

Minutes

ONLINE RSAI COUNCIL MEETING
RSAI Council Meeting – Jul. 21, 2020, Tuesday, 4 pm-6 pm CET, Zoom

1. Apologies

Mark Partridge welcomes Council, members ex-officio members and invited members. The following RSAI Council members, ex officio members, LRPC members, and invitees join the meeting:

- Mark Partridge (RSAI President)
- Francisco Carballo-Cruz (ERSA Representative);
- Roberta Capello (EiC PIRS)
- Kingsley Haynes (LRPC member)
- Tomaz Dentinho (RSPP EiC)
- Sandy Dall’Erba (NARSC Representative)
- André Torre (ERSA Representative and President)
- Peter Batey (LRPC and RSAI Archivist)
- Martijn Smit (RSAI Newsletter Editor)
- Maria Abreu (Councillor-At-Large)
- Carlos Azzoni (LARSCA representative)
- Eduardo Haddad (Incoming RSAI President)
- Lily Kiminami (PRSCO representative)
- Abdellatif Khattabi (AMSR President)
- Rachel Franklin (PRSCO Representative and President)
- Rosella Nicolini (Councillor-At-Large)
- Brian Kim (PRSCO Representative)
- Daniela Constantin (Councillor-At-Large)
- Jean-Claude Thill (Chair of the Restructuring Committee and Past President)
- Neil Reid (NARSC Executive Director and Representative)
- Amit Batabyal (Councillor-at-Large)
- Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald (LARSCA Representative and President)
- Eveline Van Leeuwen (ERSA representative)
- Patricio Aroca (LARSCA representative)
- Sumona Bandyopadhyay (Councillor-At-Large)
- Peter Sternberg (NARSC representative)
- Andrea Caragliu (RSAI Executive Director)

2. Approval of the minutes of the Pittsburgh meeting

Mark Partridge makes a clarification about what he meant with “RSAI journals are inexpensive”. Also, he suggests the Council drafts a template for future applications to nurturing talent initiatives.

The Council approves the minutes of the Pittsburgh meeting; Daniela Constantin abstains since she was not a member of the Council at the time of the meeting.

3. Report of the RSAI restructuring committee

Mark Partridge introduces Jean-Claude Thill (Chair of the Restructuring Committee) and Kingsley Haynes, representing the LRPC on the Council. He summarises the history of the formation of the Committee, in response of some issues about the management of the Association. He thanks the six

members of the Committee for their dedication and commitment, and adds that the Committee has been left to prepare free thinking about how to address the issues open in the Association. This hopefully should trigger an iterative process.

The composition of the Committee comprises experienced members of the Council with experience both at the supranational as well as at the RSAI level.

Jean-Claude Thill takes up and explains that he was approached by the Council to join this committee, where he entered without an agenda. People worked in this committee with different opinions and the final result conveys such diverse points of view.

Among the issues touched upon by the Council, the Committee dealt with the procedures leading to the selection of RSAI awards winners. Also, he explains that efficiency has been a top element in the agenda of the Committee.

Prof. Thill stresses that the results of the Committee's work do not only take into account the opinions of the six members, but also derive from the results of the survey carried out by the Committee itself. Among the main results, Prof. Thill adds that the RSAI must redefine and clarify its mission. This must be done taking into account the changing nature of the academic landscape. Lower financial resources available, also due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are available for attending international conferences.

The Committee also dealt with the role of the RSAI President. In this sense, the procedure that sees a rotation of Presidents every two years could not stand the growing number of Supranationals now. Switching to a one-year President, though, will likely require also a change in the nature of the role of the President.

The weight of some of these duties should move to an Executive Director, that in the direction of maximizing the efficiency in the use of resources could be shared across different Supranationals. The exact list of duties of this new position should of course be discussed at a later stage.

An additional suggestion by the Restructuring Committee is to enhance the role of dedicated committees, dealing with Honors/Awards, a Diversity/Inclusion committee (dealing with gender, age, geographical origin, disciplinary origin), and Young Scholars committees.

A further result of the Committee's work is to renew the branding of the Association. Moreover, he adds that World Congresses could have reached a state in which their costs outweigh their benefits. Another point to be discussed is related to the Nurturing Talent Programme, for which it is important to clarify selection criteria.

A strategic consideration should also be paid to the Prizes Awarded by the Association. Wide discussion, engagement, and inclusion should be the principle guiding these decisions. Another principle should be to devote enough time to Council meetings so that fruitful discussions can be made.

Mark Partridge asks to clarify the role of the Publications Committee. The Committee seems to have suggested that it will deal with the Editorial Policies. Jean-Claude Thill clarifies this is not the case. Its role would instead be providing strategic guidelines for the publications of the Associations (e.g. for what concerns the RSAI's feelings about Open Access publishing).

Rachel Franklin stresses that journals in general tend to have policies for issues such as gender diversity. Jean-Claude Thill adds that this could be done by the dedicated committee.

Mark Partridge leaves the floor to Kingsley Haynes, to summarise the position of the LRPC.

Prof. Haines thanks the Committee for their valuable work. He adds that the White Paper has a lot of interesting information, that needs to be sorted out. He adds two baskets should be created:

- Some issues could be assigned to outstanding Council committees;

- Other, longer term matters, should be dealt with more strategically.

In the LRPC, the link between these two types of issues was deemed not entirely clear.

The LRPC stressed that Supranationals should be involved in any decision dealing with strategic and institutional changes. In the meeting chat, Prof. Thill stresses that he does not entirely agree with the positions expressed by the LRPC.

Kingsley Haynes also calls Roberta Capello and Peter Batey to add if needed additional details on the LRPC's reaction. Peter Batey adds he agrees there is a lot of good work done by the Restructuring Committee. He also adds some strategic thinking should be carried out. For instance, Executive Directors of various associations could be interviewed to understand what works, and what doesn't, in the Association.

Mark Partridge clarifies that, unlike what perceived by the LRPC, the White Paper presented by the Committee was not to be considered as a final document.

Roberta Capello adds that the LRPC was impressed by the work done by the Restructuring Committee. She stresses that some of the changes suggested by the White paper do not need institutional change. What the LRPC felt, though, was that many structural changes suggested (e.g. the new roles for the President and Executive Director) would need much thinking and not chosen so suddenly.

Moreover, some aspects related to efficiency of the Association should be separated from those related to institutional changes. Lastly, the LRPC felt that the survey carried out by the Restructuring Committee was not statistically representative of the membership of the Association.

André Torre points out that the nature of the Restructuring Committee was really to carry out a free thinking exercise on the needs for changing the Association. Thus, future discussions will have to be carried out.

Tomaz Dentinho stresses he does not agree with diminishing the role and responsibilities of the President. Also, he adds that the World Congress should not be canceled, perhaps changed to reply to the future challenges. Moreover, Councillors at Large are not elected with even conditions. Lastly, centralization of positions should be handled carefully.

Rosella suggests to speed up the discussion. She adds that the White Paper and the outcome of the LRPC's discussion are quite complimentary. Before moving on, she highlights it is important to first discuss what the aim of the Association is: that should be the top priority. Also, she adds that decentralization could work, although taking off responsibilities from the President may not be enough; instead, some more structural change could be needed. If so, coordination of various committees should be also crucial. This is what the Restructuring Committee should be focusing on, along with more coordination.

André Torre highlights that the White Paper distinguishes short term from long term ones. Mark Partridge stresses that the survey seems to have been carried out appropriately. Maria Abreu welcomes the results of the White Paper. She agrees with Rosella Nicolini that the goal of the association should be clarified, in particular for what concerns the relations between the RAI and supranationals and national sections.

Mark Partridge welcomes the proposals of the White Paper related to the Honors Committee taking charge of the awards. Also, he highlights how crucial many of the Committees proposed by the White Paper are.

Francisco Carballo-Cruz agrees with Kingsley Haynes that the White Paper seems like a first draft dealing with the likely changes that the RAI will likely go through over the next few years.

At 5.30 p.m. Carlos Azzoni leaves the virtual room.

Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald adds different levels of the Association should also be looked at, i.e. also inspecting the relations between the RSAI and supranationals and national sections, perhaps interviewing individuals who left the Association, those who participated in conferences without being members, etc.

Rachel Franklin suggests quicker decisions are made. Mark Partridge agrees and proposes the Restructuring Committee works on a more refined draft, to be discussed more extensively at the next Council meeting, to be held around the ERSA online Council.

Rachel Franklin asks to clarify that the decision lies on the shoulders of the Council, and the LRPC can be consulted, but has no direct power.

Roberta Capello adds that she believes that the mission of the RSAI seems not to be defined in the works of the Restructuring Committee. From the White Paper she stresses she feels an utterly different role for the Association is being proposed.

Patricio Aroca leaves the virtual room.

Roberta Capello further highlights that any proposed change should follow a strategic thinking about the mission of the RSAI.

Eveline Van Leeuwen agrees with Roberta Capello that the mission of the RSAI should be clarified before any change is proposed, also building on the suggestions and needs of the supranationals.

Mark Partridge suggests that the LRPC could be tasked to make an official statement on the goal of the Association. Eveline Van Leeuwen writes on the chat that this task should be taken up by the Council, while Peter Batey stresses that a crucial role should be played by the current RSAI President.

Amit Batabyal stresses that time is running; therefore, more time should be allocated for the next meeting to discuss such crucial matters. He praises the Committee's works, but thinks some proposals could be improved. For instance, he believes canceling the World Congress or merging it with Supranational congresses is not needed: if congresses are too many people will just not attend those.

Rachel Franklin highlights many respondents did not know what the difference between the RSAI and other organizations would be.

Andrea Caragliu highlights that the differences in time zones could make it hard to have longer meetings.

Mark Partridge suggests two Council members could join the LRPC; Tomaz Dentinho suggests that the two members could be the serving President and the Incoming President.

At 6 p.m. Sandy Dall'Erba leaves the meeting.

4. Proposal to organize World Congress in 2021 in Marrakech

Andrea Caragliu explains plans to organize the world congress in 2021 in Marrakech with the possibility for people to also attend from remote in case it is still not safe or allowed. The Council suggests not to have overlappings in terms of timing with other congresses such as those organized by supranationals.

Given the limited time available, at 6.10 p.m. Mark Partridge adjourns the Council and postpones the discussion of the remaining points.

Annex 1: RSAI Council Members

2020 RSAI Council Members

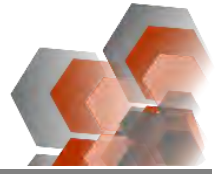
	Name	Member	Period	Email address
1	Mark Partridge	President	2019-2020	partridge.27@osu.edu
2	Rachel Franklin	PRSCO President	2019-2020	rachel.franklin@newcastle.ac.uk
3	Lily Kiminami	PRSCO Representative	2018-2020	kiminami@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp
4	Brian Kim	PRSCO Representative	2019-2021	briankim66@snu.ac.kr
5	Neil Reid	NARSC Executive Director	2018-2020	neil.reid@utoledo.edu
6	Peter Stenberg	NARSC Representative	2019-2021	nordacad13@gmail.com
7	Sandy Dall'Erba	NARSC Representative	2019-2021	dallerba@illinois.edu
8	Andre Torre	ERSA President	2019-2022	andre.torre@wanadoo.fr
9	Francisco Carballo Cruz	ERSA Representative	2020-2022	fcaballo@eeg.uminho.pt
10	Eveline Van Leeuwen	ERSA Representative	2020-2022	eveline.vanleeuwen@wur.nl
11	Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald	LARSA President	2018-2020	sesohi@hotmail.com
12	Patricio Aroca	LARSA Representative	2020-2022	patricio.aroca@uai.cl
13	Carlos Azzoni	LARSA Representative	2020-2022	cazzoni@usp.br
14	Amit Batabyal	Councillor at large	2018-2020	aabgsh@rit.edu
15	Sumana Bandyopadhyay	Councillor at large	2018-2020	sumona_bm@yahoo.com
16	Rosella Nicolini	Councillor at large	2018-2020	Rosella.nicolini@uab.cat
17	Maria Abreu	Councillor at large	2019-2021	ma405@cam.ac.uk
18	Daniela Luminita-Constantin	Councillor at large	2020-2022	dconstan@hotmail.com
19	Andrea Caragliu	Executive Director	2019-2021	andrea.caragliu@polimi.it
20	Eduardo Haddad	President Elect	2020-2022	ehaddad@usp.br

LRPC Members

1	Peter Nijkamp	President	1991 – 1992	pnijkamp@feweb.vu.nl
2	Lay J. Gibson	President	1993-1994	ljgibson@ag.arizona.edu
3	Kingsley E. Haynes	President	1995-1996	khaynes@gmu.edu
4	Peter W. J. Batey	President	1997-1998	pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk
5	H.Khono	President	1999-2000	
6	Geoffrey J.D.Hewings	President	2001-2002	hewings@uiuc.edu
7	Antoine Bailly	President	2003-2004	antoine.bailly@unige.ch
8	Robert J. Stimson	President	2005-2006	rstimson@unimelb.edu.au
9	Roberta Capello	President	2009-2010	roberta.capello@polimi.it
10	Yoshiro Higano	President	2011-2012	higano@jrsai.jp
11	Jean-Claude Thill	President	2013-2014	Jean-Claude.Thill@uncc.edu
12	Andres Rodriguez Pose	President	2015-2016	a.rodriguez-pose@lse.ac.uk
13	Budy Resosudarmo	President	2017-2018	budy.resosudarmo@anu.edu.au
14	Mark Partridge	President Elected	2017-2020	partridge.27@osu.edu

RSAI Ex-Officio Members

1	Roberta Capello	Editor in Chief of PIRS	roberta.capello@polimi.it
2	Tomaz Dentinho	Editor in Chief of RSPP	tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt
3	Peter W. J. Batey	Archivist	pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk
4	Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald	Treasurer	sesohi@hotmail.com
5	Martjin Smit	Newsletter Editor	M.J.Smit@uu.nl
6	Graham Clarke	Newsletter Editor	G.P.Clarke@leeds.ac.uk
7	Hiroyuki Shibusawa	PRSCO Executive Director	hiro-shibu@tut.jp
8	Francisco Carballo Cruz	Treasurer	fcaballo@eeg.uminho.pt
9	Elisabete Martins	Finance Director	Elisabete.martins@apdr.pt



Annex 1 - Apologies

As of Jul. 15, the ED received no apology from Council members.

Minutes

RSAI MEETING PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, 2019
RSAI Council Meeting – Nov. 15, 2019, Thursday, 12.30 pm-2.30 pm, room Parkview West

1. Apologies

Mark Partridge welcomes Council, members ex-officio members and invited members.

Council members attending the meeting include: Mark Partridge (RSAI President); Amit Batabyal (Councillor-at-large); Ralf Sternberg (NARSC representative); Neil Reid (NARSC ED and representative); Sandy Dell'Erba (NARSC representative); Andrea Caragliu (RSAI Executive Director) Jouke Van Dijk (ERSA Representative); André Torre (ERSA President and Representative); Laurie Schintler (Councillor-at-large); Tomaz Dentinho; Eduardo Haddad (Incoming President; Budy Resosudarmo (Immediate Past President); Rosella Nicolini (Councillor-at-large); Roberta Capello (PiRS EIC).

LRPC members include Jean-Claude Thill and Budy Resosudarmo

Invited members include Xiumin Li (RSAC Vice-President).

2. Approval of the minutes of the Lyon meeting

The Council unanimously approves the minutes of the Lyon meeting.

3. 2020 Budget

Andrea Caragliu explains the guidelines that led to the way the proposed budget have been drafted. Sandy Dell'Erba inquires about where 79,000 of expected costs for the World Congress originate. Andrea Caragliu provides a breakdown of such costs.

The Council approves the proposed budget unanimously.

In addition, Mark Partridge stresses that our journals are very inexpensive, and wonders whether this situation is financially sustainable.

Mark Partridge also says that the Chilean section will have troubles paying their fees because their main source of revenues has expired for the year being. The Council agrees to waive the dues of the Chilean section for the ongoing year.

4. Elections of Councillors-at-large

Andrea Caragliu reports on the results of the online ballot. On the basis of a broad participation by members, a large relative majority goes to Dr. Daniela Luminita Constantin (Romanian Section/ERSA). The Council welcomes Dr. Constantin on board.

5. Nurturing Talent initiatives

Mark Partridge explains the procedure for the selection of new proposals, and the composition of the committee; for 2019, this is made up of Mark Partridge (RSAI President), Eduardo Haddad (President Elect), André Torre (ERSA President and delegate), Neil Reid (NARSC Executive Director and Delegate), Serena Eréndira Errano-Oswald (LARSA President and Delegate), Rachel Franklin (PRSCO President and delegate), and Andrea Caragliu (Executive Director).

Andrea Caragliu explains that the Committee received eight (8) candidatures. It reviewed such candidatures received prior to the RSAI Council meeting and on the basis of the rules for the distribution of funds approved by the RSAI Council held in Goa, 2018, proposes the following allocation of funds:

Worskhop/Summer school	Supranational of reference	Dates	Amount requested	RSAI proposal
ERSA summer school Lausanne	ERSA	June 15-19, 2020	€ 5,000.00	€ 5,000.00
PRSCO summer institute Vietnam	PRSCO	July 29-31, 2020	€ 6,000.00	€ 3,000.00
Acores institute on oceans	ERSA	July 1-4, 2020	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,000.00
Data science, machine learning and BigData (Morocco)	ERSA	June 1-2, 2020	€ 3,800.00	€ 3,000.00
Iasi workshop for young researchers	ERSA	May 13-15, 2019	€ 5,000.00	€ 3,000.00
VU-Indonesia workshop on transportation economics	PRSCO	Jan. 13-Feb.7, 2020	€ 5,571.00	€ 4,500.00
India workshop "Resilience Studies in Regional Science"	PRSCO	TBD	€ 7,800.00	€ 2,500.00
<i>Thailand workshop Spatial Agent-Based Modeling</i>	<i>PRSCO</i>	<i>June/July 2020</i>	<i>€ 5,500.00</i>	<i>€ 3,000.00</i>
<i>?</i>	<i>NARSC</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>€ 1,860.00</i>

André Torre appreciates the process on behalf of ERSA. He also adds that the Vietnamese proposal could be complemented by a more detailed description of the proposed activities, but that he also expects PRSCO to support the organization of this event.

Mark Partridge elicits candidatures from China.

Jouke Van Dijk also agrees that the process went smoother with respect to previous years. He also adds that criteria should be set – are these Nurturing Talent initiatives meant to support keynote speeches or rather young scholars? Should they be separate from conferences held or back-to-back to them?

Mark Partridge replies a format for proposals should be uploaded online. He would also have a policy to decide in favor or against repeated applications. Jouke Van Dijk adds that criteria are important also for people submitting a proposal.

Roberta Capello adds that if money is made available, these issues will not represent a problem; if instead two or more competing proposals are presented, then preference should be directed towards new initiatives. Amit Batabyal adds that the Committee should decide on the basis of the pure quality of the proposal.

Budy Resosudarmo adds that RSAI should concentrate on the goal of the activities. Amit Batabyal adds that a format would definitely help on this respect. André Torre adds that RSAI should also choose whether to fund independent initiatives or instead prefer those backed up by congress organizers. Andrea Caragliu explains the complications that this procedure bears especially for institutions located in developing countries.

Eduardo Haddad says that the RSAI should show some flexibility, especially in the experience of developing countries. Jouke Van Dijk adds that summer schools are typically longer than a single day. Mark Partridge suggests to select whether we want to subsidize congresses or not, indirectly.

After this fruitful discussion, the RSAI Council unanimously approves the proposed allocation of funds.

6. Status of the World Congress

Mark Partridge explains that to date 116 submissions have been received and that the deadline for early submissions has been moved to Jan. 21, 2020. Prof. Li reports that Paul Snow guarantees participation from Chinese scholars. Tomaz Dentinho proposes to open the call for applications. Mark Partridge replies that the LRPC suggests to hold the voting in Bolzano, during the 2020 RSAI Council to be held at the ERSA Congress. Sandy Dall'Erba asks whether the RSAI considers whether to merge the World Congress with a Supranational event.

Budy Resosudarmo proposes to add a schedule letting people know when things are going to be done.

7. Strategic planning

Mark Partridge explains that in Sao Paolo in 2008 the Council, in response to the challenge by the Regional Studies Association, set up a committee to see how to restructure the RSAI itself. He proposes to set up a strategic planning meeting in a process, dealing with the challenges and opportunities, like the growth in numbers; the growth in supnationals (soon to be 5); having a professional staff doing everyday chores. The supraregional associations' relations with the RSAI are also unclear. Relations are often bilateral. The RSAI also deals with competition from the competing learnt societies, and wonders how to tackle that challenge in the future.

Mark Partridge also suggests to involve the supnationals in this process. Representatives could be selected among one representative from each supranational (plus one from the emerging Continental Asia suprasection), plus a member of the LRPC (to this goal, he proposes Jean-Claude Thill). Various meetings could be held, the first in PRSCO/Hawaai congress due March 2020. Qualified majorities will be required (e.g. 2/3) for any item on a report to be ideally delivered at the forthcoming NARSC Congress in San Diego, Nov. 2020.

Sandy Dell'Erba says that if we want to move to a professional help we should think of how much costs this would bear, for which a possible solution could be to share the costs of professional consultants already hired by other Associations (he makes the example of the American Planners Association). Another point is related to communication. A suggestion could be to put up minutes online.

André Torre adds that many items should be discussed related to the RSAI-Supnationals relations. Roberta Capello says it is good to think of where we are now. Still, we have to clarify what we want out of this costly exercise. In 2008, she reports she was involved in a similar exercise with Roger Stough and Peter Batey. The committee had a specific mandate, i.e. to deal with competition from other learnt societies. The committee was asked to jot down a white paper on that specific issue. She adds that

with such a broad mandate there would be too much material to be revised. She claims things are connected.

Jouke Van Dijk strengthens Mark Partridge's position: the main goal of this committee should be to define what the aim of the RSAI is. Then the strategy to reach the goal would come as a consequence, and, lastly, the way to finance such goal should also be discussed.

Mark Partridge replies that this must be a rather practical procedure. Rosella Nicolini agrees that the foundations of the Association should be scrutinized. Only then we would need a second step. In fact, if we go for a decentralized institutional setting, this means a higher coordination effort would be needed.

Amit Batabyal adds that the costs of professionalization would be substantial, as also suggested by his experience with other professional associations. Budy Resosudarmo talks on behalf of PRSCO saying that PRSCO is changing substantially, also through its splitting. The transition, also with a forthcoming new Executive Director, would be smoother if RSAI were a stable organization. Because of the state they are in, no proposal would come from PRSCO, arguably.

Tomaz Dentinho fears that if the RSAI opts for a different structure, people from developing Countries may find it hard to join. Mark Partridge replies that the committee would first have to agree on a joint proposal, to be discussed by the LRPC, the Council, and the Supranationals. Jouke Van Dijk adds that if we ask the Committee binary options, this may help. André Torre adds it is time to think together about the future of RSAI, especially in terms of governance. Will we elect the President on a rotation basis? Also, do we associate the World Congress with existing supranationals? Roberta Capello replies that this is too much to be discussed, but Mark Partridge says everything is interconnected and needs to be tackled simultaneously.

Roberta Capello adds the RSAI President should be attending these meetings, and she also wonders what role the LRPC would play in the light of this committee's activities. Mark Partridge replies that the Committee, appointed by the RSAI Council, will have to report to the RSAI Council in Morocco in 2020, at a meeting joint with the LRPC. He concludes he does not want to look like he has a conflict of interest. André Torre adds that this procedure should not be followed too quickly. One way out could be to have the Committee come up with a list of items to be discussed in Marrakech at the RSAI Council meeting to be held at the 2020 World Congress.

Mark Partridge summarizes that a Committee, possibly chaired by Jean-Claude Thill, will work towards presenting a set of themes that it would want to address. Jean-Claude Thill points out that priorities among them should be suggested. This body could not suggest to add fundamental changes to the Constitution, that changes only with the vote of the members. Sandy Dall'Erba adds that deadlines should be set for making the Committee work on a timely basis.

The Council unanimously agrees on the summary proposed and on setting up the Committee.

8. Replacement of Eduardo Haddad as Editor of PiRS

Roberta Capello explains that Eduardo Haddad stepped down as PiRS editor because of his incoming position as RSAI Vice-President. She asked Julie Le Gallo to cover the same themes and if the Council agrees she is ready to take up the job. The Council unanimously approves the new Editorial Board for PiRS.

9. Awards

❖ Kohno Award (Budy Resosudarmo)

Budy Resosudarmo reports the Council that there is no candidature for the present year, and he adds that candidatures are welcome.

❖ Jean Paelinck Award (Roberta Capello)

Roberta Capello reports about the process that will lead by the Fall term to the selection of the awardee of this prestigious biannual award.

❖ RSAI dissertation competition (Laurie Schintler)

Laurie Schintler reports that less applications (5) were received w.r.t. previous years. She will report to the Council about the outcome of the selection process as soon as it is done.

❖ Stan Czamanski award (Laurie Schintler)

Laurie Schintler reports that one application only was received, but that the one received was qualitatively good. She also suggests to move the deadline to the same deadline as the dissertation award. Also, some misperceptions seem to exist about the award, which is not about the man per se. Neil Reid adds that the funds committed for the award are running out. Sandy Dall'Erba suggests to maintain the award without any money involved. Laurie Schintler also suggests to merge the two committees.

10. Diversity in RSAI: collecting data on gender and age

Andrea Caragliu explains that these data will be collected by the RSAI, ensuring full privacy of the members, upon registering new members each year.

11. Amendment of RSAI By-Law 6: deadline for the RSAI Treasurer

Andrea Caragliu proposes to review the by-law 6 discussing the duties of the RSAI Treasurer. This is the only position that still has no deadline. He proposes to set it to three years as the ED, for guaranteeing transparency and accountability. The Council unanimously agrees.

12. Proposal of restructuring of the RSPP Editorial Board

Tomaz Dentinho (RSPP EIC) explains he wants the editors to be extended by six with more people on board, leveraging on special issues, keeping an eye to the fact that Wiley does not impose a limit to the number of issues per year. Tomaz Dentinho reports RSPP is still missing Asia coverage. The Council votes unanimously in favor of the new team.

13. RSAI Application for the UN-Habitat program in Ethiopia

Tomaz Dentinho explains the Council about this possible opportunity for joining initiatives in Africa, where the coverage of RSAI local sections is very limited. The Council approves.

14. Abolition of RSPP best referee award

Tomaz Dentinho proposes to abolish the award because it did not serve well the purpose of eliciting the referees' work. The Council unanimously agrees on dropping the award.

15. Request of RSAI sponsorship for the International Congress Rhegion UN 2020-2030

The RSAI Council endorses (non-financial) support to this initiative.

16. Report of the RSAI Archivist

Mark Partridge explains Peter Batey's proposal. The Council unanimously approves.

17. Proposal for the RSPP Special Issue Award

Tomaz Dentinho explains

18. AOB

None to be reported.

19. Next meeting

Andrea Caragliu tells the Council that the 2020 RSAI Council meetings will be held in:

- ❖ Marrakech, World Congress (June 2-5, 2020)
- ❖ Bolzano, ERSA Congress (Aug. 25-28, 2020)
- ❖ San Diego, NARSC Congress (Nov. 11-14, 2020)

At 2.42 Mark Partridge adjourns the Council.

Annex 1: RSAI Council Members

2019 RSAI Council Members

	Name	Member	Period	
1	Mark Partridge	President	2019-2020	partridge.27@osu.edu
2	Eduardo Haddad	Elected and Vice	2019-2022	ehaddad@usp.br
3	Rachel Franklin	PRSCO President	2019-2020	rachel.franklin@newcastle.ac.uk
4	Lily Kiminami	PRSCO Representative	2018-2020	kiminami@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp
5	Brian Kim	PRSCO Representative	2019-2021	briankim66@snu.ac.kr
6	Neil Reid	NARSC Executive Director	2018-2020	neil.reid@utoledo.edu
7	Peter Stenberg	NARSC Representative	2019-2021	nordacad13@gmail.com
8	Sandy Dall'Erba	NARSC Representative	2019-2021	dallerba@illinois.edu
9	Andre Torre	ERSA President	2019-2022	andre.torre@wanadoo.fr
10	Francisco Carballo Cruz	ERSA Representative	2017-2019	fcaballo@eeg.uminho.pt
11	Jouke Van Dijk	ERSA Representative	2019	jouke.van.dijk@rug.nl
12	Serena Erendira Serrano	LARSA President and RSAI Treasurer	2018-2020	sesohi@hotmail.com
13	Jaime Bonet	LARSA Representative	2017-2019	jbonetmo@banrep.gov.co
14	Eduardo Haddad	LARSA Representative	2017-2019	ehaddad@usp.br
15	Amit Batabyal	Councillor at large	2018-2020	aabgsh@rit.edu
16	Sumana Bandyopadhyay	Councillor at large	2018-2020	sumona_bm@yahoo.com
17	Rosella Nicolini	Councillor at large	2018-2020	Rosella.nicolini@uab.cat
18	Maria Abreu	Councillor at large	2019-2021	ma405@cam.ac.uk
19	Laurie Schintler	Councillor at large	2017-2019	lschintl@gmu.edu
20	Andrea Caragliu	Executive Director	2019-2021	andrea.caragliu@polimi.it

LRPC Members

1	Peter Nijkamp	President	1991 – 1992	pnijkamp@feweb.vu.nl
2	Lay J. Gibson	President	1993-1994	ljgibson@ag.arizona.edu
3	Kingsley E. Haynes	President	1995-1996	khaynes@gmu.edu
4	Peter W. J. Batey	President	1997-1998	pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk
5	H.Khono	President	1999-2000	
6	Geoffrey J.D.Hewings	President	2001-2002	hewings@uiuc.edu
7	Antoine Bailly	President	2003-2004	antoine.bailly@unige.ch
8	Robert J. Stimson	President	2005-2006	rstimson@unimelb.edu.au
9	Roberta Capello	President	2009-2010	roberta.capello@polimi.it
10	Yoshiro Higano	President	2011-2012	higano@jsrsai.jp
11	Jean-Claude Thill	President	2013-2014	Jean-Claude.Thill@uncc.edu
12	Andres Rodriguez Pose	President	2015-2016	a.rodriguez-pose@lse.ac.uk
13	Budy Resosudarmo	President	2017-2018	budy.resosudarmo@anu.edu.au
14	Mark Partridge	President Elected	2017-2020	partridge.27@osu.edu

RSAI Ex-Officio Members

1	Roberta Capello	Editor in Chief of PIRS	roberta.capello@polimi.it
2	Tomaz Dentinho	Editor in Chief of RSPP	tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt
3	Peter W. J. Batey	Archivist	pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk
4	Martjin Smit	Newsletter Editor	M.J.Smit@uu.nl
5	Graham Clarke	Newsletter Editor	G.P.Clarke@leeds.ac.uk
6	Hiroyuki Shibusawa	PRSCO Executive Director	hiro-shibu@tut.jp
7	Francisco Carballo Cruz	Treasurer	fcaballo@eeg.uminho.pt
8	Elisabete Martins	Finance Director	Elisabete.martins@apdr.pt

Invited Members

1	Xiumin Li	RSAC Vice-President	lixm@nenu.edu.cn
---	-----------	---------------------	--

Draft White Paper
RSAI Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee

Date: July 5, 2020

Members:

Sumana Chatterjee

Rachel Franklin

Neil Reid

Serena Serrano

Jean-Claude Thill, Chair

Andre Torre

In proposing the revisions in how RSAI operates that are presented in this document, the views of the ad hoc restructuring committee have been led by academic excellence, transparency, respect for diversity and inclusion, and democracy and greater participation of members. They have also been informed by a survey of members of RSAI and of individuals with intellectual interests in regional science. About 250 responses have been received. This anonymous survey took the form of a SWOT analysis. These responses have helped us sharpen our recommendations.

Committee is aware that the recommendations presented in this document will require revisions of the by-laws and of the constitution.

On a number of issues and concerns that were discussed during the committee's virtual meetings, conclusion was reached that no action was necessary and therefore no recommendation is presented here.

A summary of the key points of the White Paper is presented in the table below.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Building Bridges Program Executive Director	President of a changed RSAI Branding Council meetings Honors, awards and recognitions World Congress
Opportunities	Threats
Mission statement Operational objectives Standing and operating committees	Changing landscape of scholarship and learned activities

DRAFT

1. RSAI needs a clear **mission statement**, expressed in terms of what the domain of scholarship we engage in is and that sets us apart from other learned societies, and what contribution we see it have on meeting the aspirations of human societies (broader value to society).

2. **Operational objectives** are needed to articulate the strategy followed by the association to live by its mission statement. These objectives must take stock of the fact that sections and supra-regional organizations have close contacts with scholars and are valued as such, while RSAI is rather distant. Our multilayered institutions are broadly recognized as a strength, which imperatively has to be preserved. In the complex organizational chart of our institutions, RSAI should be reaffirmed in its role of facilitator of the work of sections and supra-regional organizations.

3. Within the context of its mission, and given **changing landscape of scholarship and learned activities** (work performance standards, constrained travel budgets, pace of innovation, new communication platforms, and so on), RSAI must encourage sections and supra-regional organizations to adopt novel ways to maintain the exchange of cutting edge knowledge and practices in their respective communities, and leverage the geographic and disciplinary breadth of our international community through joint events.

4. **President of a changed RSAI.** Committee members hold the view that the global structure of RSAI with 4 supra-regional organizations (and maybe more in the future) is not compatible with the current definition of the position of President. We propose the following:

- keep the rotation of the presidency between the supra-regions.
- change the term of the president to 1 year.
- reduce the responsibilities of the president to be more in line with an honorific position rather than the role of a working president. This will include presiding over council meetings, representing the association internally and externally, and giving a keynote address at one of the international conferences on a rotating basis.
- immediate past, present, and immediate incoming president should be councilors.

5. The **Executive Director** provides continuity in the operations of the association. Given the mission and operational objectives envisioned for RSAI, the committee does not foresee the need for a full-time executive director. The Executive Director will remain a part-time position. Given the redefinition of the responsibilities of the President, efficient and effective governance with several standing committees will be an essential complement to the Executive Director, if the Executive Director is to remain a volunteer position. Alternatively, the committee believes that a possible scenario may be to have the executive functions of RSAI and of the supra-regional organizations fulfilled by a single person. This shared staff person would serve multiple organizations as Executive Director of each one and be jointly funded. Greater effectiveness and greater efficiency would result across RSAI and supra-regional organizations.

ED will become responsible for some of the responsibilities currently held by the president (exact list to be determined).

6. Organizationally, it is the view of the committee that the governance of the association must be more decentralized to make it more democratic and convey that RSAI belongs to its members. To this end, we propose a broader structure resting on several **standing and operating committees** as follows. Each committee will have a mission and operational objectives set by Council. It is envisioned that all committees include members directly elected by RSAI members and RSAI Councilors (LRPC also includes past, present and future presidents). Membership is staggered and limited to a single consecutive 3-year term.

Publications Committee. This committee needs to have clear charges encompassing (1) the oversight of the financial and operational aspects of the publications of the association journals; (2) supervision of the performance of the editorial teams; (3) establishment of guidelines for the compositions of editorial boards; (4) advice to editorial teams on short and mid-term management and organization matters; (5) maintenance of a strategic vision on publication in regional science with 5- and 10-year horizons.

Honors Committee. The main responsibilities of this committee are to ensure the various awards and recognitions of the association are suitably conducted, following the guidelines approved by Council. The Honors Committee will also be responsible for proposing updates to the narrative on awards and recognitions narrative, including the selection process specific to each one.

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be the custodian of the principles of diversity and inclusiveness of the association. Diversity encompasses various aspects, including gender and sexual orientation, age, ethnic and geographic origin, disciplinary training. This committee will propose a diversity and inclusiveness statement for the association in all its official activities. It will also propose operating principles and guidelines for the conduct of business meetings, communication among leadership and between leadership and members, and the composition of official bodies of the association (committees, editorial boards, etc.) that are respectful of RSAI's pledge on diversity and inclusion. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will also review all official writing of the association to ascertain compliance with established diversity and inclusion principles.

Young Scholars Committee. The future of regional science, of RSAI and of its affiliated organizations rests on nurturing new talent. This committee will be tasked to formulate specific policies and programs aimed at young scholars, and undergraduate and graduate students. It will work closely with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Example of activities could include mentoring programs, summer schools, scientific writing training sessions, etc. In many instances, this Committee's work will consist in facilitating the work of the supra-nationals and sections.

Communications Committee. This committee will coordinate the internal communication strategy of the association and supervise the internal communication activities of the association. This will include communication from leadership with members, between members, and between RSAI and its supra-regional organizations and sections.

Public Relations Committee. This committee will coordinate the external communication and branding strategy of the association, supervise the external communication activities of the association. This will include communication with other learned associations, and with stakeholders and agencies across society. Communications and Public Relations Committee will work closely together, and could be a single committee.

Long-Range Planning Committee. Its responsibilities will be specifically focused on long-range strategic matters and would be expected to meet no more than once a year, or upon request from Council and/or the President. The LRPC must be forward looking with a 5- to 10-year horizons. We propose this committee be formed on the past 4 presidents, the current ED, and 3 members of RSAI (who may or not be Councilors).

7. **Branding.** Regional Science and the activities of RSAI and its affiliated organizations are sometimes perceived as outdated, reflecting old school thinking. RSAI will work to refine how regional science is portrayed and proactively work to create a “broad tent” of scholars and practitioners along the line of the association’s mission statement by tapping into communities of scholars who can synergistically interact with other communities of regional scientists, by co-organizing conferences and symposia (including specialized symposia at the existing international conferences organized by supra-regional organizations), by inviting keynote speakers from allied disciplines, targeted research funding opportunities, etc.

8. **World Congress.** Committee members share the view that Congress has outlived its usefulness in its current form, given the large number of conferences regional science organizations and associations already have and the high cost of attendance in conferences. We propose to return to an event taking place every 4 years that is joint with one of the major meetings organized by supra-regional organizations. The lower frequency will build up the anticipation for such major event among members and non-member attendees. Carefully crafted MOUs will be necessary between RSAI and the supra-regional that is partnering in the organization of this event.

9. The **Building Bridges Program.** Transparency in the selection criteria must be increased and accountability in achieving the stated objectives must be upheld in the context of the mission of the association. Also, diversity (for instance, repeated awards should be discouraged) and broader intellectual impacts should be selection criteria. It should be clearly stated that support is targeted at new initiatives, even if these initiatives take place in a country or region where regional science has been well developed for some time. Proposals should be made available to Councilors at least two weeks before a formal vote takes place.

10. The narrative of all the **honors, awards and recognitions** of the association will be reviewed and updated to reflect today's standards of transparency, engagement, diversity and inclusion of the association. Optics is extremely important here as too often there is a perception of corruption of the process. This will apply to the processes followed to solicit nominations, processes and criteria to evaluate nominees, and publication of awards made. An important responsibility of the honors committee will be to be proactive in its communication with RSAI membership and leaders of sections and supra-regional organizations.

11. RSAI **Council meetings** need to be devoted to discussion of issues to be acted upon and not simply to a vote. For this purpose, Council meetings should be longer and scheduled at a time that does not conflict with sessions councilors would like or need to attend. A suggestion would be to hold Council business meetings the day before the official start of a conference, for a full day. A possible format would entail 4 hours for discussion, and another 4 hours for action items. Also, to ease the travel burden that such multiple business meetings may have on Councilors, they should be limited to 2 per calendar year at most, and make more extensive use of video conferencing to encourage broader participation. Some other large organizations operate this way. A major benefit is to enhance the conversation / dialogue among the leadership of the association, and deepen the sense that the association is governed by democratic principles. It may be highly beneficial to schedule a preparatory video conference ahead of each formal meeting of Council one to two weeks before Council business meeting).

The agenda of forthcoming Council Meetings should be published at least one month in advance of each scheduled meeting to allow time for Councilors to think through the issues and for better preparation for the meeting itself.

Editorial Report on 2019 Activities

Summary

In November 2019 at the NARSC meeting, Eduardo Haddad was elected incoming president of RSAI. For this reason, he left the PiRS' editorial team. The RSAI Council elected Julie Le Gallo. I would like to thank Eduardo for his excellent work and welcome Julie as a member of our team.

The positive trends encountered in 2019 continue. The positive aspects are the following:

1. The impact factor (IF) continued to increase. This year it went from **2.02 to 2.22**, despite the publication of the long backlog we had. This result should not be read as something given for granted. Two main competitors decreased. Regional Science and Urban Economics fell from 2.09 to 1.66. Spatial Economic Analysis fell from 1.9 to 1.6. Journal of Regional Science remains stable (2.08) and we are now above it.
2. The **number of cited documents grew from 110 to 142**, while non-cited ones dropped from 46 to 37.
3. According to Scimago, in 2019 **the total citations grew from 323 to 494**. PiRS keeps its position in the best quartile for what concerns both Environmental Science and Social Science (Geography, Planning and Development). In JCR, PiRS advances its position in the second quartile for Economics (position 96 -100 in 2018-, the last one in the first quartile is 93) and Geography.
4. **The total number of submissions has grown from 288 to 354**. The rejection rate is around 79%, which is a strong signal of the seriousness and selectivity of the Editors in choosing high-quality contributions.
5. **No backlog exists any longer.**

1. Editorial Team and Editorial Board

In November 2019 at the NARSC meeting, Eduardo Haddad was elected incoming president of RSAI. For this reason, he left the PiRS' editorial team. The RSAI Council elected Julie Le Gallo. I would like to thank Eduardo for his excellent work and welcome Julie as a member of our team.

I take the opportunity also to thank my team for its brilliant contribution to the journal, witnessed by the positive results achieved also this year.

2. Editorial statistics

2.1. Number of submissions and rejection rates

Table 1 presents the number of submissions and rejection rates, together with pending manuscripts, i.e. papers that are in the website system at different stages.

Table 1. Number of submissions and rejection rates

Cohort	Submissions	Acceptance rate	Rejection rate	Pending manuscripts
2008	108	0,23	0,77	
2009	178	0,34	0,66	
2010	163	0,33	0,67	
2011	182	0,28	0,72	
2012	197	0,32	0,68	
2013	221	0,21	0,79	
2014	231	0,22	0,78	
2015	224	0,24	0,76	
2016	222	0,21	0,79	
2017	265	0,24	0,76	
2018	288	0,21	0,79	1
2019	354	0,18	0,82	13

In 2019, **the number of submissions grew to 354**. The acceptance rate was in 2019 around 18%, but still some papers are in review (13). Figure 1 shows **the total number of submissions is driven by European scientists, even if declining in favour of the PRSCO and Americas area**.

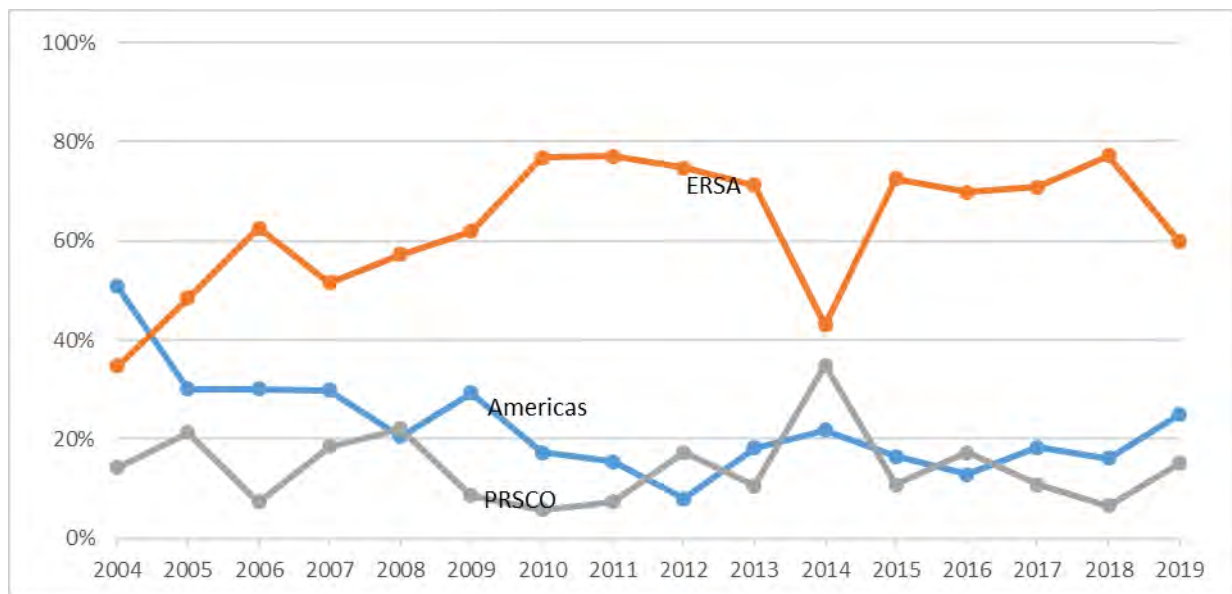


Fig. 1. Geographic distribution of authors in author pages (% per year and proportion), (% per year and proportion), Vol. 83–97, 2004–2018

2.2. Decision making process and reviewers

The **good performance in terms of a decision process continues** in all phases of the process to publication (Table 2). On average, the first decision takes place in less than one month and half, the second in a little bit more than 1 month.

Table 2. Manuscript processing in months
Table 2. Manuscript processing in months

Cohort	First decision	Second decision	Third decision	Final decision of acceptance to Early View	Final decision to publication in issue
2008	2,5	2,4	0,8	5,6	10,4
2009	3	2,6	1,5	2,9	8,8
2010	3,2	2,9	1,3	2,6	9
2011	3,1	2,5	2	1,9	11,4
2012	3	2,6	1,2	3,4	4,9
2013	1,8	2	0,8	3,1	12,4
2014	1,7	0,6	0,4	3,2	15,8
2015	2,1	2,3	1,1	2,9	21,5
2016	1,9	1,9	1,1	2,3	18,9
2017	1,8	2,1	1,1	3,2	18,0
2018	1,9	2,1	1,1	2,1	18,1
2019	1,4	1,7	0,8	1,5	9,8

The time between the final decision and publication in print has decreased, around 10 months, as an effect of the solution to the backlog.

The number of referees has remained stable too, as Table 3 reports. The geographical distribution of referees has registered an increase in the Americas and a decrease in Europe and PRSCO.

Table 3. Number of reviewers and proportion of reviewers by supra region

Year	Reviewers	ERSA	Americas	PRSCO
2008	230	56%	34%	10%
2009	325	62%	25%	13%
2010	332	61%	23%	15%
2011	337	59%	25%	15%
2012	354	62%	22%	16%
2013	399	61%	26%	13%
2014	325	62%	25%	13%
2015	369	61%	22%	17%
2016	318	62%	26%	12%
2017	375	60%	25%	15%
2018	368	49%	38%	13%
2018	468	47%	45%	8%

2.3. Authors by geographical areas and by disciplines

Figure 2 presents the geographical distribution of submissions. **The trends have remained those of the previous years.** European submissions are the highest, followed by PRSCO and then by the Americas. Interestingly enough, the increase in the total submissions are due to an increase in submission from Americas and PRSCO, while European submissions remain stable.

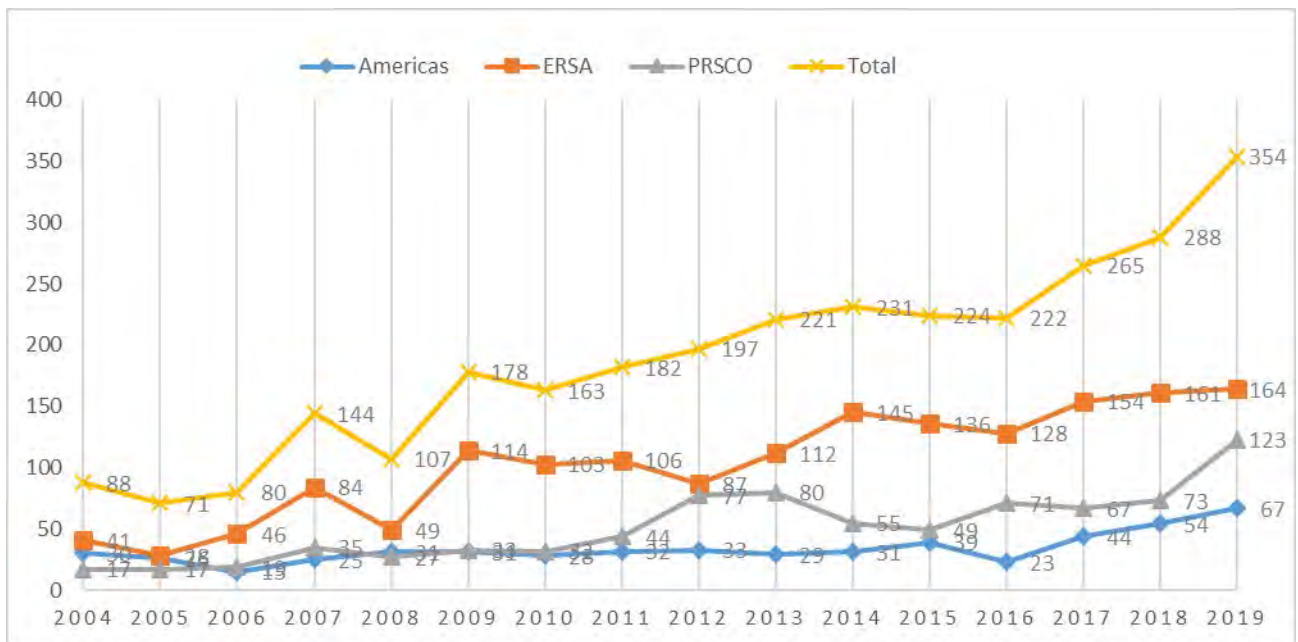


Fig. 2. Geographically detailed number of submissions, 2004–2019

Figure 3 reports the distribution of pages by discipline, where no particular new trends emerge.

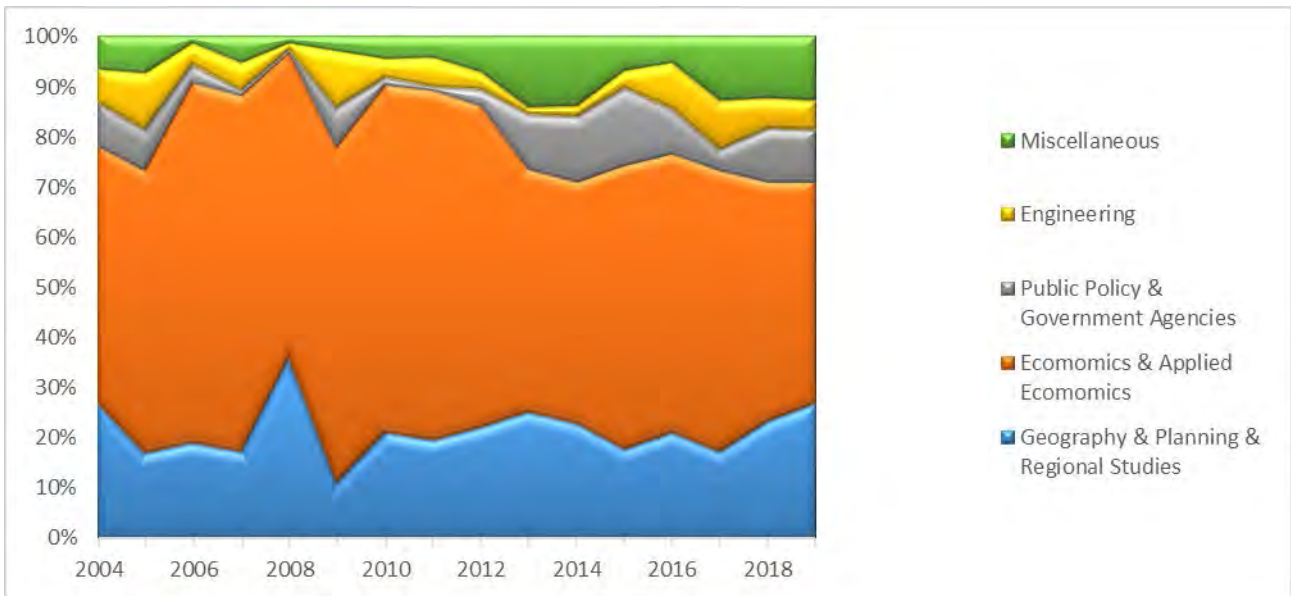
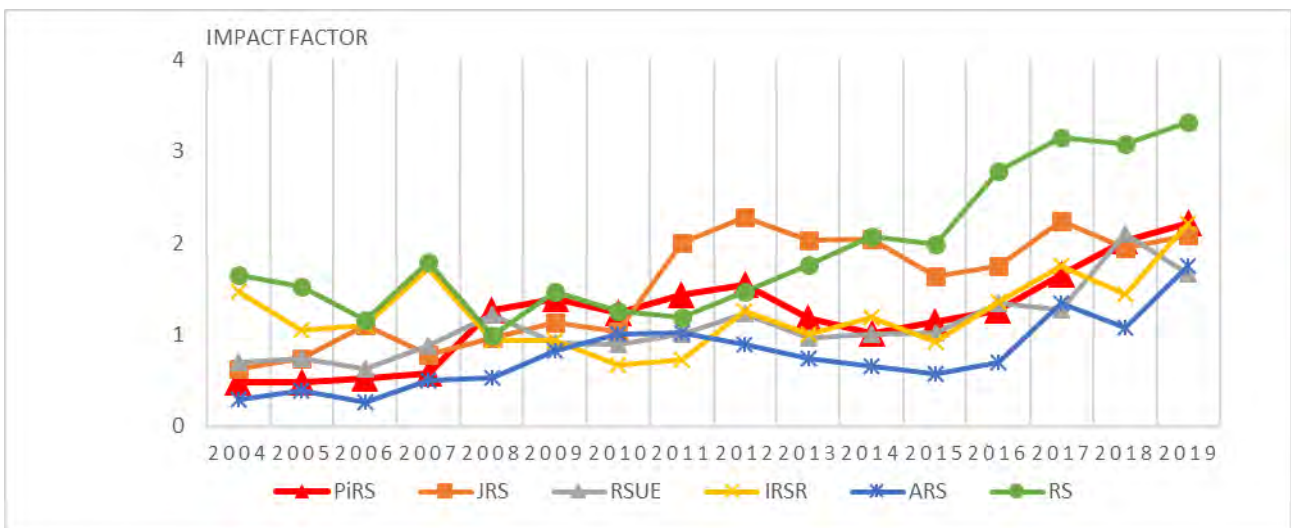


Fig. 3. Author pages by affiliation of the author(s), volume 83–96, 2004–2019

2.4. Impact Factor

The 2019 impact factor of PiRS has increased from 2.02 to 2.22, showing a decisive increase in the positive trend of the last few years. Interestingly enough, as Figure 4 shows, the highest competitors of PiRS have decreased their impact factor, with the exception of RSUE. The five-year impact factor is not available yet.

Figure 4. Impact factor from 2004 to 2019 for the most important regional science journals



In the figure, PiRS ranks second, after Regional Studies, and close to International Regional Science Review and Journal of Regional Science.

PiRS increased its position in Economics, and maintained its position in the other fields. In Economics it achieved 99/363 (Economics), compared to 100/353 in 2018.

The ambition of the editorial team is to achieve the best quartile in Economics (Q1) in the next years.

According to Scimago (30 June 2020), in 2019 the total citations grew from 323 to 494.

3. Editorial Policies

Given the good results, we continue with the editorial strategy put in place last year, namely:

- 1) a good and efficient management of the journal, which guarantees a good and attractive image for the journal;
- 2) the launch of special issues on strategic topics. We have in the pipeline an interesting special issue on the development of regional science from different national perspectives;
- 3) a selection of papers to be published based on the novelty of the themes treated, together with scientific rigor.

5. Concluding remarks

This report shows that the journal proceeds on a good trajectory like last year, signaling:

- an increasing interest of the international community, witnessed by the constant increase in submission;
- an increase in the IF; and,
- a better management of the journal.

As in each of the past years, I would like to end by thanking our Editorial manger, Elisabete Martins; we could not have someone more professional for this job.

Roberta Capello
Editor-in-chief Papers in Regional Science

also on behalf of the other members of the Editorial Team
Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen, David Folch, Julie Le Gallo, Rosella Nicolini, John Winters, and Andrea Caragliu

Milan, Italy
1 July 2020

Summary

This report refers to the activity of RSPP during 2019 and the first half of 2020. The number of papers increase from 44 in 2018 to 77 in 2019 and the number of citations from 31 in 2018 to 63 in 2019. In 2019 RSPP grew to six issues getting 29770 downloads. RSPP had key speakers in all the meetings of the supra-regional associations (ERSA - Lyon, NARSC - Pittsburgh, PRSCO - Bangkok) and some of the meetings of the sections (Morocco – Mogador; Spain - Valencia, India - Mumbai, China - Shanghai). The estimated impact factor is 0.8 in 2019. With the RSAI agreement with Wiley RSPP has no limitations in the number of published articles; the strategy until 2021 to keep the number of submissions around 70 for six issues per year while targeting an impact factor above one in 2021.

1 - Introduction

This report refers to 2019 but also details the evolution of the journal until June 2020. In Section 2, we analyze the journal metrics, in Section 3 we highlight the aims and actions of the editorial team and in Section 4 we conclude.

2 - Editorial statistics

2.1. Pages, Papers and Citations

The number of pages, articles and citations per year increased from 2017 - with 20 articles, 303 pages and 22 citations – to 2018 with 31 articles, 410 pages and 44 citations, and to 2019 with 77 articles, citations and 988 pages. In the end 2020, based on the submitted papers that are on the system in the end of June and the ones that are already published in four issues of 2020, we expect to reach 48 articles, 1330 pages and more than 100 citations.

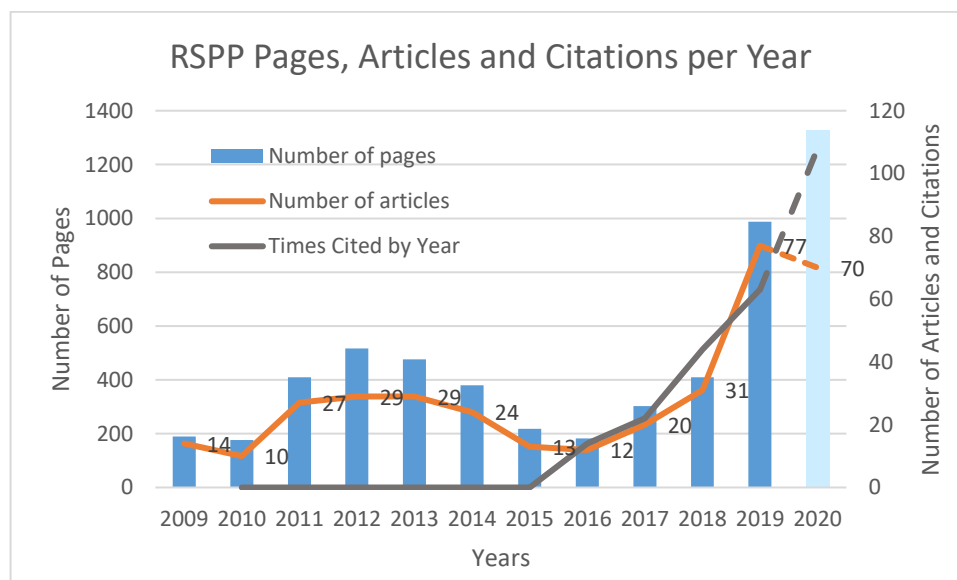


Figure 1: RSPP Pages, Articles and Citations per Year (RSPP Editorial Office)

The geographical distribution of the authors, counted by the number of pages, indicate a stabilization of the contributions from the Americas, compensated by an increase in papers coming from Europe and a reduction from other regions. Two Special Issues from Latin America will compensate the proportion from the Americas. Some effort is due in Africa and Asia to have a higher involvement from those parts of the world.

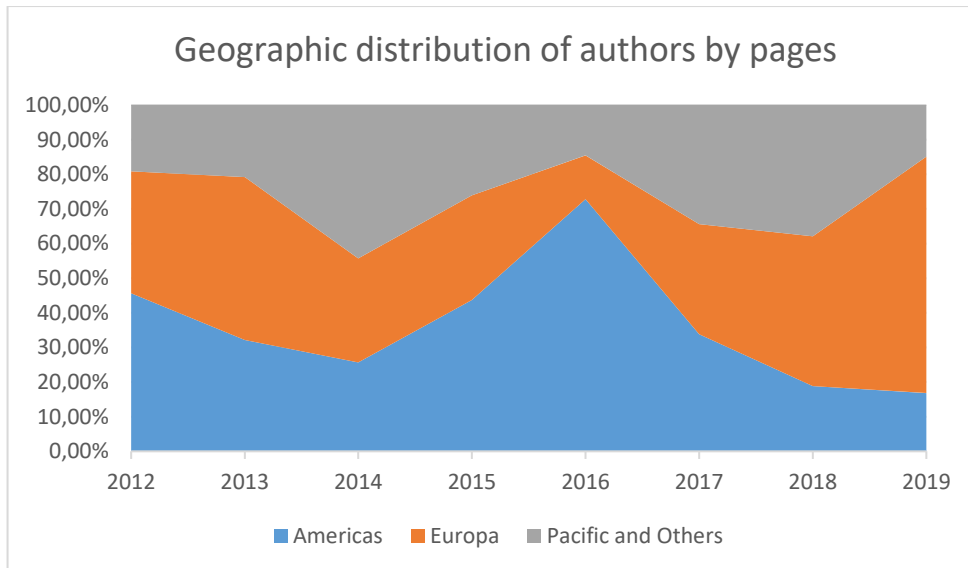


Figure2: Geographical distribution of authors by pages (RSPP Editorial Office)

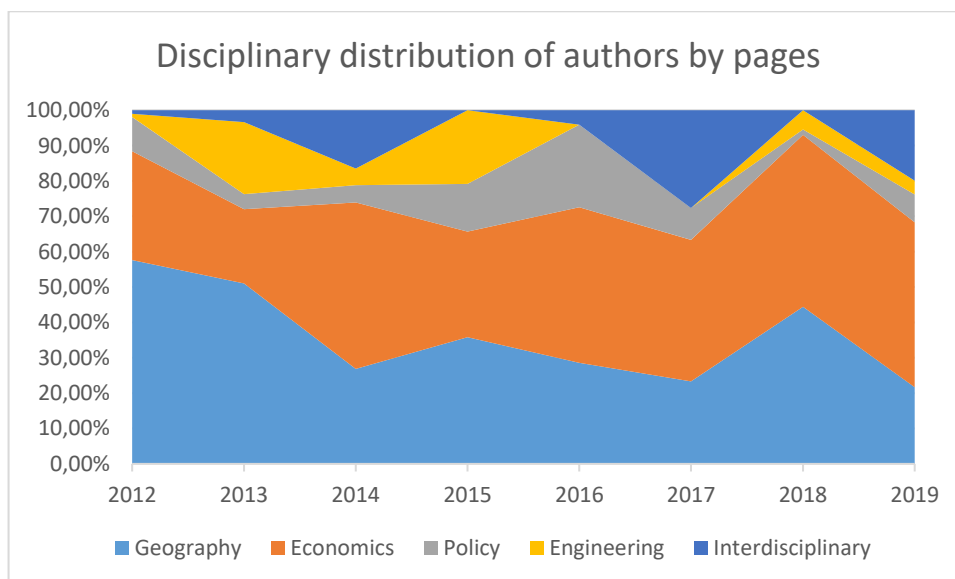


Figure 3: Disciplinary distribution of authors by pages (RSPP Editorial Office)

The disciplinary distribution of the authors' affiliation measured by the number of pages is mainly concentrated in economics and geography is giving space to interdisciplinary perspectives.

2.2. Decision making process and reviewers

The number of submissions increased from 2018 to 2019 and the rejection rate increased from 51% to 61% (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of submissions and rejection rates

Year	Submissions	Acceptance rate	Rejection rate	Pending
2012	24	0,50	0,50	0
2013	27	0,63	0,37	0
2014	21	0,52	0,48	0
2015	16	0,31	0,69	0
2016	17	0,65	0,35	0
2017	87	0,53	0,47	0
2018	90	0,49	0,51	0
2019	166	0,39	0,61	35

The number of reviewers increased from 2018 to 2019 associated with a more balanced distribution of reviewers between Europe and the Americas but a smaller weight from other regions in Asia and Africa.

Table 2. Number of reviewers and proportion of reviewers by supra region

Year	Reviewers	ERSA	Americas	Other
2012	34	0,41	0,35	0,24
2013	15	0,47	0,33	0,20
2014	22	0,36	0,36	0,28
2015	13	0,38	0,38	0,24
2016	9	0,33	0,67	0,00
2017	147	0,46	0,25	0,29
2018	197	0,59	0,21	0,20
2019	228	0,54	0,32	0,14

2.4. Performance Indicators

According to Google Scholar, citations on Regional Science Policy and Practice was 261 in 2017, 313 in 2018, 405 in 2019 and is expected to reach more than 465 in 2020. The Cite Score was 1.17 in 2016, 0.96 in 2017, 1.07 in 2018, 1.19 in 2019 and 0,9 in 2020. We think it will be above 1,0 next year.

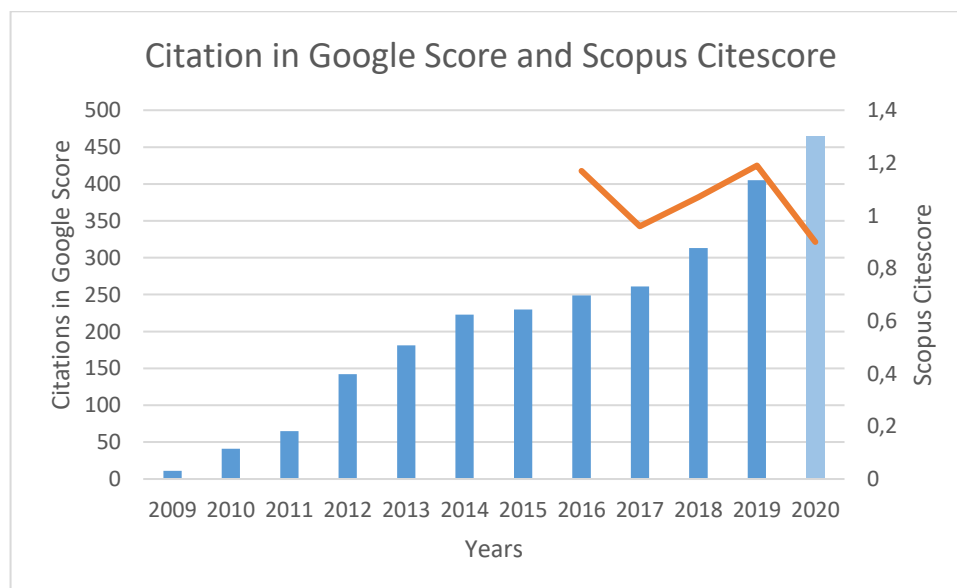


Figure 4: Google Scholar RSPC Citations and Scopus Cite Score (statistics from June 2020)

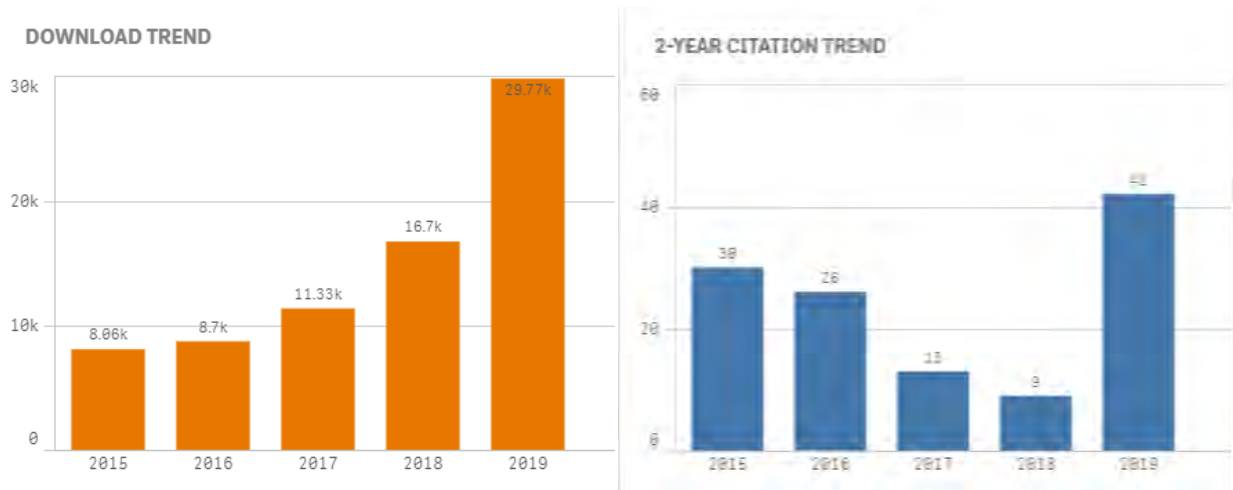


Figure 5: Downloads and Citations (Wiley, 2020)

Indicators collected by Wiley are also interesting (Figure 5). Downloads registered a steady increase since 2017 and, with a time lag of two years citations also begin to grow in 2019.

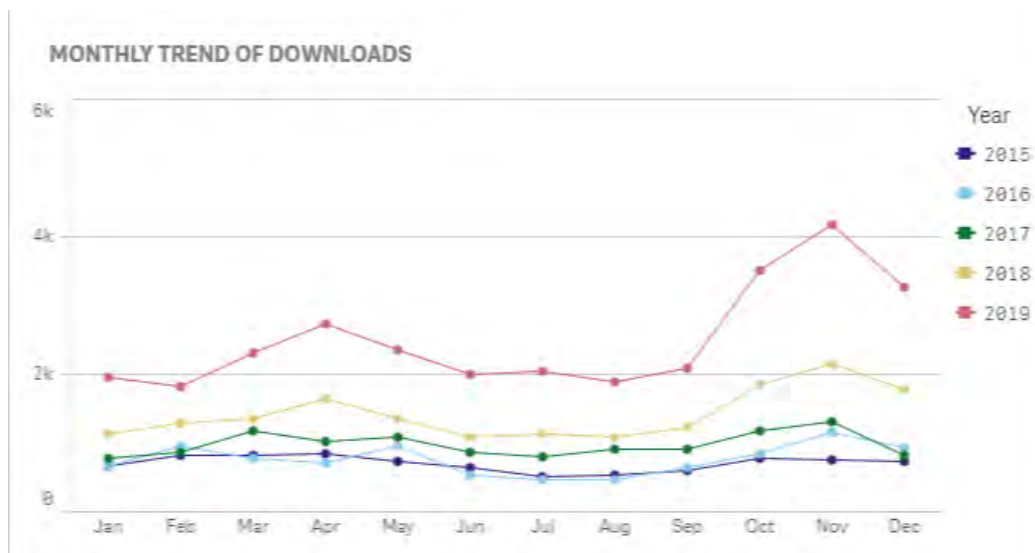
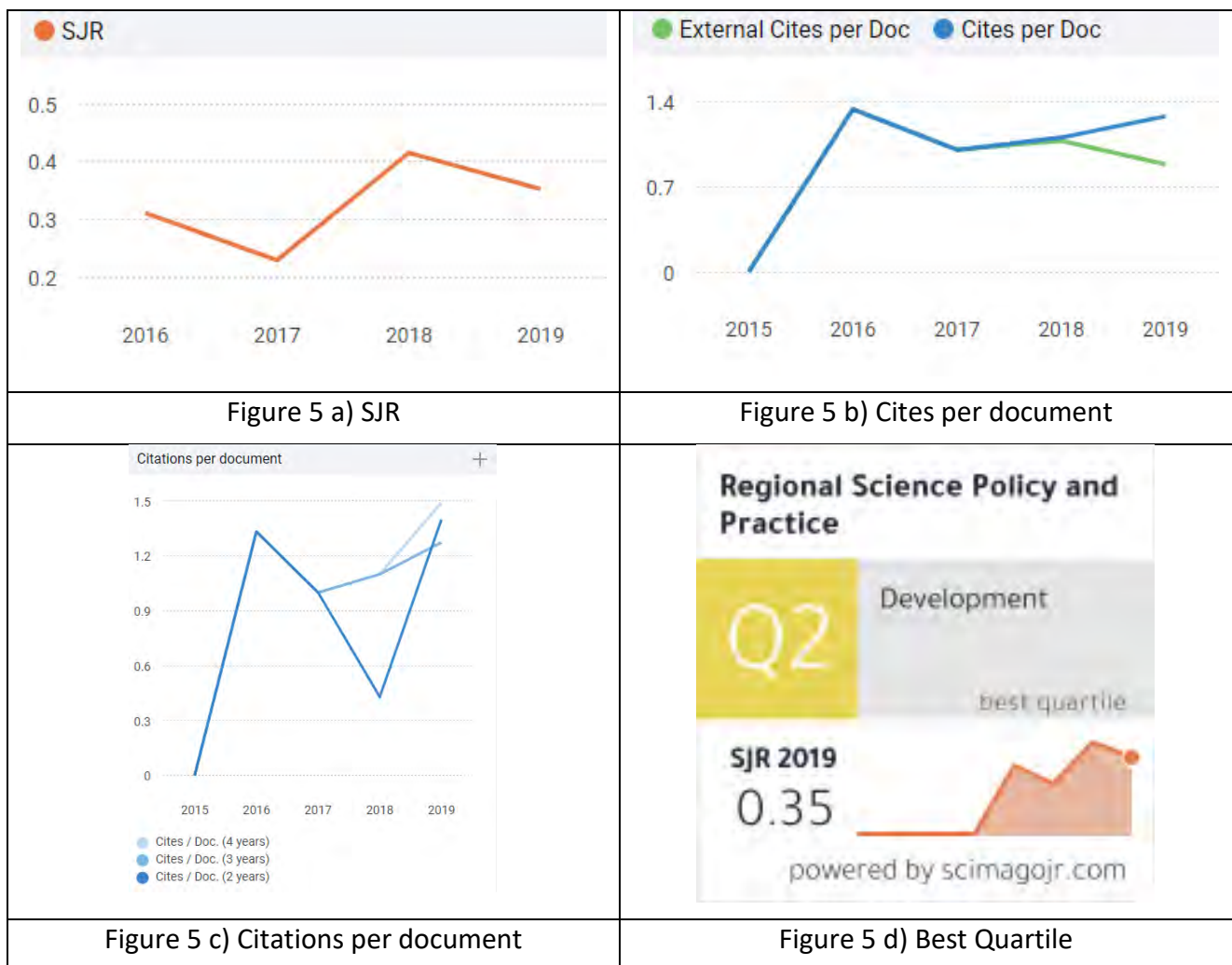


Figure 6: Downloads and Citations (Wiley, 2020)

The steady increase in the number of downloads is revealing an intensification of seasonality with higher searches during lecturing periods in Spring and Autumn indicating the opportunity to publish papers that are pedagogically appealing.

The SJR index decreased from 0.42 in 2018 to 0.35 in 2019 and the number of cites per document stay above 1. The journal fits into the second quartile for Development and for Planning and into the third quartile for Policy. Citations per document are between 1.2 and 1.5 for 2 years, 3 years and 4 years.



According to Wiley the estimated impact factor grew from 0.31 = 9 cites / 29 citable in 2018 to 0.84 = 42 cites / 50 citable in 2019. Because there was a great increase in the number of papers in 2019 the estimated impact factor can decrease to 0.5 in 2020 but, hopefully, recover in 2021.

Table 3. Factors that might influence citations – Analysis of RSPP Papers of 2018-2020

Linear Regression on the variables that influence the number of citations of RSPP in 2018-2020	R Square	0,197	Sig.	0,000
	B	Standard Error	t	p
Constant	0,720	0,284	2,535	0,012
Decision Time	-0,015	0,005	-3,217	0,002
Years	0,518	0,116	4,480	0,000
Reviews	-0,229	0,090	-2,551	0,012
Theoretical non Applied	-0,883	0,319	-2,764	0,007

Looking at the regression presented in Table 3 it seems that papers that receive less citations have longer decision time, are theoretical, have more revisions or are more recent. Other variable such as belonging to a special issue or coming from a particular region does not have significant effect in the number of citations. Also, there are no major differences between qualitative and quantitative applied papers.

3. Editorial Aims and Policies

3.1. Expected and achieved results

In 2017, RSPP proposed expected results for 2019. Herewith please find what was expected and achieved.

- i) As announced in 2017 in 2019 RSPP is present in all the meetings of the supra-regional

- associations (ERSA, NARSC, PRSCO) and some of the meetings of the sections (Spain, China);
- ii) RSPJ did not get the impact factor in 2017 that will be requested again in 2021, but the estimated impact factor will be 0.8 in 2019, hopefully 0.5 in 2020, 0.9 in 2021 and, as envisaged, can still reach 1.25 in 2022;
 - iii) RSPJ grew as announced from two issues in 2016 to 6 issues in 2019;
 - iv) Instead of the proposed 15000 downloads in 2019 the number of downloads was almost double with 29770 in 2019;
 - v) Finally, with PIRS, RSI got a good agreement with Wiley from 2018 onwards consubstantiated in having no limitations in the number of articles.

The targets for 2020 is to stabilise the number of articles of 2019 with six issues per year trying to avoid a strong decrease in the estimated impact factor associated to the strong increase in publications along 2019.

Following the indications of meeting of the RSPJ Editorial Board in Pittsburgh, November 2019, a few actions taken:

- The editorial team enlarged to include Ana Vinuela, Elisabete Silva, Eveline Van Leeuwen, Gabriela Carmen Pascariu, Isabelle Nilsson and Katarzyna Kopczewska. That enlargement was very useful not only to promote interesting special issues but also to get an enlarged expertise in different fields and methods increasing the scrutiny potential of the journal.
- The reviewers form changed becoming more detailed, increasing the quality of the revisions and clarifying the indicative structure of RSPJ papers.

Furthermore:

- RSPJ paper award given in NARSC, San Diego.
- RSPJ Special Sessions will take place in NARSC, on Tourism and on Covid-19.
- RSPJ Plenary Session will take place in NARSC on Sustainable Urbanization.
- RSPJ Special Issue or Special Sections of Normal Issues are coming on:
 1. Regional Development in Russia Alexander Pelyasov
 2. Drivers, Impacts and Policies of Covid19 Tomaz Dentinho and Neil Reid
 3. The underlying factors of (recent) regional voting patterns - Spatial Features of European Politics Eveline van Leeuwen and Solmaria Halleck-Vega
 4. Regional Development in China Jian Wang and Emmanouil Tranos
 5. Regional Development in Latin-America Patricio Alessandro Aroca and Carlos Azzoni
 6. Tackling with societal, technological and climate changes in peripheral territories Vicente Budi Orduña, Emili Tortosa Ausina and Luisa Alamá Sabater
 7. Regional Sustainability in Siberia and the Arctic Alexander Pelyasov
 8. Challenges and policies for Middle-income trap regions Andres Rodriguez-Pose and Vinko Mustra
 9. Evidence-Based Policymaking: the use of information for integrated territorial policy development João Lourenço Marques and Elisabete Silva
 10. Urban Resurgence in European Cities Alina Schoenberg
 11. Regional Science and Tourism Jaewon Lin; Juan Carlos Martin and Luca Zamparini
 12. New Landscape of Data and Sustainable Development in Asia Yuri Mansury, Sutee Anantsuksomsri and Nij Tontisirin
 13. New directions in regional development and spatial inequalities Paolo Postiglione

14. Modelling place attractiveness in the era of Big and Open data John Östh, Umut Türk and Jie Huang
15. Spatial Resilience and the Border Regions of Europe "Gabriela Carmen Pascariu,
16. Night Light Indicators of Regional Economic Activity Katarzyna Kopczewska
Regional development in Central-Eastern Europe Katarzyna Kopczewska

3.2. Accounts

RSAI allocates to RSPP, 5000 Euros for the secretariat and 5000 euros for the editorial team. The 5000 euros for the Secretariat supports around 21% of the wage of Elisabete Martins. The 5000 Euros for the editorial team in 2019 (see Annex) went to:

- The travel of Emmanouil Tranos and Tschangho Kim to Shanghai, that is the base of the Special Issue on China;
- The travel of Tomaz Dentinho to Morocco that be present in the organizational meeting of the World Congress;
- The travel of Elisabete Silva, Jean Claude Thill and Tomaz Dentinho to the RSAI workshop in Mumbai;
- The travel of Yannis Psycharis to the Congress of the European Regional Science Association in Lyon;
- The support of the travel of the key speaker to the Congress of the Spanish Regional Science Association that will lead to a Special Issue edited by Vicente Budi Orduña, Emili Tortosa Ausina and Luisa Alamá Sabater.
- A small amount of the cheap ticket of Andre Torre form Porto to Paris that will secure contributions from a Congress of Portuguese Economists edited by Nuno Martins and José Reis planned for 2021.
- A dinner with invited colleagues in Pittsburgh.

The expenditures exceed the revenues on 891 Euros compensated by the transference of 2020. In 2020, there was a transference for the travel of Alessandra Faggian RSPP Key Speaker to the Congress of Morocco postponed to 2021 and for the travel of Barsha Poricha RSPP Key Speaker of the NARSC Congress in San Diego.

4. Concluding remarks

The strategy to increase the number of submissions and issues while targeting an impact factor above one in 2021 is on good track and reachable.

As pointed out by the Editorial Board of Pittsburgh, the report to submit to get Impact Factor in 2021 must be well prepared and well informed and the results we are getting seem promising.

Nevertheless, there are still many non-cited papers and still a long way to go in the combination, within the same paper or at least issue, of science or theory, practical methods and policy evaluation and advice.

Ana Vinuela, Budy Resosudarmo, Carlos Azzoni, Elisabete Silva, Emmanouil Tranos, Eveline Van Leeuwen, Gabriela Carmen Pascariu, Isabelle Nilsson, Katarzyna Kopczewska, Neil Reid, Patricio Aroca, Tiago Freire, Vicente Royuela and Tomaz Dentinho

RSPP Accounts 2017			
Date	Description	Revenues	Expenses
08/09/2017	Lunchs and dinners - GRONINGEN (ERSA 2017)	- €	275,10 €
26/09/2017	RSPP EDITORIAL AND TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR 2017 (from RSAI)	5 000,00 €	- €
09/11/2017	Travel Tomaz to VANCOUVER (NARSC 2017)	- €	747,95 €
20/11/2017	Lunchs and dinners - VANCOUVER (NARSC 2017)	- €	122,54 €
21/11/2017	Lunchs and dinners - Coimbra Symposium	- €	127,87 €
24/11/2017	Travel Abdellatif Khattabi to the Coimbra Symposium	- €	187,07 €
28/12/2017	Hotel, Lunchs and dinners - Coimbra Symposium	- €	286,30 €
28/12/2017	COMISSAO IMP SELO TRF - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
TOTAL		5 000,00 €	1 747,35 €
		Balance	3 252,65 €
		Retained for maintenance of expenses ACDA (5% of the Revenues)	250,00 €
		Closing Balance for 2017	3 002,65 €

RSPP Accounts 2018			
Date	Description	Revenues	Expenses
01/01/2018	Balance brought forward from 2017	3 002,65 €	
19/01/2018	RSPP EDITORIAL AND TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR 2018 (from RSAI)	5 000,00 €	- €
09/02/2018	Travel Emmanouil Tranos - ABC/RSPP Meeting in Conventinho da Arrábida	- €	289,85 €
09/02/2018	COMISSAO IMP SELO TRF - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
19/02/2018	ABC/RSPP Meeting in Conventinho da Arrábida (dinner, coffee-break, room and accomodations)	- €	2 681,50 €
19/02/2018	COMISSAO IMP SELO TRF - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
21/02/2018	ABC/RSPP Meeting in Conventinho da Arrábida (dinner, coffee-break, room and accomodations)	- €	828,35 €
21/02/2018	COMISSAO IMP SELO TRF - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
23/02/2018	ACCOMODATION TRF CIUFFO BIAGIO BO r2/2018	84,00 €	- €
09/03/2018	Travel to lisbon - Vicente Royela	- €	252,31 €
09/03/2018	COMISSAO IMP SELO TRF - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
21/03/2018	REGISTRATION EDUARDO HADDAD RSAI CONGRESS	- €	150,00 €
12/09/2018	TRAVEL REIMBOURSEMENT - Eveline	- €	254,77 €
12/09/2018	COMISSAO IMP SELO TRF - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
30/10/2018	PGE0948000545616 - Dinner at NARSC 2018 Congress-	- €	1 795,22 €
30/10/2018	TRANSF CRED NAO-SEPA+ - bank charges	- €	30,35 €
TOTAL		8 086,65 €	6 284,95 €
		Balance	1 801,70 €
		Retained for maintenance of expenses ACDA (5% of the Revenues)	254,20 €
		Closing Balance for 2018	1 547,50 €

RSPP Accounts 2019			
Date	Description	Revenues	Expenses
01/01/2019	Balance brought forward from 2018	1 547,50 €	
30/01/2019	RSPP EDITORIAL AND TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR 2019 (from RSAI)	5 000,00 €	- €
15/01/2019	TRAVEL MAROCCOS TOMAZ	- €	155,93 €
19/01/2019	TRAVEL MAROCCOS TOMAZ - TER-LIS	- €	49,19 €
21/02/2019	TRAVEL EMMANOUIL	- €	1 075,90 €
21/02/2019	TRAVEL EMMANOUIL - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
11/03/2019	TRAVEL MAROCCOS TOMAZ	- €	252,34 €
11/03/2019	TRAVEL MAROCCOS TOMAZ - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
12/04/2019	TRAVEL ITALY TOMAZ	- €	109,00 €
12/04/2019	TRAVEL Yannis Psychar	- €	560,00 €
12/04/2019	TRAVEL Yannis Psychar - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
13/04/2019	TRAVEL ROMENIA TOMAZ	- €	110,00 €
24/04/2019	TRAVEL ELISABETE SILVA India	- €	600,00 €
24/04/2019	TRAVEL ELISABETE SILVA India - bank charges	- €	0,52 €
26/04/2019	TRAVEL INDIA TOMAZ - TER-LIS	- €	87,99 €
27/04/2019	TRAVEL INDIA TOMAZ	- €	694,36 €
30/04/2019	TRAVEL Tschangho John Kim	- €	400,00 €
30/04/2019	TRAVEL Tschangho John Kim - bank charges	- €	30,35 €
06/05/2019	PRSCO REGISTRATION - TOMAZ	- €	139,64 €
06/05/2019	TRAVEL PRSCO - THAILAND - TOMAZ	- €	727,58 €
09/08/2019	SUPPORT Keynote RSPP at NARSC 2019	- €	500,00 €
09/08/2019	SUPPORT Keynote RSPP at NARSC 2019 - bank charges	- €	30,35 €
05/09/2019	TRAVEL JEAN-CLAUDE THILL India	- €	1 000,00 €
05/09/2019	TRAVEL JEAN-CLAUDE THILL India - bank charges	- €	30,35 €
08/10/2019	SUPPORT RSPP AECR 2019	- €	500,00 €
08/10/2019	SUPPORT RSPP AECR 2019 - bank charges	- €	0,83 €
29/11/2019	DINNER RSPP AT NARSC 2019	- €	101,00 €
29/11/2019	DINNER RSPP AT NARSC 2019 - bank charges	- €	0,83 €
14/12/2019	TRAVEL ANDRE TORRE TO PORTO	- €	30,99 €
TOTAL		6 547,50 €	7 188,71 €
		Balance	- 641,21 €
		Retained for maintenance of expenses ACDA (5% of the Revenues)	250,00 €
		Closing Balance for 2019	- 891,21 €

RSPP Accounts 2020			
Date	Description	Revenues	Expenses
01/01/2020	Balance brought forward from 2019	- 891,21 €	
08/01/2020	Support Bharat Dahiya (india 2020)	- €	300,00 €
08/01/2020	Support Bharat Dahiya (india 2020) - bank charges	- €	30,35 €
17/01/2020	RSPP EDITORIAL AND TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR 2020 (from RSAI)	5 000,00 €	- €
27/01/2020	RSPP SUPPORT TRAVEL Alessandra Faggian	- €	500,00 €
27/01/2020	TRANSF CREDITO SEPA - bank charges	- €	0,83 €
07/02/2020	Taxi Andre torre	- €	50,00 €
07/02/2020	TRANSF CREDITO SEPA - bank charges	- €	0,83 €
	TOTAL	4 108,79 €	882,01 €
		Balance	3 226,78 €
		Retained for maintenance of expenses ACDA (5% of the Revenues)	250,00 €
		Closing Balance for June 2020	2 976,78 €

RSAI payment to RSPP is transferred to the ACDA (Associação para a Ciência e Desenvolvimento dos Açores) that hires Eng. Elisabete Martins and takes and overheads of 5%.