and regional planning
- Citizen participation and territorial democracy
- Crime, security, and territory
- Institutional trust and the quality of subnational governance
- Fiscal decentralization and territorial equity

TRACK II. Regional Economics, Innovation, and Sustainability

- Environmental economics, natural resources, and the energy transition
- Labor markets, housing, and the care economy
- Firms, entrepreneurship, and regional innovation
- Regional financing, financial services, and access to productive credit
- Circular economy and urban and rural sustainability
- Health and education economics in the regions
- Value chains, productive linkages, and territorial competitiveness
- Productivity, efficiency, and sectoral transformation
- Water resources, pollution, and environmental management

TRACK III. Artificial Intelligence, Data, and Territories

- Artificial intelligence applied to regional development
- Big data, open data, and territorial decision-making
- Smart cities and the digital transformation of territories
- Automation, the future of work, and regional gaps
- Artificial intelligence in public policy: territorial opportunities and risks
- Ethics, privacy, and data sovereignty in regional contexts

TRACK IV. Climate Change Adaptation and Territorial Resilience

- Climate change and regional vulnerability
- Water resource management and drought in arid and semi-arid regions
- Disaster risk, resilience, and territorial planning

- Energy transition and territories
- Biodiversity, ecosystems, and sustainable regional development
- Adaptation in coastal, rural, and border areas
- Climate justice and multilateral funds

TRACK V. Methods and New Techniques for Territorial Analysis

- Spatial econometrics and regional analysis methods
- Mixed methods and qualitative approaches in regional studies
- Network analysis, complexity, and territorial systems
- Computational modeling and regional simulation
- Territorial intelligence and regional foresight
- Territorial indices and indicators of sustainability, vulnerability, and resilience
- Social accounting and input-output matrices applied to the territory

TRACK VI. Territory, Migration, and Tourism

- Migration, mobility, and host territories
- Border economics and regional trade
- Regional, multi-destination, and sustainable tourism
- Indigenous peoples, interculturality, and territory
- Commuting, labor mobility, and socio-spatial dynamics
- Territorial inequality and social mobility
- Labor observatories and regional labor markets

4. REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees include the SOCHER Member and Non-Member categories. SOCHER Member status is verified through a valid RSAI ID. The benefits of RSAI membership can be consulted at www.regionalscience.org. If you have forgotten your RSAI code or are unsure whether your membership is current, please write to: socher2026@ucn.cl

Table 1. Registration fees by category and payment date

Category	Until October 9	From October 10
SOCHER Member – Standard	US\$185	US\$215
SOCHER Member – Student	US\$120	US\$150
Non-Member – Standard	US\$215	US\$250
Non-Member – Student	US\$150	US\$185

Note: fees expressed in US dollars (USD).

5. REGISTRATION BENEFITS

Registration and payment for the XVI SOCHER Congress 2026 grant Member status or, in the case of current members, the renewal of that status. In addition, each registered participant receives the following benefits:

- SOCHER membership and membership in the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), with its full set of benefits.
- Access to all Congress sessions and academic activities.
- Lunches and coffee breaks during the Congress days.
- Opening dinner.
- Access to the social activities held as part of the Congress.
- Certificate of participation in the XVI SOCHER Congress 2026.

6. PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

Abstracts of accepted papers will be published in the digital proceedings of the Congress. Information on publication agreements with partner journals will be announced in due course.

Inquiries: socher2026@ucn.cl

Organized by: Universidad Católica del Norte – School of Business Sciences | SOCHER | RSAI