

# RSAI NEWSLETTER

THE REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

*new series 22 -May 2023*

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## FROM THE EDITORS

The newsletter of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) appears two times a year and contains information about upcoming conferences and meetings, recent events and publications, and short contributions on current themes.

Mina Akhavan (TU Delft) and Martijn Smit (Utrecht University) form the editorial team. Text contributions for the newsletter are always welcome, and can be submitted directly to Martijn ([m.j.smit@uu.nl](mailto:m.j.smit@uu.nl)) or to Mina ([m.a.akhavan@tudelft.nl](mailto:m.a.akhavan@tudelft.nl)). The deadline for the next issue is 15 October. In particular, short contributions on your current research are most welcome; these can be extracts from articles or reports, or opinion pieces. We also welcome proposals for a piece in the *Center of Excellence* series.

*Martijn Smit*  
*Utrecht University, the Netherlands*

*Mina Akhavan*  
*TU Delft, the Netherlands*



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## WELCOME

Dear member of the Regional Science Association International,

January 1, 2023, I took over the presidency of RSAI from my predecessor, Prof. Eduardo Haddad. I would like to start by expressing my deep gratitude to Eduardo for his great and important efforts as president during the difficult time when the Covid-19 pandemic paralysed the world. Thanks to Eduardo, I have had a flying start to my presidency.



Ever since 1994, I have been a steady participant in the meetings of the Western Regional Science Association. This year's meeting was held in February at the Big Island of Hawai'i, and as usual, many interesting papers were presented. Prof. Makena Koffman, whose report from Hawai'i you can read in this newsletter, was elected WRSA President for 2023.

During spring, I have also participated in two other path-breaking events. At the end of March, Dr Jolta Kacani of the University of Tirana and Prof. Tomaz Dentinho, editor of our journal Regional Science Policy and Practice, organised the first regional science event ever in Albania on the topic of Sustainable Regional Development in the Western Balkans. A number of papers on regional development in the different countries of the Western Balkans were presented.

In the last days of April, Prof. Salma Hichri of the University of Sfax organised a conference in Hammamet, Tunisia, on the topic of Cities and territories in the developing world facing the challenges of ecological and digital transitions. The

conference gathered over 100 participants onsite and about 50 participants online. A fantastic breakthrough for Regional Science in Tunisia!

Yesterday, May 1, 2023, a historic event took place. After the decision by the RSAI Council, I and the RSAI Executive Director, Prof. Andrea Caragliu, signed contracts with Elsevier, which from January 1, 2024, takes over as publisher of our two journals, Papers in Regional Science and Regional Science Policy and Practice. The big news is that the journals, from 2024 and onwards, will publish all accepted papers with full open access. This means that accepted papers will be subject to a publication fee, and RSAI members have a 20% discount on the publication fees. Scholars in many European countries are already obliged to publish their works with open access, but publication fees might be a severe problem in other parts of the world. Therefore, the journals will have a certain amount of fee waivers that authors having difficulties paying the fees can apply for. The RSAI Council has appointed a committee to devise policies for using the waivers. In addition to these waivers, Elsevier participates in Research4Life, a global program that offers publication fee waivers to authors affiliated with institutions conducting research in the Resarch4Life developing countries. The whole RSAI Council and I have great expectations for the collaboration with our new publisher Elsevier. More information about the open access system will come.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the main RSAI arrangements this year, the PRSCO meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in June, the ERSA Congress in Alicante, Spain, in August and the NARSC meeting in San Diego, California, in November – or perhaps at a little event close to you...

*Hans Westlund  
President of the RSAI*

## RSAI MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All RSAI members have online access to Papers in Regional Science (PiRS) and Regional Science Policy and Practice (RSPP), the journals of the Regional Science Association International. Some recent articles from both journals are highlighted in this newsletter.

Members can log in and access full text articles online. In addition to the RSAI publications, members are offered an opportunity to purchase other regional science journals at reduced rates and participate in the national and international conferences at reduced rates.

To become a member and for details on your membership, contact the Executive Director, Andrea Caragliu at [andrea.caragliu@polimi.it](mailto:andrea.caragliu@polimi.it), or visit [www.regionalscience.org](http://www.regionalscience.org).



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## YOUNG SCHOLAR INTERVIEW: CAROLINA GUEVARA-ROSETO

Carolina Guevara-Rosero won the 2022 [Peter Nijkamp Research Encouragement Award](#). She is at the Escuela Politécnica Nacional in Quito, Ecuador. Mina Akhavan interviewed her for this newsletter.

*As a young scholar, how do you make a balance between research, teaching and consultancy – outside academia? This must have been especially difficult during the pandemic.*

COMBINING TEACHING AND research has been a challenging task. I have lectures all year at my university, which is different from other universities in other countries. Given this, I have to organise and prioritise research projects to cope with my responsibilities as a teacher and researcher. I also think that lectures should not be separated from research, and feedback can occur. Thus, my lectures are fed by research results, which make them more interesting and attractive to my students.



*Carolina Guevara receiving the Peter Nijkamp Award from prof. Nijkamp himself*

*Tell us about the importance of receiving awards and prizes, in general, for early career researchers – the Peter Nijkamp Award in particular.*

Receiving a research award means recognising hard work, dedication and love for research. For me, receiving the award was not only a great personal achievement but also a great honour, for I had the opportunity to meet a living legend in Regional Science, Peter Nijkamp, in person. When I received the news of the award, I was thrilled because I was the first woman and the first Ecuadorian to receive this award. For that reason, this, and every award for that matter, is a reminder of how important it is to encourage the female and Ecuadorian scientific community to continue investigating Regional Science. Particularly, Peter Nijkamp's contributions to Regional Science have settled the basis in this field, encouraging me to contribute from my perspective and reality. Looking at developing countries will result in important and meaningful insights into the field.

*The world switched to digital during the pandemic; conferences are becoming hybrid, and some lunch seminars go worldwide. How does this impact the regional science community, you think?*

Definitively, the world after the COVID-19 pandemic has changed. Even though nowadays the pandemic is well managed, our world did not come back to its previous status entirely. In the scientific world, there was an important reinvention and adaptation; conferences were conducted online, which allowed the spread and access to knowledge exchange. It has definitely helped the scientific community to expand and become more inclusive. However, establishing better relations and face-to-face interactions remains very important since it brings a different sort of interaction that may provide additional value.

*At last, do you have general advice for PhD students and early career researchers in regional science? How would you advise young scholars to build a successful career in academia or outside (in the industry?)*

If there's any advice I could share, it would be to study what they love and

focus on the fields they are more excited about. It is also essential to establish a broad research network. For instance, for me, being part of the Regional Science Association has opened many doors and provided several new opportunities. I encourage young researchers to join us and benefit from the advantages of this strong Regional Science community!

## A NEW RSAI PRESIDENCY

In January 2023, prof. Hans Westlund from Sweden (pictured on page 2) took over the chairmanship of the RSAI from prof. Eduardo Haddad from Brazil (pictured on tie right). Martijn Smit interviewed the two of them.

*The chair of an organisation of colleagues, of peers, you might say, is an interesting position. Do you see this as a captain steering the ship? As a guide leading the way? Or perhaps as a sheepdog running around to solve problems? Hans, what do you think?*

HONESTLY, I THINK it's more of being a sheepdog than a captain. The French President Charles De Gaulle once said, "How can you govern a country that has two hundred and forty-six varieties of cheese?" The same holds for governing an academic organisation. You cannot steer independent thinkers. However, being a sheepdog is not only about solving problems. A good sheepdog holds the flock together and can steer it in a certain direction. It's "management by walking around" and not by standing at the steering wheel.

*Eduardo:* There is an additional layer of complexity if you think of our role as a sheepdog, mainly because the direction to be taken is not necessarily the one defined solely by the leadership. In a way, dealing with peers who are knowledgeable and committed to the association improves the quality of our leadership. In my experience, knowing how to delegate is crucial to make things happen and enhance the sense of belonging in our community. It helps to focus much of our efforts on sensing changes in direction, at times, anticipating them before they occur.

*Some feel the council of organisations such as RSAI (or WRSA, where Hans has been president before, or LARSA, where Eduardo was that before) is remote from its members; do you agree, and what do you feel we could do about this?*

*Hans:* I'd say that this is a particular problem for RSAI. Most of our activities take place in the national or supranational associations. They run themselves, and sometimes, it might be difficult to see the role of RSAI. RSAI allocates some resources, takes the initiative to find new sections, runs two journals and organises a congress every second year. Is that enough? I want to discuss this with our members and officers.

*Eduardo:* Our Constitution states that our objective is to advance for the benefit of the public, regional analysis, and related spatial and areal studies. It is a broad scope that needs to be understood in the context of how we organise ourselves as an umbrella association. Being at the top of such an umbrella association, RSAI has a role in coordinating activities and pool resources in order to foster our field. By providing resources and identities to the national and supranational organisations, we help further develop the sense of community belongingness



*prof. Haddad*

that may motivate a more significant number of young regional scientists to engage more broadly in the Association, strengthening the bases for its future prosperity. RSAI is a key partner of all its member.

*Both of you have stayed at various institutes worldwide – Hans in Japan and China, Eduardo in Morocco and many other places; do you feel cultural differences are smaller because we are all regional scientists, or are they just as large as other types of academics?*

**Eduardo:** I have developed research projects (most of them regional science-related) in at least 20 countries and have given talks in more than 50. Whenever I visited those countries, my main concern was talking to people and trying to exercise empathy to understand their perspectives. Among these countries, I have found places with different levels of data constraints and expertise in formal training. However, everywhere I have found very smart and extremely motivated scholars with strong identities with their origins. They all shared a common mission of making their realities better places to live. Regional Science scholarly work in different parts of the world is committed to improving people's life where they live. Despite using more or less sophisticated techniques, this creates a sense of global community yet to be fully explored by RSAI. There is still much to learn from other realities, especially in the Global South.

**Hans:** I can't say whether there are differences between disciplines. However, I can say that academic life is surprisingly similar across the world, mainly for good (but also for bad). Wherever I have visited colleagues across the globe, I have always felt at home!

*Regional science as a field has changed over the past decades from a comprehensive set of topics defined by our quantitative methods and our policy applications (but do feel free to disagree with me here) to a narrower subset, where transport studies, urban economics, and several other formerly associated fields now have their own communities and conferences. Is this a loss, you feel?*

**Hans:** Yes, this is a loss because regional science also needs contributions from these scholars. Even if specialisation is one important method to deepen our knowledge about details, it is just as important to "see the whole picture". Therefore, we will always need wide-minded scholars in, e.g. transportation studies and urban economics within our regional science community.

**Eduardo:** This is not necessarily bad if we think of it as a process enhanced by (not only) regional science. However, we do miss more interactions in our conferences with some of the broader set of disciplines we used to find not in the very distant past. In my understanding, our field is more and more dominated by data-driven applications. Data availability prone to specific methods has sometimes received more attention than the policy issue. In many instances, the use of the technique surpasses the understanding of the concrete problem under analysis. The problem of form, not of content, of focusing on an idealised subset of methods, or of constructing alternative engines for analysing concrete problems may hamper broader interdisciplinary debates in our meetings.

## CENTER OF EXCELLENCE: HAWAII

FOR A LONG time, tourism provided significant growth for Hawaii's economy. Growing environmental impacts and challenges related to the tourism industry, coupled with external shocks like the one we just experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, have intensified calls from policymakers and the public to diversify economic activities away from tourism.

After Hawaii was admitted as a US state (1959), and coinciding with major advancements in air travel, there was massive growth in the tourism industry in



Hawaii. This translated into substantially higher real gross state product (GSP) per capita in Hawaii than in the rest of the United States through the mid-1990s.

Over the last three decades, however, growth in real visitor spending has been stagnant—although the number of tourists continues to grow—and specialisation in tourism makes Hawaii vulnerable to economic shocks. The long run real GSP per capita annual growth rate in Hawaii has fallen from 1.9% before 1990 to less than half a per cent over the last thirty years. External events, including the deep recession in Hawaii during the 1990s related to the Japanese economy, 9/11, the Great Recession and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic, punctured the tourism industry but exacerbated this long-run trend.

Moreover, stressors to Hawaii's natural environment, much of which is the basis of success for Hawaii's tourism industry, persist and are becoming more acute. Examples of environmental challenges in Hawaii relate to the continued loss of Hawaii's beaches due to a combination of coastal development, erosion and sea level rise; wastewater management and nearshore pollution runoff; loss of endemic species and introduction of invasives; watershed health; and widespread impacts from human overuse – ranging from trampled mountain trails to sandy dunes.

### WHAT TO DO?

Many economists would probably tell you that a tropical climate is Hawaii's comparative advantage, so the tourism sector is naturally larger and trying to diversify will only make us poorer. And while that's partly true if it were simply a story of comparative advantage, a new comparative advantage would emerge as the historical one has faded. But that hasn't happened. Hawaii has remained specialised in tourism despite lagging economic performance for decades. Regional science helps to inform a far more interesting and accurate story in which distance, scale and economic integration generate spatial forces for economic activity that are much more complex. These forces create a coordination problem for economic development in Hawaii. As a result, Hawaii's economy may be over-specialized in tourism because new industries are locked out of entry.

Collectively, our research focuses on effective means to mitigate both global and local environmental harms and facilitate economic development through movement towards related industries. Related industries would branch out from Hawaii's existing strengths, leverage its strategic geography in the Pacific, and should be at an appropriate (relative) scale. Economic policies that support related diversification should address the specific market failures facing these

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activities in the local, cultural, environmental and spatial context of Hawai'i. By targeting activities that make use of Hawai'i's unique characteristics, these activities can be sustained over time and offer credible opportunities for growth.

Economic policies should complement place-specific environmental, social and cultural policies promoting community well-being. For example, a recent study shows that if Hawai'i adopted a \$50-\$70/MTCO<sub>2</sub> carbon tax and gave collected monies back to households, this could lead to positive welfare impacts for many Hawai'i households. This is because of the significant contribution of visitors to carbon tax revenues. Linking these kinds of progressive environmental policies with additional coordination for supporting emerging industries could be tremendously impactful in nudging Hawai'i's economy back towards a growth trajectory while supporting more long-term sustainability.

*Steven Bond-Smith*

*Assistant Professor, University of Hawai'i Economic  
Research Organization (UHERO)*

*Makena Coffman*

*Director, Institute for Sustainability and Resilience  
Professor, Urban and Regional Planning  
Research Fellow, UHERO  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*

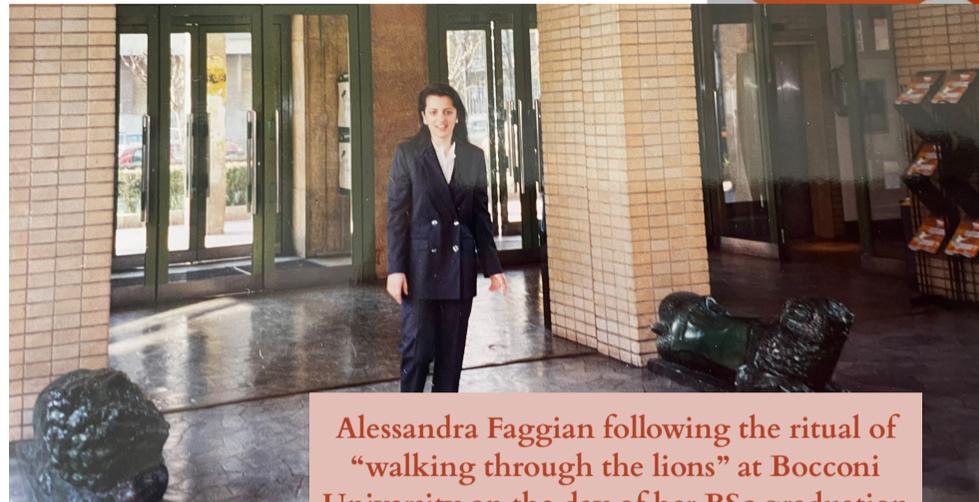
## MEET THE FELLOWS: ALESSANDRA FAGGIAN

I WAS BORN IN Milan "some" (...many) years ago. My childhood was pretty normal. My parents were not academics, and I never thought I would become a university professor. In fact, I wanted to become a hairdresser when I grew up. I went to a public elementary school in a rather tough neighbourhood. We changed teachers five times in five years. I remember that because every time was a "potluck"; sometimes it was good, sometimes not so much. I was rather shy when I was a kid (maybe difficult to believe now), and I never knew if I had to raise my hand when I knew the answer to a question. Some teachers told my parents I did it too much, and others that I did it not enough. Trying to figure out the "right amount" immediately made me appreciate the saying "virtue lies in the middle", something that accompanies me these days, as one of the things I hate the most is the extremism of any type.

In elementary school, I was picking up things quite quickly and effortlessly, and there were suggestions of making me skip grades. My parents were wise enough not to agree to this, and I am glad they did because, indeed, I was not that quick on the social side of things. My shyness meant I would rather observe others playing for a while, from a corner, before finding the courage to join in. Fortunately, that changed as I grew older.

By the time middle school came, my parents had started their own business, and the economy was booming. They decided to switch schools and send me to a private one run by nuns. I know there are many preconceptions about this type of school, but honestly, that was one of the happiest times of my life. The nuns were open-minded and very modern (I remember one of them playing basket with us), and they taught me my core values.

By the end of middle school, I was none the wiser about what I wanted to be as an adult. I had discarded the idea of becoming a hairdresser, but the final aptitude tests in 8th grade revealed I could do almost anything. "Almost" because one thing was sure, I had to keep away from any "artistic" high school (if you could see me drawing, you would understand it is a matter of "like mother like daughter", as my father is instead very artistic). My favourite subject was mathematics, so I picked the scientific lyceum.



**Alessandra Faggian following the ritual of "walking through the lions" at Bocconi University on the day of her BSc graduation**

High school was a lot of fun. I graduated with top grades while also enjoying myself with friends. Thinking back to this period, I get nostalgic (which makes me feel rather old). We did not have cell phones and all the technology we have today, but that made us talk more and be more creative about what to do together. I remember hours spent sitting on small walls discussing what to do and where to go... The five years of high school were also the years to mature the "big" decision of what to do with my life. I went through several phases: biologist, interpreter and finally, engineer. By the end of high school, I was sure I wanted to become an engineer, although I was not sure what kind yet. That also went through stages. First, I wanted to study aerospace engineering (but that would have required moving from Milan); then it was mechanical engineering (I wanted to be the first mechanical engineer working for team Ferrari in Formula One, as I was a big fan). Finally, I settled for management engineering (a compromise between my parents and me).

Sure enough, once I finished high school, I enrolled in the aptitude entry test at the Politecnico di Milano for management engineering. The test went great, and I was ready to start my adventure there, but my parents wanted me to also sit the entry test at Bocconi University for Economics (their dream was for me to become an accountant). The complication started when I also passed that test... what to do? I did pick Economics in the end, but I soon realised that accounting was not my thing (in fact, accounting was the only exam I had to repeat twice!), and neither was Business Economics. Instead, I chose Political Economy, and that saved my life. We had more freedom to pick optional courses, and I simply decided, based on my curiosity – without a real plan, I admit – to combine courses on Japanese language and Japanese Economics with Environmental Economics, but also Policy Evaluation, Financial Sciences and many others. Funny enough, I did not pick the course of Urban or Regional Economics (little I knew that would have become my life!). Instead, my final thesis was on Environmental Impact Assessment.

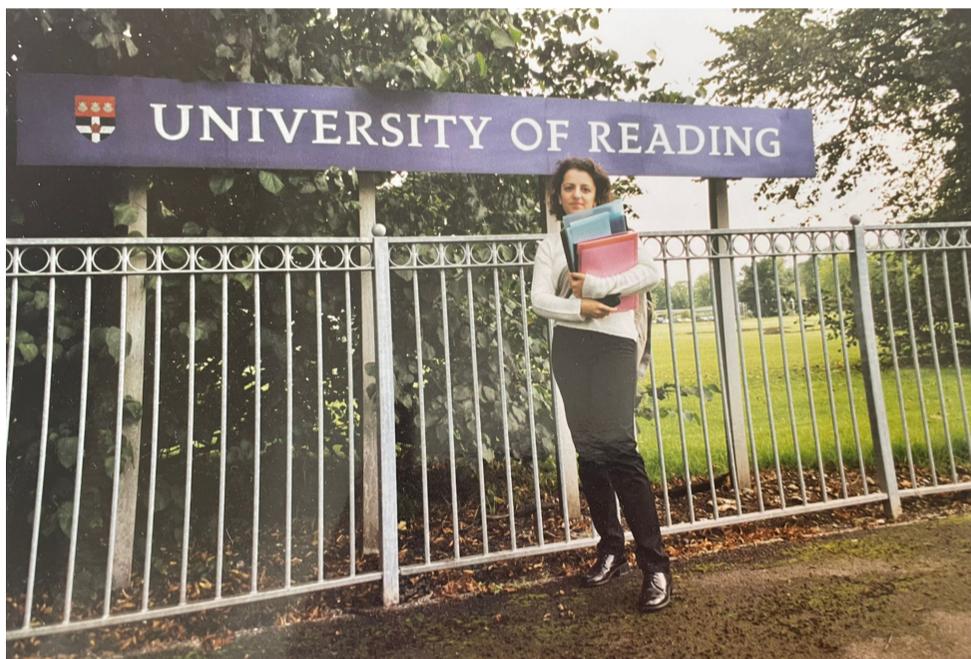
Once done with university, reality struck. I started looking for jobs. I went for individual interviews, followed by group interviews (I hated them, I felt like a guinea pig in an experiment), aptitude tests and so on. I eventually found a temporary job in a job placement agency. I spent weeks just reading CVs and trying to match them to job profiles. It was not fun, but I kept working while looking for something better and that something better came one night, unexpectedly, in the form of a phone call from Roberta Capello. She was then a researcher at the Politecnico di Milano working with Professor Roberto Camagni (one of the forefathers of Regional and Urban Economics not only in Italy but also in Europe) and wanted me to go for an interview. She was very enthusiastic about describing her job as an academic, and I clearly remember her saying, "with this job, you will travel a lot"... Boy was she right, as that was the beginning of a career that took me around the world.

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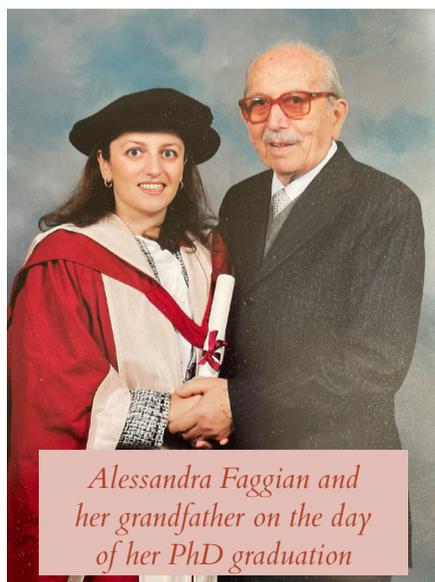
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I started working with them in December 1997, just before Christmas. I enjoyed the work tremendously, and Roberto & Roberta were great teachers. I started teaching Urban Economics in March 1998. The first class was terrifying, but I really liked teaching and started feeling at ease rather quickly. Later that year, I won a scholarship to start a PhD at the University of Ancona, and in 1999 I left for a period abroad in the UK. It should have been a year, and instead, a year turned into 18. In October 1999, when I went to the University of Reading for an MSc in Regional Science, I met Philip McCann (still a lecturer back then). He was in the process of leaving for a sabbatical in Japan, but before leaving, he asked me whether I was interested in staying in the UK with a PhD scholarship to work under his supervision. It was a tough decision that took a lot of walking around Campus and soul-searching, but my instinct told me to “jump”, so I started a new chapter in my life.



I started my PhD in the Autumn of 2000 with a thesis on migration and human capital. I loved the topic - I still do - maybe because it was, somehow, a bit autobiographical, and I could find answers drawing from my own experience. In 2002, an opportunity came for a lectureship position. I applied, and, to my surprise (and Phil's), I got it. I was in my second year of PhD, so, for a while, I had to work really hard...no holidays, no weekends. I graduated in June 2005, and the joy was to have there to celebrate with me, not only my parents, but also my granddad, who took a plane for the first time in his life at the age of 88 (impressive if you think that he was in the Italian Air Force during WWII, but managed to stay away from planes even then, preferring office work). Reading will always be in my heart because I met some of my fondest friends there. Aside from Philip, with whom I kept in touch, in Reading, I met Bianca Biagi, Dionysia Lambiri and Vicente Royuela, who also became successful regional scientists and with whom we often like to go down memory lane.

In 2007 another change was coming. At the beginning of the year, I took a sabbatical at Waikato University in New Zealand (Philip McCann had moved there in the meantime). It was a very intense period, and I produced several papers. Still, I also put my life at risk with the various activities (including skydiving) this amazing country had to offer.



*Alessandra Faggian and her grandfather on the day of her PhD graduation*

Recharged by the experience, I went back to the UK for an interview at the University of Southampton and got a position as Reader in the Geography Department. There I met another collaborator who soon became a very good friend, Roberta Comunian, and I stayed put till the end of 2011. Through the years, though, I realised I am a “repeat migrant”, so at the beginning of 2012, I moved again, and this time across the pond.

In January 2012, I started working as Associate Professor at the Ohio State University in Columbus, USA. It was, yet again, a delightful experience and another different and fast-paced chapter of my life. In 2014 I was promoted to Full Professor, and in 2015 became Graduate Studies Chair in my department. I started working especially with postgraduates, which I enjoyed tremendously. In 2016, I was elected President of the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC). This experience culminated with my presidential address in 2017 in the beautiful surrounding of Vancouver in Canada (my favourite city in the world - together with Auckland in New Zealand).

When I thought I finally settled in the USA - and never thought I would return to my own country - life surprised me again. In February 2016, while at the WRSA conference in Hawaii, I received a phone call to enquire whether I had ever considered returning to Italy for a sabbatical. The topic of the conversation was this new “project” in the city of L’Aquila called GSSI. The city of L’Aquila was struck by a devastating earthquake in April 2009. As part of the post-earthquake reconstruction, a new institution was created, an international doctoral school called Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI). They wanted me to visit there. I had been there in 2012 with a group of OECD experts led by Philip McCann and Fabrizio Barca (among whom there were other very good friends of mine: Simona Iammarino, Andrés Rodriguez Pose, and Riccardo Scarpa). The city was still in ruins back then. My initial reaction was to say I was not interested, but something inside me, a gut feeling, stopped me and instead, I said I was going to think about it. I remembered seeing the images of the 2009 earthquake on TV and how I felt. I felt sad but also “distant”. Looking at the pictures, I wished I could be back in my country; this was now my chance.

So, after another painful soul-searching process, I agreed to a sabbatical in L’Aquila and arrived there on May 29th 2016. While driving there, I took a picture of the Gran Sasso mountain that day, thinking how beautiful it was. It did not take long for me to fall in love with the place. L’Aquila was still very much destroyed because of the earthquake. The reconstruction had been very slow in the first few years, but I could see the potential and imagine the future. I also realised I love looking at mountains around me; they give me a sense of inner peace. A few months and, I knew I wanted to stay, so I took



*Presidential Address at NARSC 2017, Vancouver*

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*GSSI Social Sciences  
staff, spring 2023*

part in the selection process there, and I got a job as a Full Professor of Applied Economics. In January 2017, I returned to the USA, packed up my things, and, on February 1st, I started working at the GSSI. I was responsible for the area of Social Sciences.

Through the years, the area of Social Sciences expanded from one to many... Over 20 people are working in the group as faculty right now. I am incredibly grateful to the younger colleagues who joined initially and stuck with me through thick and thin: Giulia Urso, Alessandro Crociata and Marco Modica. In 2019 an important addition to our group was Sandro Montresor, who took a chance and joined us as the second full professor in the area. I am grateful to him because he has worked very hard since coordinating our unique doctoral program in *Regional Science and Economic Geography*. We have around 40 PhD students, and they come from all over the world. We admit about ten students each year, but we have hundreds of applications as a testament to our success.

My career, such as my life, has been a wild ride with a few bumps, but I have never looked back. L'Aquila, for me, is a symbol of hope and resilience, and it fell and was reborn. It is now a beautiful and very enjoyable city, and I seem to have found my (and my son's, the only true masterpiece of my life) place, at least for now...

*Alessandra Faggian*

## TIRANA WORKSHOP

*Tomás Dentinho organized a workshop in Albania in March 2023 and reports.*

**W**E MET JOLTA Kacani in Madrid on 26-28 April 2022. Jolta talked about "We", and we raised the question, "Who are We?". The answer was quick: "We are from the Western Balkans, and we want to be part of the European Union". The idea for a workshop on Sustainable Regional Development in the Western Balkans on March 31st 2023 took form and then took place a few months later.

The aim of the workshop, organized by the Albanian Academy of Sciences, was to mobilize and nurture talents across the Western Balkans, to publish a special issue in *Regional Science Policy and Practice* on Sustainable Regional Development and European Integration in Western Balkans and to support RSAI in the creation of regional science sections in the Western Balkans.

At the workshop, quite some interesting contributions were mobilized (details at <https://westernbalkansworkshop.weebly.com/programme.html>). For the special issue, more papers can be submitted until the end of July 2023, to be published later in the year. Moreover, there are plans for a Regional Science Network in the Western Balkans, with meetings being planned in Pristina (2023), Sarajevo (2024), Podhoretz (2024), Belgrade (2025), Skopje (2025) and back in Tirana (2026).

The main conclusion of Tirana's workshop of 2023 was a question: *Why not integrate into Europe within months instead of years?* Let the experts on law adjust the legislation, but, as we know from previous experiences, only after actual integration do things begin to change - problems and solutions, costs and benefits, freedom, and democracy. And the same should happen with Ukraine and Moldavia. What researchers can do is compare the expected impacts of a sudden or last long integration!



*workshop attendees,  
March 2023*

## W RSA CONFERENCE 2023

**I**RECENTLY HAD THE pleasure of attending the 62nd Western Regional Science Association Annual Meeting at the Hilton Waikoloa Village on the beautiful Big Island of Hawaii. The conference lasted from February 15th to February 18th, and it was a truly remarkable experience. With over 40 parallel sessions, with 3 or 4 presentations for each session, each presentation had an assigned discussant, providing valuable feedback to all the presenters. Even though it rained some days, we could fully enjoy the conference, food, and other activities on the Big Island. Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity to learn from experts on the field and network with other professionals, all while taking in the stunning scenery of Hawaii.



*four attendees: Carles is  
the second from the right*

Additionally, the conference provided ample networking opportunities. Receptions and social events in the evenings allowed attendees to connect with colleagues from all over the world. Overall, the 62nd W RSA Annual Meeting was an unforgettable experience. From the location to the sessions and the people, everything was top-notch. I highly recommend this conference to anyone in the field of regional science who is looking for an enriching and enjoyable experience!

*Carles Méndez-Ortega, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain*



## THEME: TELEWORKING

*This issue of the newsletter features two items on teleworking, which has to some degree become a much more permanent feature of the spatial organization of working life in many places across the globe.*

### REGIONAL VARIATION IN THE PREVALENCE AND TEMPORALITY OF WORKING AT HOME

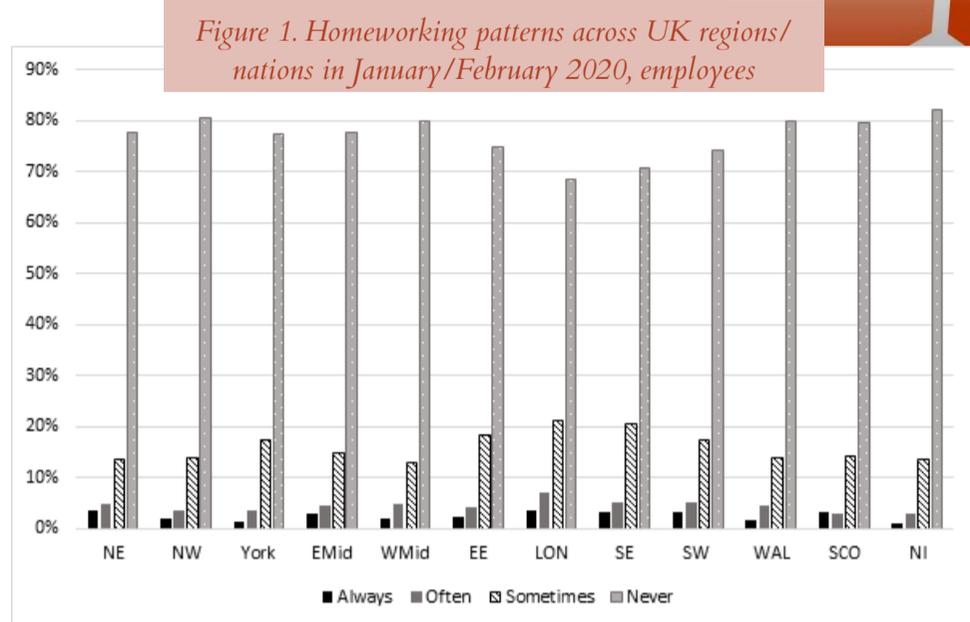


Working at home became a central feature of the economy when mitigation measures were put in place to reduce the spread of the new Coronavirus. The lockdown conditions meant that exclusively working at home increased sharply (Felstead and Reuschke, 2021). Regions with a concentration in advanced services saw the greatest increases in exclusively working at home during lockdowns, such as London and the South East of England (see Felstead and Reuschke (2020) for representative survey data). The interdisciplinary Covid-19 literature has focused on this type of working at home, where the job is exclusively done in people's homes. However, under not-lockdown conditions, homeworking is rarely a binary where people either exclusively work at home or never work at home, as most jobs require at least some social contact.

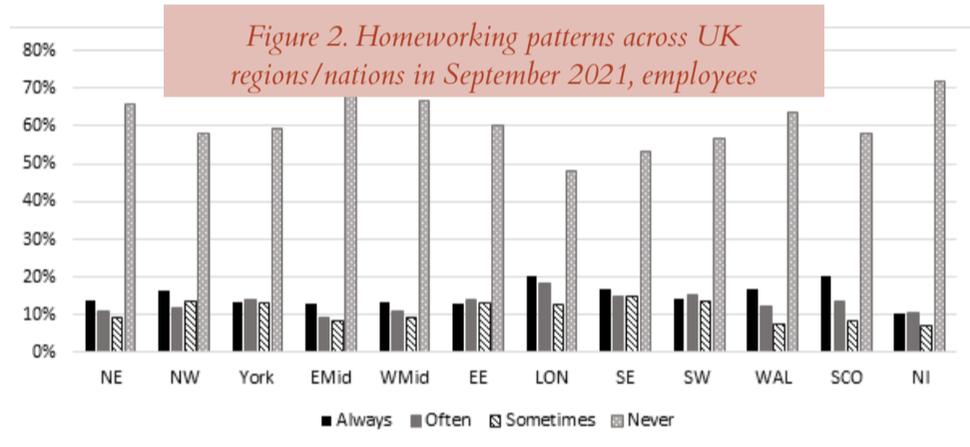
Exclusively working at home could facilitate moving from urban to rural areas and hence have positive effects on the development of more rural areas. If people still have to commute to a workplace weekly, though, one may predict that the commuter belt of cities will expand if homeworking is here to stay. The spatial impact of homeworking will essentially depend on how often people can work at home. The frequency of homeworking (instead of binary notions of working at home) and the cumulative weekly commute (instead of the daily commute) are, therefore, important indicators for studying the spatial impact of the changing geography of workplaces.

Using data from the European Working Conditions Survey 2015, we analysed the combinations of workplaces of people living in urban areas in the EU-28 (Burchell, Reuschke and Zhang, 2021). This showed that exclusively working at home was rare pre-Covid-19 applying to only 0.3% of male workers and 1.2% of female workers. Working at home in combination with working at the employer's or business' premises was instead more common in urban Europe (8.8% of male and 11.2% of female workers) and represented indeed the most prevalent form of multi-locational working prior to the pandemic.

Focussing on the United Kingdom (UK), where homeworking was more common before the pandemic than in continental Europe and Southern European countries (see Reuschke and Felstead (2020) using Eurostat data), regions with a concentration of jobs that can be done at home, were associated with a higher proportion of employees who sometimes (as compared to always, often or never) worked at home prior to the pandemic (Figure 1). The proportion of employees who exclusively worked at home was marginal in all UK regions. Figures 1 and 2 are based on the same dataset, the Understanding Society Covid-19 Study 2020-2021, which includes population weights to extrapolate from the survey sample to the UK population. This allows a comparison of the frequency patterns of homeworking, including never working at home across UK regions pre-pandemic and in September 2021, when legal limits on social



*Note on figures: Data are from University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020-2021. 11th Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 8644, 10.5255/UKDA-SN-8644-11. Shown are wave 1 (Fig. 1) and wave 9 (Fig. 2) with cross-sectional weights. Only employees who worked 1+ hours in the reference week. Nine English regions (North East, North West, Yorkshire and The Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, South East, South West) and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Author's own compilation.*



distancing had been removed. All findings presented in this article are based on own calculations with weighted data and are representative of employees who had worked at least one hour (in order to exclude fully furloughed employees in September 2021). The focus is here on employees reflecting that dominant debates about the changes in workplace geographies have employees in mind. Even before the pandemic, homeworking was the norm for the self-employed (see Felstead and Reuschke (2020) for representative survey data).

The comparison of Figures 1 and 2 demonstrates that the Coronavirus pandemic 2020-2021 has not only led to a sharp increase in exclusively working at home but also increased the regional disparities of working at home in the UK (more findings can be provided upon request). Overall, the proportion of employees who never worked at home dropped from 76% to 60% between January/February 2020 and September 2021. The regional variation of never working at home has widened over this period and is substantial. Regions with higher proportions of employees working in manufacturing, construction, retail and health and lower proportions of employees working in finance & insurance and professional, scientific and technical industry sectors tend to have higher rates of employees who never worked at home in September 2021. Notably, the picture does not represent a clear-cut North-South divide; for example, regions/nations such as Yorkshire and The Humble and Scotland also have higher proportions of professional jobs.

Regional inequalities in exclusively working at home have also significantly increased over this period. Exclusively working at home is strongly related to working in information and communication, finance & insurance and

professional, scientific and technical sectors. Working often at home (as opposed to always, sometimes or never) has also increased among employees over this period. However, less so than exclusively working at home, and spatial disparities are slightly less prevalent.

Sometimes working at home instead has decreased overall in the UK in September 2021 compared to January/February 2020 (from 16.5% to 11.5% of all employees). While it was the most relevant type of working at home among employees before the pandemic (Figure 1), pandemic lockdowns caused an increase in more regularly working at home. Regional disparities in sometimes working at home were large even before the Coronavirus pandemic and have not changed in September 2021.

The proportion of employees who exclusively, often or sometimes work at home is likely to have changed since September 2021. The data do not allow an exploration of homeworking trends since then. In the same dataset, in January 2021, people were asked about their future preferences for working at home, and this was at a time of nationwide lockdown. Of those employees who, at the time of the survey, worked at home on an exclusive, often or sometimes basis, 41% said they would prefer to work sometimes at home; another 32% wished to often work at home, 13% preferred to exclusively work at home while 14% did not want to work at home. This underlines a high preference for homeworking among employees but suggests that in the longer term, the high prevalence of exclusively and often working at home that we have seen during the pandemic is likely to fall. This prediction seems supported by anecdotal reports of employer behaviour in popular media that so far have not hinted at a radical change in organisational support for regularly working at home.

Looking ahead, we may therefore see to some degree a bounce back to pre-Covid homeworking patterns, less of an exodus of city dwellers into more rural areas as early commentary on the phenomenon hypothesised but most likely an expansion of commuting zones around cities with important implications for regions and cities. For future research, given the lack of survey data on people's cumulative weekly commutes alongside daily workplace location data, big social media and mobile phone data (for example, Reuschke et al., 2021; Long and Ren, 2022) may open up new horizons for studying the impact of homeworking at the sub-national level.

*Darja Reuschke, University of Southampton, School of Geography and Environmental Science*

*Darja's homeworking research was funded by the ERC WORKANDHOME Starting Grant (ERC-SiG-2014 639403).*

*Burchell B, Reuschke D. and Zhang M. (2021) Spatial and temporal segmenting of urban workplaces: The gendering of multi-locational working. Urban Studies 58(11), 2207-2232.*

*Eurostat (2022) Eurostat regional yearbook. 2022 edition. European Union.*

*Felstead, A. and Reuschke, D. (2020) 'Homeworking in the UK: before and during the 2020 lockdown', WISERD Report, Cardiff: Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research.*

*Felstead, A. and Reuschke, D. (2021) A flash in the pan or a permanent change? The growth of homeworking during the pandemic and its effect on employee productivity in the UK. Information Technology & People*

*Long, J. and Ren, C. (2022) Associations between mobility and socio-economic indicators vary across the timeline of the Covid-19 pandemic. Computers, Environment and Urban Systems 91, 101710*

*Reuschke D. and Felstead A. (2020) Changing Workplace Geographies in the COVID-19 crisis. Dialogues in Human Geography 10(2), 208-212.*

*Reuschke D., Long J. and Bennett N. (2021) Locating Creativity in the City using Twitter Data. Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science 48(9), 2607-2622*

## REMOTE WORK IN OECD CITIES AND REGIONS: TRENDS AND POLICY DIRECTIONS

The containment measures introduced in response to the COVID-19 outbreak triggered a massive shift towards remote working and new working arrangements (e.g. the "4-days week"). The fall in commuting costs associated with more remote work practices is reshaping preferences for residential location and might be generating a new spatial equilibrium with important implications for well-being and sustainability. The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) is currently engaged in three work streams analysing the trends of remote work and its drivers, its effects on settlement patterns and the spatial equilibrium, and the policy implications for place-based policies to reap the benefits of remote work.

### I. TRENDS AND DRIVERS OF REMOTE WORK ADOPTION

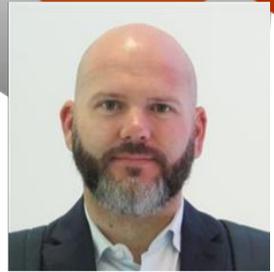
Remote work is here to stay. Recent OECD analysis (Luca et al., forthcoming) shows that remote work uptake not only increased in all regions in 30 European countries during the pandemic, but also continued to increase after lockdown measures were lifted. Between 2019 and 2021, the share of remote workers more than doubled (from 5.4% to 14%) across all European regions. However, not all places adopted remote working at the same pace. Remote working increased by "only" 90% in rural areas, more than tripled in cities, and almost quadrupled in capital regions (from 6% to 22%).

The uneven expansion of remote work across space is primarily explained by the presence of workers and industries more amenable to working remotely. Within each European region, age, self-employment status, and higher educational attainments increase the individual likelihood of working remotely. Moreover, remote work is particularly widespread in specific service industries such as information and communication technology, finance and insurance, and education. Similarly, managers, professionals, and technical and associate professionals have a higher probability of switching to remote work.

### II. EFFECTS ON SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

A review of trends and policy responses across OECD countries reveals ongoing changes in settlement patterns, with decreased inflows to large cities and increased outflows away from them, for instance in Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Ireland, United States (Burgalassi and Jansen, forthcoming). Evidence also suggests a demographic re-shuffling, with older residents and families with children preferring to move to the suburbs (e.g. within Paris metropolitan area), while younger dwellers aim to relocate to central neighbourhoods, as in the United States. Multi-locality, people living and working in more than one place during the course of the year, is also a rising phenomenon (e.g. in European Nordic countries, France) with further potential for growth.

OECD analysis on local housing markets shows that since COVID-19 and the rise of remote work, housing demand has been increasing faster in the surroundings of large metropolitan centres. The house price increase – a proxy for short-term increases in housing demand – has been particularly pronounced in commuting zones ("doughnut effect", see Ahrend et al., 2022), but it has also reached areas outside the metropolitan boundaries ("extended doughnut effect", see Ahrend et al., forthcoming). This is in line with partial remote work allowing for less frequent but longer commuting flows. In the suburban space



surrounding the main metropolitan centre (i.e., commuting zones), housing demand has increased the most in low-density settlements (rural). In contrast, beyond the commuting zones (i.e., outside the metropolitan boundaries) where most space tends to be rural, housing demand has increased the most in cities (mainly small and medium-sized cities). This indicates an increasing desire of urban residents to move into places that combine the benefits of both rural (e.g. access to nature, cleaner air, less congestion, larger houses) and urban life (e.g. services and amenities that require a minimum level of density). The OECD has started to examine in more detail the specific local factors (e.g., access to train stations, digital infrastructure, health services) that – combined with remote work practices – are driving these new settlement patterns.

### III. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The rise of remote work presents a unique opportunity for cities and regions to increase their attractiveness. However, this potential can only be fully realized through policy interventions that leverage local conditions by empowering people, firms, and places to capitalize on the advantages of remote work. Policy directions include 1) investing in the enablers of remote working such as digital infrastructure and skills, 2) integrating remote work into a wider approach that targets well-being in settlements (e.g., transport, housing, and health) while ensuring sustainability objectives (e.g., land consumption, energy efficiency), and 3) considering the interlinkages across the settlement network for better policy coordination (across different levels of government) in the provision of public services and infrastructure. Neglecting these policy areas may exacerbate existing disparities, with a few places reaping the benefits of remote work while others are left behind.

*David Burgalassi, Cem Özgüzel, Marcos Díaz Ramírez*

Ahrend, R., et al. (2022), "Changes in the geography housing demand after the onset of COVID-19: First results from large metropolitan areas in 13 OECD countries", OECD Economics Department Working Papers, No. 1713, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9a99131f-en>.

Ahrend R., Banquet A., Bélin M., Caldas M.P., Cournède B., Díaz Ramírez M., Pionnier P.A., Sanchez-Serra D., Veneri P., Ziemann V. (forthcoming). "Expanding the Doughnut? The Impact of Remote Work and COVID-19 on the Geography of Housing Demand", OECD Regional Development Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Burgalassi D., Jansen T. (forthcoming). "The geography of remote work: opportunities and challenges for intermediary cities", OECD Regional Development Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Luca, D., C. Özgüzel and Z. Wei, (forthcoming), "What factors enabled individuals to work remotely during the pandemic?", OECD Regional Development Papers, OECD Publishing, Paris.

### CAREER PATHS IN REGIONAL SCIENCE

*Regional Science is not only about academia. Many of us take paths through different parts of society after, between or even before academic phases. In the first instalment of this new series, we hear from the career path of Otto Raspe, recently appointed extraordinary professor in Tilburg, the Netherlands. Suggestions for new careers to be featured here – either your own or a nomination of someone else – are most welcome!*



#### **"ONCE YOU KNOW THAT GEOGRAPHY MATTERS, YOU SEE IT EVERYWHERE"**

This sentence motivates and illustrates why regional science is such an important discipline. For me it is the daily practice of the past twenty-five years. Since I graduated as an economist at Tilburg University in 1997, in the specialization 'regional economics

and economic geography', I have been conducting economic research in which space and region have a central place. I did not do this research by working at the university, but at research institutes such as PBL, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. Slightly less fundamental in nature, but with the same scientific standards and values and with a direct application in policy. For the past four years, this has been at RaboResearch, Rabobank's knowledge department. In which the knowledge practice of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship is even more central. For me it indicates that there is also an 'academic world' outside the university. Especially within the 'regional science'. I also see that within the Regional Science Association. For more than 12 years I have been on the board of the Dutch Regional Science Association; the place where science and policy come together.

Recently I was appointed professor of practice (part time) at Tilburg University. Back again, where I started 30 years ago. To bridge the gap between the academic world and social issues. For example, through research and education on the theme "beyond and below GDP". Not only beyond (a broader welfare perspective is needed), but also 'below' because we must of course also introduce the geographical dimension here: it concerns regions and regional circumstances in which companies and people experience welfare and prosperity. With this new role I try to put regional science even more on the map. Are you in?

### OBITUARY: ROBERTO CAMAGNI

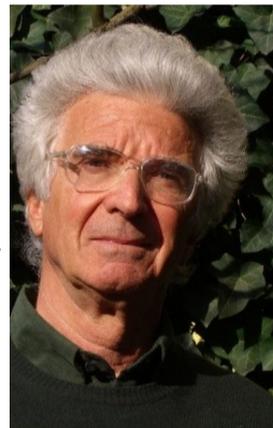
WITH GREAT SADNESS, I let you know that Roberto Camagni suddenly passed away on April 3rd 2023, at the age of 76, in Milan.

Roberto was Professor Emeritus of Regional and Urban Economics at Politecnico di Milano. He graduated in Economics at Bocconi University in 1973 in Milan and spent a full academic year at the University of Pennsylvania, where he got fascinated by regional and urban studies.

Roberto has always been very active in our Community. He was one of the founders of the Italian Section of the Regional Science Association International (AISRe), which he chaired between 1989 and 1992. Between 2003 and 2005, Roberto was President of the European Regional Science Association. Moreover, for twenty years (1987-2016), Roberto was President of the GREMI-Groupe de Recherche Européen sur le Milieu Innovateurs, Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne. In 2010, he received the ERSA Prize; in 2017, he became a Fellow of the Regional Science Association International.

From a scientific point of view, Roberto enriched our discipline a lot. The influence of the French school of Philippe Ayalot, of the GREMI group, and the cooperation with Italian colleagues, Riccardo Cappellin for the regional competitiveness analyses and Lidia Diappi and Giorgio Leonardi, two eminent system analysts, for urban studies, were crucial in his early period. With them, Roberto developed concepts like the role of territory in local knowledge creation, the "efficient, rather than optimal, urban size" contained in the Soudy model, and the formation of urban rent between the city and the countryside.

The 1990s and 2000s were Roberto's most active period, in which he produced an unbelievable and admirable number of seminal works in all fields of Regional and Urban Economics. In 1992, he published his Urban Economics textbook (later translated into French and Spanish, but unfortunately, to my



great regret, never into English!), the first (and to date only) textbook in that discipline published by an Italian. In regional economics, it was in this rich and active phase of his life that Roberto published a constructive criticism of Paul Krugman's provocative statement that regions and cities compete based on relative comparative advantage à la Ricardo, with the rather dangerous consequence that regional policies have no reason to exist. In those years, Roberto also provided evidence of the importance of national (macroeconomic) effects on regional development. He demonstrated a clever scientific balance between macroeconomists, who neglected all sorts of regional effects of national policies, and regional economists, at that time concentrated on reinforcement of the "endogenous regional growth model" launched in the 1970s by the industrial districts theory, and who therefore obsessively denied any role of national economic phenomena in regional growth. It was in that period that Roberto became interested in urban planning. Under the influence of his wife, Maria Cristina Gibelli, Roberto's interest centred on what was then a new approach to urban planning, known as "strategic planning", and he soon became an advisor to several Italian municipalities interested in launching a strategic plan for their city. In that period, Roberto entered the "urban sustainability" field. He provided a measurable definition of this concept and launched an extensive research program, leading a multidisciplinary group of economists and planners. The result was a rich interpretation of urban sustainability from both economic and territorial perspectives.

From the mid-2000s onwards, Roberto reached full maturity, guiding his research group in many innovative research projects won through tough competition at the international level. Together with his school, Roberto implemented a macro-econometric regional growth forecasting model Macroeconomic, Sectoral, Social and Territorial (MASST). It was in this phase that Roberto took up the challenge issued by the European Union to define "territorial cohesion". He did so by developing a clear and measurable definition of this fuzzy concept. He launched a simple and effective method to assess the impact of programs and projects on territorial cohesion, which was applied in many studies and cited by several authors. In those years, Roberto also developed the concept of "territorial capital". This notion synthesised all potential assets for regional growth by underlining the economic nature of each of them, and especially every single law of accumulation and depreciation, on which to base appropriate regional policies.

Roberto was also very active as an expert for different national and international bodies, namely the EU, OECD, Plan Urbain (France), the Italian Ministers of Public Works and Industry and many Italian and European Regional Governments in the fields of innovation diffusion and regional and urban development planning. In the period between 1994 and 1998, Roberto was the coordinator of the Groupe de Prospective sur les Villes, Datar, Paris. In 1995 he was nominated expert of the Italian Prime Minister for the ESDP - European Spatial Development Perspective. He was in charge of the Report on Urban Development and Policies, presented at the EU Ministerial Meeting in Venice in May 1996, within the Semester of Italian Chairmanship of the EU.

In 1997, Roberto was nominated Head of the Department of Urban Affairs of the Presidency of Council of Ministers during the first Prodi Government. The same year, Roberto was a member of the Committee for the Reform of the Urban Planning Law, Ministry of Public Works in Rome. In 1998, he prepared the Framework for action for sustainable urban development for DG REGIO of the European Commission. He was an expert for the EU ESPON project for the Ministry of Infrastructures between 2001 and 2004.

He retired in 2017, but he was still very active. During the lockdown period, Roberto wrote a fantastic and admirable piece of work on Adam Smith. Through a work that—he confessed to me—lasted two years of full immersion in Adam

Smith's writings and immense scholarship, Roberto was able to provide us with an unbelievable opus that uncovers the legacy of such a Great Mind for Regional Science. Roberto leaves us with such a wonderful paper, published in "Great Minds in Regional Science, Vol. 2" by Peter Batey and David Plane (eds.), Springer Verlag, 2023.

We will remember him forever.

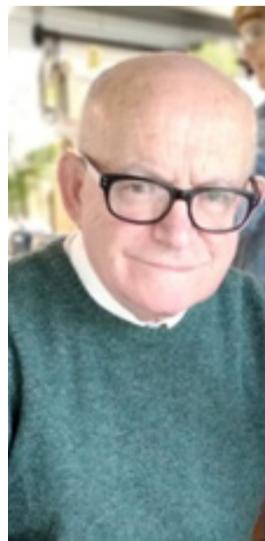
*Roberta Capello, Politecnico di Milano*

### **OBITUARY: JOHN BRIAN PARR**

**J**OHAN PARR, A member of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) since the mid-1960s, passed away at his home in London in early January 2023. John was born in the U.K. and graduated from University College, London, with a degree in economics in 1962. In 1967, he completed his PhD in economic geography at the University of Washington, working with Morgan Thomas and Charles Tiebout. From 1967 until 1975, he was successively Assistant and then Associate Professor in the Department of Regional Science at the University of Pennsylvania. He then returned to the UK. From 1975 until 2015, he was a faculty member in what ended up as the Department of Urban Studies at the University of Glasgow in Scotland; he was promoted to Professor in 1989. After retiring from Glasgow, he returned to London in 2016, when he was appointed an Honorary Professor in the Bartlett School of Planning at his alma mater, University College London. He was a frequent visiting scholar at institutions in the US (especially Illinois and West Virginia), Australia, New Zealand and Israel. After his return to the UK in 1975, he became very active in the British Section (now the British & Irish Section) of RSAI, serving as Chairman of the section from 1981-1985; however, he retained an affinity for the North American Regional Science (NARSC) conferences and the World Congresses of RSAI. He was elected an Academician (Fellow) of the UK Academy of Social Sciences in 2000. From the RSAI: British and Irish Section, he received the Moss Madden Memorial Medal in 2003 and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015. Parr was elected as a Fellow of the RSAI in 2006.

His main interests centred on regional/spatial policy and the spatial structure of regions, with a strong commitment to exploring and re-interpreting the works of von Thünen, Christaller and Lösch. In his more recent work, the role of spatial structure infused several papers that explored new interpretations of regional policy, its challenges and, in many cases, its failures viewed through the lens of spatial organisation broadly conceived. His extensive publication list includes many contributions in the Papers in Regional Science (and its earlier form), Journal of Regional Science, Annals of Regional Science, Urban Studies,

Regional Studies, Economic Geography, Environment and Planning and Spatial Economic Analysis. These works, with different foci and methodology, have in common an excellent writing style; Parr had little patience for obfuscation and felt it important that articles should be easy to read. Editors who attempted to change this style usually received a certain amount of opprobrium, with one editor commenting that Parr was the most challenging author with whom he had to deal! After several articles on regional policy (the focus of his doctoral dissertation), the bulk of his attention was directed to the spatial structure of city systems, initially drawing inspiration from central place theory. He greatly admired Lösch and would return to his contributions frequently throughout his career.



For the last decade, he refocused once more on regional policy but is now infused with new interpretations based on the structure of regional economies and their embedded urban systems. The ideas ranged from alternative views and definitions of agglomeration economies, the structure of interdependence within urban systems, and even returning to consideration of the role of spatial administration.

In many ways, his academic contributions were equalled by his commitment to enhancing the field of regional science, broadly defined. His presence in many conferences each year was an obvious manifestation of this sense of the role of more senior scholars; many colleagues have commented on the myriad ways he assisted them during their careers, one remarking that Parr had become a valued mentor, by being the academic and person he was rather than explicitly giving advice. He had an infectious sense of humour; he took his work seriously but rarely himself and graciously tolerated the gentle ribbing that inevitably occurred.

Parr's wife of 49 years, Pamela, died in 2014; he is survived by his two daughters, Sheila and Anne.

*Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, University of Illinois*

## OBITUARY: RONALD EUGENE MILLER

**R**ONALD EUGENE MILLER, Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania, died unexpectedly on January 26, 2023, at the age of 89. He received the North American Regional Science Council's David Boyce Award for Service in 1995 for his long, productive career as the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Regional Science* (1963-1996), as 1986-1987 Vice President of the Regional Science Association, as well as his administrative work at the Regional Department at Penn. In 2006, Regional Science Association International recognised Ron's body of academic work through the Walter Isard Award for Scholarly Achievement. He was elected a Fellow of the Regional Science Association International in 2012. Ron is perhaps best known for co-authoring, with Peter D. Blair, three editions of *Input-Output Analysis: Foundations and Extensions* (1985, 2009, 2022).



Born in Seattle, WA, in 1934, Professor Miller received a B.A. in Economics at Harvard University in 1955 under the tutelage of Robert Kuenne, who had written a dissertation under Walter Isard in applied input-output (I-O) analysis. Ron's senior thesis won the Newcomen Prize in Business History, part of which was published in 1957 as "The Impact of the Aluminum Industry on the Pacific Northwest: A Regional Input-Output Analysis" in the journal *Review of Economics and Statistics*. After a hiatus as a Fulbright Scholar at the Universities of Heidelberg and Munich in 1956, Ron received an M.A. in Economics at the University of Washington in 1957 under then Assistant Professor Arnold Zellner. He subsequently enrolled as a PhD candidate at Princeton University's Department of Economics. As Ron liked to tell it, his dissertation committee was composed of three secondary authors: Richard Quandt of Henderson & Quandt (1958), *Microeconomic Theory: A Mathematical Approach*, an advanced microeconomics textbook standard; Oskar Morgenstern of von Neumann & Morgenstern (1944), *Theory of Games and Economic Behavior*; and Robert Kuenne of Isard & Kuenne (1953), "The Impact of Steel upon the Greater New York-Philadelphia Industrial Region," an early application of input-output

analysis for measuring economic impacts. Ron's 1961 dissertation was published by the MIT Press in 1963 as *Domestic Airline Efficiency: An Application of Linear Programming*. It should be no surprise that his career focused on mathematical economic modelling.

In 1962, Ronald E. Miller, PhD, joined the recently formed Regional Science Department at the University of Pennsylvania. There he joined Walter Isard, Benjamin H. Stevens, and their first PhD student, William Alonso. Forever the prototypical Princeton alumnus, Ron quickly developed into a talented teacher and professor, advising scores of graduate students and receiving Penn's highest award for teaching in 1988. University-wide, his courses perennially ranked near the top in undergraduate student evaluation scores. His basic input-output (I-O) course was required for both graduates and undergraduates in Penn's Regional Science Department. Lecture notes from these classes as well as from an advanced "topics in I-O analysis" seminar, later culminated into early chapters of the 1985 edition of *Input-Output Analysis: Foundations and Extensions* once Peter Blair joined the Department's faculty in the mid-1970s. He taught other courses on mathematical programming as well. In 1995, Ronald E. Miller was promoted to Professor Emeritus status by the University of Pennsylvania, to which he had loyally devoted his entire career.

Professor Miller authored and co-authored scores of articles, authored or co-authored six books, and edited two volumes. After publishing his dissertation, Ron refocused his research attention on measuring interregional feedback effects in multiregional I-O models. The earliest of these works are still widely cited today for their development of a technique called "hypothetical extraction," the first of which (1963) corrected some equations in a salient piece by Professor Leon Moses, then at Harvard University.

Ron's broad knowledge, instant recall of obscure articles, and careful editorial eye will be sorely missed. He also was a frequent and willing manuscript referee and an occasional book reviewer. Ron was also known by colleagues and students for his tidy and organised office and, with rare exceptions keeping an immaculate desktop. This led his less orderly but very close colleague Ben Stevens to assert publicly that "Ron's so neat he keeps his telephone in a drawer." When queried about this later, Ron chuckled, replying that just prior to Ben's weekly arrival at his office, Ron made sure to tuck the telephone into his desk. Needless to say, it was great to be within earshot of the banter between these two fast friends. In any case, Professor Ronald E. Miller's humour and wit will be remembered fondly. It could be snarky and, at times biting but was always delivered with a smile and twinkling eyes and in a gentlemanly manner.

*Michael Lahr & Peter Blair*

*Selected books authored or coauthored by prof. Miller:*

- *Domestic Airline Efficiency: An Application of Linear Programming*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1963.
- (with David Sawers) *The Technical Development of Modern Aviation*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1968, and New York: Praeger Publishers, 1970.
- *Modern Mathematical Methods for Economics and Business*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1972. Reprinted, with corrections and a Solutions Manual, Huntington, NY: Krieger, 1978.
- *Dynamic Optimization and Economic Applications*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979.
- (with Peter D. Blair) *Input-Output Analysis: Foundations and Extensions*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1985. Substantially revised in both 2009 (2nd ed.) and 2022 (3rd ed.) with Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.
- *Optimization: Foundations and Applications*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2000.

## RSAI JOURNALS



Some interesting readings and news from Papers in Regional Science!

We are proud to announce that the recipient of the 2023 Martin Beckmann Award is the article by Jhorland Ayala-García and Sandy Dall'Erba (2022): *The Impact of Preemptive Investments on Natural Disasters* published in Papers in Regional Science vol. 101, issue 5, pp. 1087-1103 ([available open access](#)).

The Jury motivates this choice as follows. This study delivers a very original contribution to the current and relevant debate on the role of institutions and public policies aiming at contrasting the socioeconomic impact of natural disasters on citizens' life. The authors implement a precise research strategy approaching physical geography to regional science. They exploit novel and original data combining satellite information with public finance data for Colombian municipalities and propose different indicators for approximating the market and non-market losses of landslide-related events (associated with extreme rainfall events due to climate change). The conclusion is a direct message to institutions and policy-makers demanding effective measures to protect the lives and assets of the most vulnerable population.

We are also honoured to highlight the forthcoming contribution by Roberto Camagni(†), Roberta Capello, Camilla Lenzi, and Giovanni Perucca, *Urban Crisis vs. Urban Success in the Era of 4.0 Technologies: Baumol's Model Revisited* already available [open-access online](#). This study revisits the well-known Baumol model on urban crisis, and all its criticisms and refinements, introducing the adoption of digital technologies in the theoretical reasoning. Expectations arise in favour of a re-launch of urban economies in a spatial income distribution setting. This inspiring contribution is definitely part of Roberto's scientific legacy that Papers in Regional Science is proud to share with the scientific community.

Last but not least, the editor-in-chief of Papers in Regional Science is thrilled to inform you that this journal can finance up to five contributions in open access for RSAI researchers and members of LARSA and PRESCO in 2023; submissions from these geographical areas are very welcome!

*Rosella Nicolini*

For the RSPP 2023 Paper Award for the Best Paper in 2022, we would like to introduce the two winning papers:

*Daniel S. A. Carvalho and Gervásio F. Santos (2022) Transport and density of population groups in the urban area of the city of Salvador. Regional Science Policy Practice 14(6), 234-253. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12496>*



This paper seeks the effect of geographical features on transport accessibility for white and black in Salvador (Brazil), estimates an index of accessibility and applies a two-stage least square regression relating it to history using the proxy of geography (valleys), to density and to race. Conclusions indicate the trade-offs between density and accessibility while indicating the effect of transport policies on the social profile or the urban structure. It is an important topic of human interaction within space, analysed with replicable methods and creative generation of data, leading to interesting policy awareness. The paper has very nice background information on Salvador, focusing on an interesting topic with a well-executed analysis that includes physical geographic variables and transport mode-choice issue which is important in Latin America.



*Harry Aginta (2022) Spatio-temporal analysis of regional inflation in an emerging country: the case of Indonesia. Regional Science Policy Practice 14(3), 667-688. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12539>*



This paper analyses regional inflation dynamics in Indonesia and, estimation a spatio-econometric model, finds the transmission of price changes from regions to regions. Results are very interesting for an archipelago but also can be very useful for large monetary areas. A study that is ahead and leads to way to study the interaction between regional and monetary policies. It is an innovative space-time analysis. The adjustment to the Indonesian archipelago spatial context makes of an interesting application with the results for different components of inflation of general interest.

*Tomaz Ponce Dentinho*

## NEW BOOKS IN REGIONAL SCIENCE

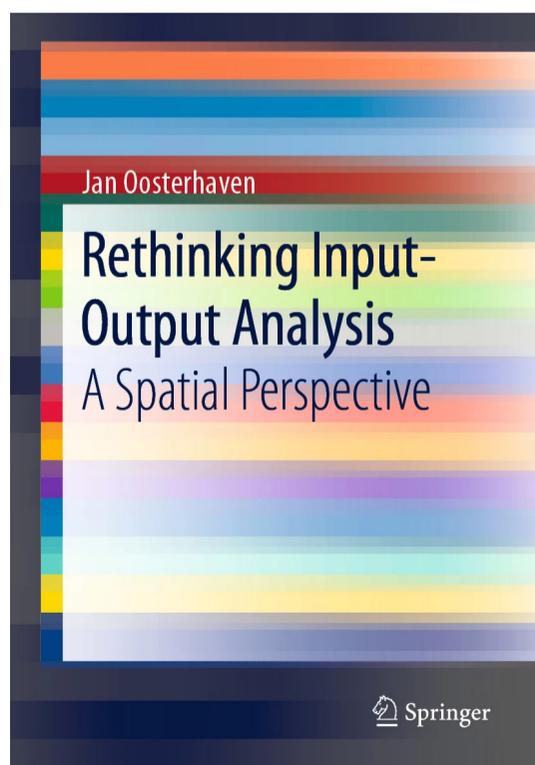
### Rethinking Input-Output Analysis, A Spatial Perspective, Second Edition

Jan Oosterhaven, University of Groningen

Springer Verlag, Heidelberg, *Advances in Spatial Science*, 2022, ISBN 978-3-031-05086-2

**T**HIS TEXTBOOK HELPS students understand the social, economic, and environmental importance of the mutual relations between industries in the same and different regions and nations. It demonstrates how to model these relations using regional, interregional, and international input-output (IO) models. It enables readers to extend these basic IO models with endogenous household expenditures, to employ supply-use tables (SUTs) that explicitly distinguish the products used and sold by industry, and to use social accounting matrices (SAMs) that detail the generation, redistribution and spending of income. In addition to the standard demand-driven IO quantity model and its accompanying cost-push IO price model, the book also discusses the economic assumptions and usefulness of the supply-driven IO quantity model and its accompanying revenue-pull IO price model. The final chapters highlight three main applications of the IO model: (1) economic impact analysis of negative supply shocks as caused by, for example, natural disasters, (2) linkages, key sector, and cluster analysis, (3) structural decomposition analysis, especially of regional, interregional, and international growth, and demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of these IO applications.

Written for graduate students of regional and spatial science as well as for economists and planners, this book provides a better understanding of the foundations, the power, the applicability and the limitations of input-output analysis. The second, completely revised edition expands on updating IO tables, modelling the disaster reconstruction phase, and includes an appendix on the necessary matrix algebra.



### European Narratives on Remote Working and Coworking During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Multidisciplinary Perspective

Mina Akhavan, Marco Hölzel, Divya Leducq (edd.)

*SpringerBriefs in Applied Sciences and Technology*, 2023, ISBN 978-3-031-26017-9: [available in open access](#)

**T**HIS OPEN ACCESS book offers a multidisciplinary and comprehensive perspective regarding the immediate and long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on coworking spaces in the European Region. The current pandemic has imposed several effects on work and spaces for work. Some are immediate effects and will last for a short time (such as the closing down of the space), some will last longer (namely, the reorganisation of the space to meet the physical distancing), and some will stay for a long time (remote working and hybrid working). Although the literature on coworking spaces and the effects of the pandemic is growing fast, empirical studies are yet limited. Within this context, this book seeks a twofold aim: (i) to contribute to the fast-growing literature on coworking space and their effects at different scales; (ii) to present a multidisciplinary perspective about the effects of the yet-lasting corona pandemic effects on the patterns of remote working and consequently on coworking spaces, as the most diffused form of new working spaces.

