I attended the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Annual International Conference in London, between 27 to 30 August 2013. The Conference provided the setting for stimulating workshops, round-table discussions during which issues of spatial planning and development from all over the world was explored.

The conference theme in 2013 was ‘New geographical frontiers’. There was a set of underpinning questions which were discussed under the rubric of ‘new geographical frontiers’: Where are the frontiers in geographical theory and methods and what contributions and innovations is geography making to wider debates and practices? Where are we, collectively, making a contribution but, equally importantly, where should we be making a contribution? Therefore, I attended several sessions to follow the new discussion and research in the field.

I also had the opportunity to attend special sessions in my field delivered by Jennifer Robinson (UCL), Ed Hall (University of Dundee), Tuna Tasan-Kok (University of Delft) and Mike Raco (UCL).

I delivered my presentation on the 29th of August in the ‘Olympic Legacies and Sustainable Urban Development (1): Theoretical Debates’ special session organised by UEL. The session aimed to combine a mix of theoretical as well as empirical reflections on the concept of “legacy”, with a special focus on the idea of “planning legacies” and the reality of urban regeneration in the aftermath of the mega-event.

My paper was titled as ‘Sustainable Event-led Regeneration: Governance of London 2012 Olympics’. My presentation was followed by a constructive discussion and
questions, which helped me to dig beneath some other issues in my research. I had
the opportunity to meet several researchers from all over the world during the
conference and developed good networks.

Ozlem Edizel presenting at RGS 2013

A scene from RGS 2013