

March
2009



The future of Regional Science

The new newsletter of the RSAI

Nr.1 March 2009

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Introduction: The new RSAI newsletter

Graham Clarke (RSAI Executive Director)



Welcome to this first edition of the revamped RSAI newsletter. We really hope you like the mixture of news and information items.

This is the first of a new bi-annual series, so we are already working on the edition for summer 2009. We would be delighted to hear your news and suggestions for articles. We very much would like to thank all the contributors to this first edition. The theme is the 'future of regional science' and there are thoughts on our future from the RSAI council, the in-coming President and from a selection of young scientists who gave their thoughts in a plenary session at the ERSA meeting in Liverpool. All provide much food for thought.

Finally I would especially like to thank the new newsletter editor appointed by RSAI Council – Eveline van Leeuwen. She introduces herself below. She is a great example of the kind of young researcher coming into mainstream regional science now (the EPAINOS prize winner for 2008 no less!!) and I am delighted she agreed to become editor.

Eveline van Leeuwen (RSAI newsletter editor)



My name is Eveline van Leeuwen. I have lived all my life in the Netherlands and I am currently employed by the department of spatial economics at the VU

University Amsterdam as a senior researcher.

It is a great honour for me to become the new newsletter editor of RSAI. Since I made my first steps in the academic world, the contacts and meetings between RSAI members have been very interesting and enjoyable for me. The broad range of subjects (which can be frustrating to certain persons) is for me very interesting. With a background in land-use or spatial planning obtained in Wageningen, and a background in regional economics obtained in Amsterdam, I do not consider myself only to be a planner/geographer or an economist. That is why I really feel at home in regional science. In my opinion, multi-disciplinarity and the integration of different topics and interest is very important for science, and particularly for the spatial sciences. If we see the RSAI as a melting pot of knowledge, ideas and traditions, comparable to Jane Jacob's cities, it could be seen as an important place for innovativeness and creativeness. However, innovation and creativity do not appear out of nothing, for that we need to communicate and interact. First of all, the various conferences and meetings often contribute to communication and interaction in a very interesting and pleasant way. In addition, we now also see the re-launched RSAI newsletter as contributing to better communication and interaction. Each newsletter will have a theme and a number of illustrative pictures. Influential RSAI members will be introduced, the ongoing research of key research departments will be described and reports about RSAI events will be given together with an agenda of future events. Our aim is to compose a newsletter with a wide range of subjects, using different kinds of contributions to reflect the work of you the RSAI members. We hope you enjoy edition one!

Roger Stough (RSAI Outgoing President)



Several years ago the RSAI leadership decided to drop the RSAI Newsletter and simply use the web page as a way to communicate ongoing and new activities in the organization.

Given several years experience with this approach we have decided that it was a good time to bring back the Newsletter. It is with great pleasure that we send you this first edition of the RSAI Newsletter, reborn. I believe you will find it a good source of information about RSAI activities ranging from personal awards to up coming conference information to more meaty efforts such as the report in this edition that summarizes the results of the strategic planning effort the RSAI Council undertook last spring in Sao Paulo. We are implementing some of the concepts that resulted from that activity and preparing for a second effort later this year at one of the Supra Regional Conferences. Upon completing the Sao Paulo workshop it became clear that at least one more session was needed to clarify and amplify the initial strategy results. The Newsletter will become a forum for further discussion on strategy as well as for information on the variety of other RSAI actions and activities.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this first edition of the 'new' Newsletter.



The Future of Regional Science (1): A viewpoint from the president

Roberta Capello (RSAI President 2009–2010)



On January 1st, 2009, I took over the presidency of RSAI from the outgoing president, Roger Stough. It is a great honour and a pleasure for me to serve RSAI.

This Association represents for each regional scientist the key location of scientific knowledge in regional science, a reference for international cooperation, an arena to debate ideas, a place where one can listen to scientific breakthroughs and ideas at the forefront of our knowledge - including theories, empirical methodologies and policy implications within regional science. RSAI is especially a place to meet old and new friends. This Association, founded by the father of regional science Walter Isard, is the result of more than 50 years of work by eminent professors of regional science who, with inspiration and dedication, have devoted time and effort to bring regional science to all corners of the world. The honour of becoming president of RSAI is considerable, but I am also aware that the responsibility I take over is not at all a simple one.

I have a great advantage by taking over this role now; I inherit a healthy and dynamic Association. Notwithstanding its age, RSAI is still growing, opening new sections in new countries, from Asia to Latin America, and strengthening the existing ones, in a virtuous and cumulative process. In 2008, the Columbian and Bangladesh sections were formed, and efforts are in place to open sections

in China and Argentina. In March 2008, the newly established Brazilian section organized the 6th World Conference of RSAI in Sao Paolo, demonstrating its vitality and its strong willingness to work for the good of our scientific community, and generating a sense of pride in RSAI. The recent successful development of Regional Science in Latin America demonstrated that it was time to move from a largely North-American supranational Association to a more embracing all American one. The RSAmerica supranational section was established in the new RSAI constitution, and in February 2009 the first conference of RSAmericas will take place in Cartagena, Columbia. Again, this is a very important step forward towards a world-wide community, and demonstrates the strong vitality of our Association.

From the scientific point of view, the Association has recently launched a new journal, 'Regional Science Policy and Practice', with the aim of having a forum for policy issues and debate, accessible for both scientists and policy-makers. With this journal, RSAI covers a need that existed in regional science, that of having a place where scientists could debate at a scientifically high level with policy makers.

All this has been brilliantly developed by my predecessors. On behalf of all of us, let me in this circumstance thank Roger Stough, the outgoing president of RSAI, for the time and effort dedicated to the Association. Personally, I owe Roger a huge debt for his important suggestions and the advice he has provided me in the year and a half of working together.

Although many achievements have been made, RSAI still faces many challenges that I shall have to deal with. In my younger days, I had a really confused idea of the role of RSAI, of its advantages and opportunities it was offering; all this because the contact between myself as a member and the Association was either mediated or very rare. This

feeling is, unfortunately common to many members of the different national associations, and gets reinforced with the increasing size of the RSAI. A first challenge is to move the Association closer to its members; the re-launching of this newsletter is one attempt in this direction, and others will come, such as an annual assembly of members, more direct (and clearer) messages to members and more services tailored to members needs (specific announcements and information). In this respect, I shall also work hard in order to guarantee more efficient services to members. I shall do my best for increasing transparency and efficiency in this field, I am sure with the help of Wiley-Blackwell.

The second goal that I would like to pursue is related to the first issue, namely the reinforcement of the universal membership rule. As you all know, some years ago RSAI moved to the 'universal membership rule' model, i.e. a commitment by all sections belonging to the RSAI to pay a 'symbolic' amount of money for each member to RSAI (10 Euros) in order to get access to all services provided by RSAI. This concept of universal membership has not yet been fully achieved, and many sections still pay for only a small number of their members. I am not concerned with the financial losses so far, but with the fact that to my understanding this is a sign of possible disaffection of national members to the International Association. This problem can be solved, in my opinion, if the Association moves closer to its members, by better explaining advantages, services and externalities that it can provide.

However, the main issue which requires a lot of effort and energy by each RSAI President is the enlargement and reinforcement of regional science around the world. This is something I shall pursue in my two years of presidency with the help of past-presidents and all the Council members. New potential sections in Argentina and China are only

two examples of the enlargement efforts, and I hope to add more potential new entrants into our community. At the same time, some already existing associations need international support to launch more activities and reinforce their presence in their respective countries. All this will be done with pleasure, resources, effort and dedication since the first and unique aim of RSAI remains the one of bringing Regional Science into all corners of the world. I am confident that in the next two years I shall receive the help and support of the Council members and past-presidents, all good friends. However, I especially count on each of you to fulfill our common goal, and I am sure RSAI members will not disappoint my expectations.

Thank you, and hope to meet you personally again soon.



Mary Lou Myer receives RSAI award



At the recent NARSC meeting in New York there was a presentation by RSAI to Mary Lou Myer following years of outstanding support for the RSAI

website (and previous newsletters). Mary Lou works at the Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University. She is seen here being awarded her plaque by Randy Jackson (head of the Regional Research Institute) and Roger Stough (then president of RSAI). The ceremony was an excellent opportunity for RSAI to say a huge thanks to Randy, Mary Lou and all at the Institute for years of hard work and dedication on behalf of RSAI and its members.

Israeli-Netherlands Workshop in Regional Science, 4–6 Nov, Jerusalem

Daniel Felsenstein



The 3rd Israeli-Netherlands Workshop in Regional Science was held on the Mount Scopus Campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem from Nov 4–6 2008. Previous

meetings in this series have taken place in Tel Aviv (1997) and Utrecht (1999). The present workshop was conducted under the title 'New Methods in Regional Science' and was devoted to two days of presentations and one day of touring. The Netherlands contingent comprised 8 scholars from a variety of universities and the RSAI was represented by Roger Stough. Sessions were conducted in workshop format with 30 minutes given for presentation with time allocated to both an appointed discussant and general questions. Topics covered included Urban Behavior, Dynamics of Housing Markets, Regional Economic Development, Spatial Econometrics, Transportation, Agglomeration and Economic Performance and Migration and Movement in Space. After 2 long days, and with 24 papers behind them, participants spent the final day observing some of the spatial and geopolitical conundrums of contemporary

Jerusalem and delving back some 2000 years on a whistle-stop tour of historical sites in the city. Key papers from the

workshop are to be published in a special issue of the *Annals of Regional Science*.



10th Anniversary of the membership of Slovak section in the RSAI.

Stefan Rehak (president of Slovak section of RSAI)



The Society for Regional Science and Policy, which is the umbrella organisation associating Slovak and Czech regional scientists and practitioners, is celebrating its 10th anniversary of

accession to ERSA and RSAI. The history of the Society started in the early 1990s, through the considerable efforts of Prof. Milan Buček, long-standing president of the Slovak Section of ERSA/RSAI. The main activities of the association have been 'Clubs of Regional Scientists', organised as an informal interdisciplinary meeting of regional economists, spatial planners, environmental economists, sociologists and geographers. In recent years we have extended our activities. One of the most significant we can mention is the biennial Central European Conference in Regional Science (organised jointly with the Technical University of Košice, the University of Economics in Bratislava

and the German Speaking Section of ERSA) or the 'Regional Discussion Forums' in Košice. We are now launching, in co-operation with the University of Economics in Bratislava, the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, REIC Banská Bystrica and Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region, a new international scientific journal *Region Direct* and a web page which will serve as a main information platform for the regional science community in Slovakia and Czech Republic. To support young regional scientists we are also running a project called '*Learn More and Publish!*' (supported by the Tatrabanka Foundation), which will cover two activities – specialised seminars and competition of the best scientific paper of young regional scientist.

Happy birthday Slovak section!

Regional statistics and indicators available from the OECD

Countries need competitive, dynamic regions to achieve their economic and social objectives at the national level. Regional development is an indispensable complement to national macroeconomic and structural policies. Globalisation poses new challenges to

regions and to current regional development policies. The OECD provides policy analysis and exchange of information on regional development, regional competitiveness, regional innovation, urban development, rural development, multi-level governance and regional statistics and indicators. Check it out at: http://www.oecd.org/department/0,3355,en_2649_34413_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Peter Nijkamp receives Royal Honour!

Peter Nijkamp has received a Royal Honour at his farewell from the Dutch Science Foundation. He has been awarded the title 'Ridder in de Orde van de Nederlandse Leeuw', (literal translation: Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion). This is among the highest honours given to Dutch people, and is awarded to those who have excelled in science, arts, sports or business in a unique and exceptional way. Congratulations to Peter from all at RSAI.

From 1 January 2009, Peter will return to academia fulltime and will become the first University Professor of VU University Amsterdam, a Chair which will permit him to devote his time fully to research.

ERSA congress 2008 in Liverpool

I am sure we would all like to thank Peter Batey and his team for an excellent conference on 'Culture, Cohesion and Competitiveness – Regional Perspectives'.



An important event during the congress was the formal Congress Dinner which was held in the magnificent setting of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, the largest cathedral building in Britain. The picture shows the tables ready for the hungry hordes!

New supra-region RSAmericas

An historic meeting took place at 5.30 on November 21st during the NARSC meeting. This was the inaugural meeting of the new supra-region RSAmericas. Given the increasing interest in regional science throughout South and Central America it had been agreed at various NARSC and RSAI council meetings that the Supra-region covering North America should be extended geographically. It was decided that the simplest way to accomplish this was to create a new



Jean-claude Thill getting his award at NARSC



Eduardo Haddad

Supra-region called RSAmericas of which NARSC would continue to operate as an individual Section. Most of the administration for the setting up of RSAmericas was overseen by Jean-Claude Thill, current NARSC Executive Director. RSAI owes Jean-Claude a massive vote of thanks for all his hard work and smooth negotiating skills to move us forward. It was great to see Jean-Claude's considerable administrative skills recognized in New York with his NARSC award for outstanding service. The picture shows the award ceremony.

At the inaugural RSAmericas meeting it was decided that the new Supra-region should have a very light administrative load for now. The principal activity was likely to be a conference or workshop in an emerging area of regional science, perhaps every two years or so. However, it was felt that the new Supra-regional required a president: congratulations to Eduardo Haddad who was unanimously elected to serve as RSAmericas Council president.

Congratulations, Eduardo.



The Future of Regional Science (2): A round table discussion by young scientists

Dimitris Ballas, University of Sheffield



The 48th Congress of the European Regional Science Association held for the first time a Young Regional Scientists Round Table on the 'Future of Regional Science', which I had

the privilege and pleasure of being asked by the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Peter Batey, to organize and chair. This panel discussion aimed at

identifying current major issues and formulating future research agendas in Regional Science, from the viewpoint of young researchers. The panel comprised young regional scientists who are distinguished researchers (including some of the recent EPAINOS prize winners) and possible emerging future leaders in their field but not part of the 'establishment'. In particular, the participants were the following: Nicola Coniglio, Ugo Fratesi, Emilia Catalina Istrate, Eveline van Leeuwen, Declan Jordan, Stamatis Kalogirou, Karyn Morrissey, Jaakko Simonen, and Dan Vickers.

The scientific expertise and research interests of the panel members cover most themes of Regional Science and range from economics of migration and international trade and factor mobility to innovation and enterprise policy, regional econometrics, regional growth models, land use planning, spatial microsimulation, entrepreneurship, institutions and infrastructure, rural economic development, geographical information systems, geostatistics and geodemographics.

Each panel member presented their perspectives and reflections on the future of Regional Science and were asked to identify a number of key research areas and challenges that they thought will be of importance in the next 10 to 20 years. The round table also attempted to link the panel members' different research agendas by identifying common methodological grounds and possible future synergies. Each summarise their thoughts below:

Nicola Coniglio (University of Bari, Italy)



was the first contributor to the discussion. He identified the economic and social impact of climate change as one of the key challenges for regional scientists in the near future. He

pointed out that the recent bulk of research so far has mainly concentrated on the understanding of the past and current trends of climatic changes, investigating their causes and predicting future developments. However, he pointed out that there is very limited knowledge of the consequences of these changes and he formulated a number of pertinent research questions such as: How individuals and communities will adapt? How will the economic space be affected? He gave the example of geographical mobility associated with changes in climatic conditions and extreme weather events and pointed out that migration is one among many possible adaptation strategies. But he also argued that we currently have no evidence regarding the nexus between migration and climatic changes. He suggested that the regional science research frontier needs to be pushed in several directions and in particular: (i) theoretical models to guide our thinking about changes in climatic conditions and adaptation strategies by individuals with different levels of vulnerabilities to such shocks; (ii) field research and data collection; (iii) simulation of the complex mechanisms which relate climate and human behaviour.

Eveline van Leeuwen (VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands) pointed out that, with regards to her area of expertise, one of the key challenges for the future would be to develop robust theoretical frame-



works on the basis of the current increasing data-availability and the emerging (online) applications. She suggested that the majority of the work of regional scientists using these data is not theoretically informed and that sometimes it feels that regional scientists, faced with a wealth of data and

analytical tools, behave like 'little children in a candy store', being allowed to choose whatever dataset or new technique to play around and show fancy applications and simulations. Furthermore she suggested that there is a need to develop methodological approaches that can tackle the multi-scale characteristics of socio-economic systems, taking into account the (time) scale dependencies of interrelated socio-economic processes and biophysical processes. In particular she too noted climate change and spatial developments as very important future challenges.

Stamatis Kalogirou (Harokopio University of Athens, Greece) suggested that the major emerging challenges in Regional Science pertain to issues that relate to three major phenomena that affect our way of



thinking and acting: a changing natural environment, a changing socioeconomic environment and an increasing use of technology in our everyday life (the clever machines and the web). In particular, he suggested that the key research challenges include the study of the local environment including the climate and natural hazards management, pollution (sound pollution, night light pollution, soil and water pollution, air pollution) and potential dramatic climate changes, such as the desertification of areas or the flooding of others that will cause significant population and economic activity relocation. In terms of the technological advances, he suggested that regional scientists should engage more with the implications of the replacement of human experts with clever machines and knowledge management systems. In particular, he suggested that new communication tools, such as interactive TV and clever mobile machines, new ways of socializ-

ing such as the on-line communities (e.g. facebook) and advanced information sharing through metropolitan networks and the Internet will produce new research questions. Given these developments, he asked how regional scientists could redefine space.

Ugo Fratesi (Politecnico di Milano, Italy)



presented his views on what he thought the challenges would be regarding regional growth analysis. He suggested that the key issues regarding this field pertain to the concepts of scale,

context, methodology and data. In particular, he argued that the economy can be represented in a three dimensional space with the three dimensions corresponding to time, space and economic sector. He pointed out that regional scientists have traditionally cut this space into vertical slices, each corresponding to a region; industrial economists, on the contrary, usually slice it horizontally, by sector. Cluster analyses, which have more recently diffused, are built on the intersection of the two using as an observational unit a sector in a location. He suggested that future regional growth analysis cannot neglect the sectoral dimension and we will very often see growth analyses which will take into account sectoral and regional specificities at the same time (as well as the dynamics). He also highlighted the fact that many regional growth analyses currently suffer from a lack of consideration for the *context*. In particular, when investigating the factors behind growth, it often appears that the situation in which the economies were in the estimation period has not been sufficiently taken into account. Estimation periods are generally purely deter-

mined by data availability, but different time spans can have very different regional behaviours because of different processes taking place at national and international level in these periods.

Emilia Catalina Istrate (George Mason University, USA)



was the fifth panel contributor to the panel discussion. First, she identified the key research challenges in the fields of her expertise and in particular, infrastruc-

ture, institutions and entrepreneurship. With regards to the subject of infrastructure, she suggested that future discussions are going to focus upon the issues of linking energy infrastructure, such as the electricity grid, with transportation infrastructure. With regards to the subject of institutions and entrepreneurship she suggested that more attention needs to be given to the individual, as the agent of the regional economy. She pointed out that the incentives that entrepreneurs face in the process of wealth creation deserve more attention at the regional level. She added that the new reality of a centripetal concentration of activities in metropolitan areas, coupled with the centrifugal movement of outsourcing requires more theoretical and empirical work. She also pointed out that the rapid progress of complexity models provides a possible avenue and that empirical work on these subjects should offer guidance to public policy. Finally, she suggested that with all the caution towards the implications of their empirical results, regional economists need to get involved in more discussion. She stressed that if regional economists do not take up that challenge, then, others, less knowledgeable about the needs of regional economies, will do it.

Declan Jordan (University College Cork, Ireland) suggested that one of the key challenges in regional science is to develop methodological approaches that focus on the quality of life and happiness as the desired



outcomes of economic activity. He also pointed out that another key theme in regional science that will be of importance in the future is that of behavioural economics, given its increasing prevalence in the mainstream economic literature. He suggested that the common thread in both of these developments is their focus on people, which sits very easily with Walter Isard's assertion that Regional Science must be about 'people not locations'. He added that it is important, from an economics perspective, that regional analysis does not become 'national analysis' at a lower level of aggregation. He stressed that the strength of regional science is that it has people at its centre, and it recognises that, to use Marshall's phrase 'the ordinary business of everyday life' occurs in a spatial context and is affected by the characteristics of the location in which it occurs. He also pointed out that the importance of trying to best understand the behaviour of people has implications for how we, as regional scientists, do our work. The first of these is a growing importance for survey, interview and qualitative data in the analysis of activity at the regional level. This will enable researchers to break from the path-dependence of classification and reporting of data according to conventions which may no longer be appropriate for a changed economy and society. He also pointed out that just as we are path dependent in terms of data sources, we are also path dependent in terms of the regions we analyse. He added that the identifica-

tion and analysis of functional regions is a positive development and will be seen as the appropriate basis for regional comparisons.

Karyn Morrissey (Irish Rural Economy Research Centre, Ireland and University of Leeds, England) highlighted the need for increased integration and collaboration between the represented disciplines of the Regional Science



Association International. She suggested that increased cooperation and interdisciplinary research would ensure a deeper and wider knowledge of our mutual research agendas, better quality data, an increased understanding of casual relationships at both the micro and macro level and more applicable policy analysis. She also highlighted the fact that the RSAI offers a unique platform for collaborative research and as members of the RSAI, researchers and policy-analysts we should make the most of the opportunities available to us under the RSAI umbrella.

Jaakko Simonen (Oulou University, Finland) focused on the literature



in the field of regional innovation research and suggested that most research to date has taken a very broad overall view of the relationship

between geography and innovation and adopted rather diffuse and vague notions that knowledge and innovation reside 'in the air'. He pointed out that these broad definitions mean that it has been very difficult to isolate the innovation advantages associated with the mobility of local human capital, from those associated with face-to-face contact between firms and between

firms and other organisations. He added that an important research issue in this field of research will be to identify and distinguish the different roles which the geography of knowledge spillovers and the geography of labour markets play in the innovation process. He suggested that if we look at the databases which we have available, the most important requirement is that more regional innovation surveys would become available. He also pointed out that regional innovation surveys would provide us with more detailed information about the features of regional innovation systems, how these innovation systems work, what kind of regional cooperation links firms have (intensity, number, variety etc.), and the extent to which different cooperation relationships are geographically bounded, etc. Finally, he suggested that by combining the information provided by the regional innovation surveys and regional labour mobility data, we will get more information about regional knowledge flows and innovation activity, and we are able to offer new insights and a more detailed picture about the nature of innovation processes within the regions.

Dan Vickers (University of Sheffield,



UK), suggested that regional science needs to think outside the box to move forward. He suggested that breakthroughs in analytical capability now allow us to work

with larger and much more detailed data than ever before. We are now able to dig down within the region allowing us to reach the detail within them to the extent that we can see how one street differs to the next. We will always see bigger

differences within regions than between them. It is these differences, and the effects that they have on people's lives, that is the key to understanding societies at the beginning of the 21st century. He also pointed out that it is vital that the regional science community does not become stale. Young researchers need to be seen as the key to the future of the discipline, they need not only to be encouraged to take part but also be made welcome and allowed to give their ideas and opinions. He concluded his contribution to the discussion by saying that young regional scientists should not shy away from very important policy-relevant research which can have a real impact on improving the lives of people across the globe.

In the second round the panel members discussed ways of linking their different research agendas by identifying common methodological grounds and possible future synergies. This was followed by an invitation for general questions from all people present and a stimulating debate. The round-table was very well attended and the audience included a good mixture of other young and mid-career regional scientists, as well as a number of 'members of the establishment' who engaged in the lively debate.

The discussion ended by identifying common methodological grounds and policy and data issues across countries and sub-disciplines as well as by discussing ways of influencing regional policy and practice. The panel members expressed optimism about the ways in which regional science can become even more 'policy-relevant' in the future. It was also stressed by both members of the panel and the audience that, although there are now great research opportunities for regional scientists due to the increasing availability of a wide



The 'round' table listening to questions from the audience

range of new relevant geo-data sources in both the public and private sectors, there is a strong need for all future regional science research to be theoretically-informed and theory-driven. Overall, I felt that all contributions by the panel members were really excellent and that the extremely interesting and thought-provoking discussion that followed shows that there is great potential to build on the very impressive achievements of the past and therefore a very bright future for Regional Science!

Young European Scholars get Prepared

Gunther Maier (Vienna University)



Over the last three years the traditional summer universities of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) have been offered in a new framework.

Based on funding from the Marie Curie Program of the European Union, ERSA offered a series of highly intensive advanced training courses for PhD students and young

researchers in the field of regional science. The program is known under the acronym PREPARE and attempts to prepare young European scholars for a successful career in regional science research. The program consists of advanced lectures by top-level experts, presentations of their research work by participants, and career advancement activities that shall help participants to excel in their scientific career. An important element of the program is network building. This is achieved by keeping the participants together for ten full days and by inviting them to participate in the European congress in the year after the summer school event.

Participation in PREPARE is highly competitive. Thirty participants are selected every year based on scientific abilities and background. Fundamental requirements are that they have to qualify as young researchers, and either need to be EU citizens or students at an EU university. Given equal qualification women and candidates from Central and East European countries are preferred.

In the previous years, summer universities in this framework have been organized in Groningen, The Netherlands, (2006), Bratislava, Slovakia, (2007), and Pecs, Hungary, (2008). Topics of the

lectures have been spatial econometrics, GIS, network analysis, discrete choice modelling, and computable spatial general equilibrium modelling. In 2009 ERSA's PREPARE summer university will be held July 3–12 in Volos, Greece. Contrary to earlier years, where the

focus was on research methods, the topic in 2009 will be 'Regional Growth Models: Advances in Theory, Methodology and Empirical Analysis'. The electronic application form will be made available early January at the ERSA homepage (www.ersa.org).



The 2007 PREPARE group in Bratislava



Meet the Fellows: Peter Nijkamp

Peter Nijkamp is professor in regional



and urban economics and in economic geography at the VU University, Amsterdam. His main research interests cover plan evaluation, multicriteria analysis, regional and urban

planning, transport systems analysis, mathematical modelling, technological

innovation, and resource management. In the past years he has focused his research in particular on quantitative methods for policy analysis, as well as on behavioural analysis of economic agents. He has been visiting professor in many universities all over the world and he is past president of the European Regional Science Association and of the Regional Science Association International. In 2004 he received the Founder's Medal. Peter comments:

'Since its genesis in the 1950s, regional science has addressed over the successive decades social science issues

related to regional and urban development. The methodologies deployed in regional science analyses have shown a wide variety of approaches ranging from policy evaluation to spatial econometrics, from spatial impact assessment to computable regional equilibrium modelling, and so forth. The orientation in regional science was explicitly interdisciplinary in nature.

Interdisciplinary research has become rather fashionable in recent years, as it is generally believed that new scientific discoveries are most likely to be found as the interface or edge of different disciplines. From this perspective, regional science has a pioneering role to play in the future of the social sciences. It should also be added that regional science seeks its thematic orientation in the study of regions as concrete spatial entities which might be investigated from different perspectives. Thus, regional science offers a prism through which regions can be analyzed; it is not an omni-science in itself.

The Regional Science Association International (a few years ago) decided to create a system of 'Fellows' to honour scholars who have significantly contributed to papers in regional science research. In my view, an RSAI fellow is not in the first place an honoured scientist, but a scholar whose task it is to render services to the broader regional science community, in particular the younger generation.

From my early encounters with regional science - in the early 1970s - I have been fascinated by the wealth of approaches and news that are generated to better understand the 'secrets' of regions. Regional scientists form a scientific community of scholars who are fascinated by the undiscovered nature of modern regions and who are part of a discovery tour that will never come to an end. Regional science research is a discovery race without a finish'.



Centres of Regional Science: Illinois

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has played an important role in the history of the RSAI. It became the administrative headquarters and home of RSAI in 1987. Newly appointed Beth Carbonneau led a small team of administrators handling the distribution of the journal and newsletter and dealing with all RSAI correspondence. Illinois remained the home of RSAI until the move to Europe in 2003.

The University has always had a large and energetic regional science community. The University's regional science strengths are grounded principally in the departments of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, Economics, Finance, Geography, and Urban and Regional Planning; the College of Business; and the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. It has always been a centre of research excellence. Look, for example, at some of the key figures in regional science who have spent time at Illinois: Randy Jackson, Michael Sonis, Art Getis, David Boyce, Steve Dellar, Adrian Esparza, Luc Anselin, Kieran Donaghy, Alex Anas, Brigitte Waldorf, Raymond Florax, Jan Brueckner, Aisling Reynolds-Feighen, Bruce Newbold, Mark Partridge, James Huff. The list goes on and on, not least with two of our recent Fellows, Daniel McMillen and John McDonald.

Of all the departments at Illinois it is the **Regional Economics Applications Laboratory** (REAL) which is most synonymous with regional science research. It focuses on the development and use of analytical models for urban and regional forecasting and economic development. **REAL**'s mission is 'to provide timely, high quality analytical economic information for a variety of uses such as public policy decision

making by public sector agencies and for strategic marketing in the private sector'. Much of the work of **REAL**'s team has focused on building comprehensive state and metropolitan models that integrate econometric and input-output analysis to provide for both impact and forecasting analyses. While **REAL**'s primary focus has been on the economies of the Midwest, researchers have collaborated in the development of models for several regions on the east coast of the USA. In addition, two models have been constructed for states in Brazil and a third is under construction. A model for the Jakarta Metropolitan region is also under construction. The links to newly developed countries has always been strong, especially in Latin America. Other famous alumni include the new President of the RS Americas Eduardo Haddad. Carlos Azzoni (Brazil) and Patricio Arco (Chile) have also been regular visitors.

The University at Illinois is also one of the few institutions that offer degrees in regional science. An interdisciplinary mix of courses in regional science is available for students enrolled in master's or doctoral degree programs. The core modules include transportation planning, regional development and planning, real estate and urban land economics, urban and regional analysis, and environmental systems and management. Core courses are

Geoff Hewings, Director of REAL



offered in regional and social science theory, location theory, and methods of regional science. The leading figure throughout this time has been Geoff Hewings, Director of REAL. Geoff obtained his B.A. from the University of Birmingham (UK) and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Washington (Seattle). Prior to coming to Illinois in 1974, he was on the faculty of the University of Kent at Canterbury (UK) and the University of Toronto (Canada). In addition to his position in REAL, he is a Professor of Geography and Regional Science, of Economics, and of Urban and Regional Planning. Geoff has always been a leading scholar in regional science. As you would expect he has an impressive cv in regional science model building and testing. However, he has also played a huge role in the administration and operation of RSAI. In 1990 he became the first Executive Director of RSAI and he has since served with great distinction as President. In 2003, he received the Walter Isard Award for distinguished scholarly achievements in the field of Regional Science and the same year was made a Fellow of RSAI. Also in 2003, he was awarded Docteur Honoris Causa by the University of Bourgogne, France. The Associação Brasileira de Estudos Regionais honoured him with an Award for Service to Regional Science in 2004.

His major research interests lie in the field of urban and regional economic analysis with a focus on the design, implementation and application of regional economic models. He is keen on applications, especially how these models might become useful in policy formation and evaluation. In addition to the continuing development of regional econometric-input-output models for a number of US states and metropolitan

areas, Geoff has worked on the above-mentioned modelling projects in Brazil, Colombia, Japan, Korea and Indonesia. Recent work in the Midwest, Brazil and Korea has focused on linking regional macro models with transportation network models to explore impacts of unexpected events (earthquakes), expansion of transportation infrastructure and the impacts of port efficiency. At the metropolitan scale, attention has been directed to the estimation of intra-metropolitan flows of goods, people, income and consumption expenditures within the Chicago region to measure the changing degree of interdependence. Theoretical work remains directed to issues of economic structure and structural change interpreted through input-output, social accounting and general equilibrium models.

Outside of academia Geoff is sadly a supporter of Cardiff City football club (according to Graham Clarke).

The University of Illinois, and REAL in particular, is clearly a centre of regional science excellence. Watch out for another profile in the next edition.



RSAI Prizewinners 2008

The Founder's Medal was established



to recognize lifetime contributions to the field of Regional Science and to the Association. *Antoine Bailly* was presented with the Founder's

medal at ERSA conference Liverpool, August 2008. Born in 1944, Antoine Bailly is professor emeritus of economic geography at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He was a professor in different universities in Canada, France, Portugal and Switzerland. He is the president of the IGU Applied Geography Commission, of the Scientific Committee of the INRA PSDR (France) and of Forum Santé Gesundheit (Switzerland). He has published over 30 books and 300 papers in applied geography, economic and urban geography, and regional science. He is the cofounder of regional medicometry. Congratulations to Antoine on a fantastic achievement.



2008 RSAI Fellowships presented by Bob Stimson to Jan Oosterhaven, Roger Stough and Sir Alan Wilson (2007 Fellow) in Liverpool



2008 RSAI fellowships presented by Roger Stough to Takatoshi Tabuchi, T.R.Lakshmanan, Harry Richardson and by Roberta Capello to John McDonald in New York

In 2001, the RSAI Council initiated the RSAI **Fellows Award** to honour a select group of members of the Association who have made important scholarly and research contributions to the field of regional science. In 2008, seven new Fellows of the RSAI were honoured. They are:

- T.R.Lakshmanan, University of Boston
- Daniel McMillen, University of Illinois at Chicago
- John McDonald, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Jan Oosterhaven, University of Groningen
- Harry W. Richardson, University of Southern California
- Roger Stough, George Mason University
- Takatoshi Tabuchi, University of Tokyo

The RSAI dissertation Award 2008



was presented to Maarten Bosker from Utrecht University for his thesis titled 'The empirical relevance of geographical economics'. The runner up was Nancy Lozano-Gracia from

Arizona State University. Both will be

invited by RSAI to present at a Supra-regional conference in 2009.

The **Martin Beckman prize** for the best paper published in 'Papers in Regional Science' has been jointly awarded to Paul Elhorst and Annette Zeilstra from the University of Groningen for their article titled 'Labour force participation rates at the regional and national levels of the European Union'.



Congratulations to all the prizewinners!



New Member groups

The Brazilian Association of Regional Studies/Science – ABER

The 2008 RSAI World Congress was organized by the Brazilian Section of

RSAI (The Brazilian Association of Regional Studies/Science – ABER) and was held at the Faculty of Economics, Administration and Accounting of the University of Sao Paulo. Over 300 participants took part in 60 parallel sessions, in which 180 papers were presented, writes Carlos Azzoni (pictured below).

Carlos Azzoni, University of Sao Paulo



ABER was founded in the year 2000, in a meeting in São Paulo, in which 150 papers were presented, for an audience of over 200 participants. This meeting was followed by another in 2002,

again in São Paulo, when the Association was formally chartered. After that, conferences followed in Belo Horizonte, 2004 (over 300 participants), and Foz do Iguaçu, 2006 (over 300 participants). The association decided to move from every other year meetings to annually meetings. Thus, the next was held in Recife in 2007, with more than 350 participants. The 2008 conference was held in Aracaju, in October 2008. A total of 800 abstracts were submitted and 400 papers were accepted, with over 500 participants.

A special prize for the best papers presented by students (undergraduate or graduate) was introduced in the 2004 meeting. It honours one of the pioneers in Regional Science in Brazil, Professor Paulo Roberto Haddad. The Brazilian Association is now part of RSAmericas, and will be fully involved in the activities of that supranational entity. It is also involved with the Portuguese Speaking Regional Science Association, in association with APDR, the Portuguese section of RSAI.

Being a large country, Brazil faces many regional disparities, which have been the main concern of the papers presented in the ABER meetings. But recently many urban issues have also been introduced and discussed. An interesting aspect is the multidisciplinary profile of participants, as well as the young average age. Many geographers, urban planners and sociologists have recently joined the Association, which was originally more concentrated in economic studies. Another aspect is the regional dispersion of members, covering almost all states in Brazil.

The university system in Brazil is formed by tuition-free, good-quality public universities, and by private universities. Some universities have a national influence, whereas others concentrate on their regions. Among the national universities, three main centres of excellence in Regional Science stand out, both by the size (number of students and scholars), and by the quality of their research: University of São Paulo, Federal University of Minas Gerais, and Federal University of Pernambuco. It is interesting to point out the dispersion of regional universities, which play an important role in regional development in their area of influence.

Given this framework, the government body of the Brazilian Regional Science Association was also regionally diversified. Its presidents came from USP (Carlos Azzoni, 2002–2002); the Catholic University of Minas Gerais (João F. Abreu, 2002–2004); the Federal University of Paraná (Cassio Rolim, 2004–2006), the Federal University of Pernambuco (Alexandre R. Barros, 2006–2008), and the new president from USP (Eduardo Haddad, 2008–2010).



RS AI World congress 2008 in Sao Paulo



 **The future of regional science (3): RS AI long range planning committee**

RS AI Strategic Development Plan 2008 (first version), March 22, 2008

This is a short summary of the RS AI Strategic Development Plan based on a strategy planning session at the Blue Tree Hotel in Sao Paulo on March 16, 2008. Participants included:

- Carlos Azzoni – RS AI Council and Brazil section president
- Peter Batey – Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) & Past President
- Roberta Capello – RS AI Council (ERSA) and President Elect RS AI
- Michael Carroll – Editor, Regional Science Policy & Practice (RSPP)
- Graham Clarke – RS AI Executive Director
- Juan R. Cuadrado – RS AI Council (ERSA)
- Kingsley E. Haynes – LRPC & Past President
- Mark Partridge – RS AI Council (NARSC) & LRPC
- George Petrakos – RS AI Council (ERSA)

- Neil Reid – RSPP Associate Editor
- Robert Stimson – RS AI Council, Immediate Past President RS AI, & LRPC
- Roger R. Stough – RS AI Council (NARSC), President RS AI and LRPC
- Jean-Claude Thill – RS AI Council (NARSC), Executive Director NARSC

The planning session was managed by Roger Stough and Graham Clarke who produced this draft following review by some of the participants. The strategy planning meeting began with a summary presentation by Peter Batey of the 10 year strategic planning document prepared by the RS AI leadership in 2001. Many of the issues RS AI faced in 2001 are the same as today but progress has been made. Some of the earlier strategy goals achieved include:

- *Promotion of new sections in economically emergent and pre-emergent countries:* new sections have been formed in a number of such countries and two RS AI World Congress meetings have been held in such countries in an effort to promote this strategy element.
- *Increase membership through expansion of membership in existing sections of RS AI and the formation of new*

sections: membership has increased from about 1800 in 2001 to 4000 in 2008. RSAI is now poised to transform itself into a major international organization with considerable services supplied across countries to scholars, students, policy makers and practitioners.

- *Make the Papers in Regional Science (PiRS) the flagship journal of the RSAI*: a contract was organized in 2004/2005 with Blackwell Publishers to publish PiRS with significant success. Publication space is being increased 50% to accommodate increased interest in the journal.
- *Create a policy and practice journal as part of a goal to increase services to RSAI members*: a new journal Regional Science Policy and Practice (RSPP) has been created and will release its first volume in late 2008.
- *Improve services*: The original Blackwell contract has been renewed for the next 10 years to accommodate space increases for PiRS and publication of RSPP. Blackwell (now Wiley-Blackwell – WB) also collects the RSAI membership capitation fee of 10 Euros from all section members globally to ensure that RSAI has the resources to grow. Also, WB operates a web page to maintain communication with members regarding the publications and related information.
- *Enhance the RSAI Web Site*: The site was operated by the Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University on a voluntary basis for many years (which RSAI much appreciates). This has been moved to Leeds where it is now operated under commercial management helping to ensure that the Executive Director can maintain direct oversight.

In sum, the RSAI has achieved many of the goals set out for it in 2001. Despite this significant success, some of the earlier goals have been only partly

achieved as described above and thus are reflected in the 2008 draft.

The methodology used for the 2008 strategy planning session was a modified Nominal Group Technique in which all participants contributed and added what they thought were important issues facing the organization. Nineteen issues were identified, and once similar items were combined the final list included 8 issues. In redrafting, one additional issue was created and added to the list. So the final list of strategy elements includes 9 items. It is important to note that there is some inevitable overlap in the list of 9. It is possible that this can be collapsed into a list of fewer issues through review and discussion that is to follow over the coming months.

Elements of the RSAI Strategic Development Plan 2008

The following is organized by strategic issue item (items are not prioritized). For each issue a short discussion of the problem or situation is presented along with a discussion of relevance/importance. This is followed by a list of possible actions and a short statement of goals. The 9 strategic issues/items are:

1. Need to articulate and extend/expand membership and services

Membership services are the critical raw material for marketing the organization not only to RSAI sections and the supra-regional organizations but also to its members and potential members. RSAI has made considerable strides toward improved services such as universal membership, a new practitioner and policy oriented journal, intellectual and financial assistance to new and in some cases existing sections, support for postgraduate prizes and conference attendance, and a new web site with expanded functions. Despite this progress there is still a need to

strengthen and expand services. The following is a list of proposed actions.

- Re-establish the RSAI newsletter (this is underway)
- Improve web facilities further, perhaps including a new page for visitors to RSAI (describe the field and examples of work and practical problems addressed by the field)
- Provide information on sub-disciplines and/or specific interest groups
- Help supra regional organizations and sections create track sessions at conferences (emphasis on helping and facilitating) e.g., transportation, urban economics, and GIS.
- Provide increased services for young regional scientists: promote paper sessions at conferences for junior members, support and perhaps expand awards for young scholars in the regional science community (increase financial support for existing awards and co-brand with other sections and supra regional associations), support attendance discounts for young scholars at regional science conferences/workshops (special emphasis on services for young scholars from emergent and pre-emergent economies).
- Sponsor and or assist in the organizing sessions for different language groups at regional science conferences
- Seek association with one or more international organizations – United Nations or International Geographic Union model.

Goal: increase membership to 8,000 by 2012; seek NGO status with United Nations; and, develop a plan to implement other actions.

2. Think and act strategically

RSAI developed a strategy plan in 2001. In many ways it has acted strategically since then as can be seen by the major dimensions and accomplishments of the 2001 strategy development plan

described. Evidence of its effort to act strategically includes the relocation of the headquarters and the executive director's office to Leeds (UK) where it is tied to a long standing and successful regional science group and where it is located in close proximity of the publisher (Wiley-Blackwell) of the RSAI journals. Nonetheless, there is a need to recognize a variety of strategic issues that beg attention. This report is a first attempt to structure these for building an action plan. Some of the actions that need to be undertaken with regard to acting strategically as well as planning strategically include:

- Publish a new 2009 strategic 10 year development plan (see Royal Statistics Association Strategy statement at its web site as an example)
- Recognize sections as part of the structure of RSAI (add links to all at RSAI web site)
- Work to ensure and support autonomy at the section level but with membership at the global level in RSAI – recognize need for flexibility because sections operate under quite different circumstances
- Work more closely with supra-regional organizations to improve branding of RSAI at the section level

Goals: Create and publish a strategic development plan; review and update periodically; and, improve RSAI branding.

3. Create and nurture new sections of regional science

This is one of the major strategy elements of the 2001 strategy document and considerable progress has been achieved. New sections have been formed since then in Mexico, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, Chile, South Africa and Bangladesh and new sections are in the formation process in Argentina, China, Columbia and Venezuela. However, there are still many opportunities for not only the formation of new groups (Eastern and

Central European countries, North Africa and other parts of Africa, South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East). There is also a need to strengthen services to new and existing groups. Some actions that need to be considered include:

- More joint effort between the supra regional associations and the RSAI; for example, attempts to create new sections in North Africa might be facilitated by a partnership among ERSA and some of its members involved in those countries (France, Italy and Spain) and RSAI with joint resources expended to facilitate such a development
- Guidelines to best practice for supra regional associations and sections on forming new sections, and on operations of existing sections, and hosting conferences
- Along with development of such guidelines there is a need to ensure that autonomy is maintained at the local section level by, for example, taking a minimalist approach but convey guidelines and work to facilitate effort of the supra regional associations in this venture.

Goals: create guidelines for section formation and hosting conferences, create an implementation plan for joint efforts in section formation and operations, and in each of these ensure autonomy of the section(s).

4. Clarifying structural relations and roles among RSAI, mega regional associations and sections

The regional science institutional structure is well understood at the level of the RSAI leadership and Council but not so well understood at the supra regional and section levels. The existing structure, from the bottom up, includes sections that are members of one or more supra regional organization which in turn are members of the RSAI umbrella organization. In a loose sort of way this general structure is fairly widely

understood although there are section members that are not aware of RSAI! Beyond this there is some confusion such as who takes the lead in initiating new sections (often it may be a group led by an individual or group in one supra region when an effort of greater global balance might be more effective). Increasingly stronger leadership and coordination should be coming from the supra-regional organization level. Further, there is history that impedes a fruitful and trustful perception of RSAI by some supra regional associations and sections, and their leaders (this stems in part from the history of the origin and early growth of the field in North America). The trust issue persists despite considerable effort to build trust and to move RSAI toward a truly global organization that is operated by its executives under policies developed by its Council that is globally representative. Some actions that are needed include:

- Survey members to better understand the various issues identified about structural roles and relations, and trust issues
- Develop a set of actions designed to strengthen the interface (perceived and operational) between RSAI and the Supra regional organizations
- Strengthen roles of RSAI Councillors as envoys and educators to the supra regional associations and then on to the sections via diffusion from the supra regional organizations.
- Form a working group for coordination and education made up of the President, Executive Director of RSAI and the Executive Directors of the Supra regional organizations
- Form a working committee (perhaps the previous group) to delineate on a draft basis the roles of the three levels of actors in the regional science community recognizing and also in protecting the concept of the sanctity of relative autonomy at the section level

Goals: Conduct a membership survey regarding perception of roles and responsibilities, and attitudes; create and implement a plan for improving interaction between RSAI and the supra regional associations, expand roles for RSAI Councillors, form a working group to delineate draft roles for Council to consider.

5. Marketing and perception of RSAI

Since 2001 progress has been made on marketing and branding RSAI and the institutional structure of the regional science community. The importance of this issue is that it is about building a truly global organization. Progress to date includes such elements as: the website has been improved and restructured, the supra regional organizations have for the most part implemented RSAI branding actions for their conferences and their web sites. However, the benefits of RSAI membership and what it means for section members to be part of a truly global umbrella organization has not been well articulated, perception of sections and in some cases supra regional organization by its members and leadership in some cases remain suspicious and limited trust in RSAI has been a result. A major issue is how to achieve balance between developing a trustful relationship and RSAI asserting its value and role while at the same time maintaining the relative autonomy of the sections. Some possible actions include:

- Trustful relations within the three tiered structure of the regional science organization is problematic and needs attention
- Create plan to build trust and implement it; without this improved and successful branding will be problematic
- Create a marketing plan that includes branding; this should be a formal plan with benchmarks and targeted goals

- All of the above need to be related to the RSAI concept of universal membership
- A carefully crafted factual and believable listing of member services needs to be created

Goals: Create and implement: trust creation plan, marketing plan and list of membership services.

6. Linkages with other regionally focused organizations

Linking RSAI with other regionally focused organizations has occurred to some extent but not at nearly the level that it should be to derive maximum benefits for the regional science community and therefore to RSAI members. To date some of the links that do exist include: co-linking via web pages and via journals (but to a limited extent), joint production of journals (at least at the section level and other organizations, e. g., Spatial Economic Analysis Journal that is joint with the British and Irish Section of RSAI and the Regional Studies Association) and some joint conference participation, e.g., ERSA and the Regional Studies Association. Some informal meetings about wider collaboration and joint production of services have been held. Beyond this the collaborative effort with related organizations has been weak at best. Some action items are:

- Enter into joint discussions to consider possible joint efforts and/or new projects, e.g., journal production, conference participation, co-production of conferences, joint service provision, linking other organizations to the supra regional organizations and sections that are part of RSAI
- Create a white paper on principles of collaboration and competition based on historical research. This could be commissioned or created by an Ad Hoc Committee of the RSAI Council.
- Explore ways of expanding the set of organizations that RSAI might link to,

e.g., Schools of Planning (this university link overlaps with a number of university links to RSAI but while involved early in the development of the field now is at best loosely linked).

Goals: enter into discussion with other regionally focused organisations.

7. Professionalizing RSAI

There are a number of issues discussed above that relate to professionalization of RSAI that have been vetted and discussed in issue items 1, 2, 4 and 5 above. The purpose of this element is to focus on one specific issue: the professionalization of RSAI operations.

It has been proposed that it may be time to consider employing a full time executive director for RSAI. This has many positives including the ability to act rapidly and effectively regarding the various goals or action items listed above and ensuring that a continuous and immediately responsive face is presented for the organization. Further, this would accelerate the expansion of various services noted above as well as possible new services to members such as expanded workshops for policy makers and practitioners. The main issue is where the resources would come from to support a long term contract. Some actions that are needed to inform a decision include:

- Review operations and functions of organizations that have a full time executive director, e.g., other staff members that are needed, range of functions and split between resource acquisition and service provision.
- Develop a draft budget and project it for five years
- Explore resources development options, e.g., revenue increases from existing services, grants and new services
- Develop a draft job description.

Goals: develop a paper describing the various actionable items above.

8. Articulate and develop the role of the RSAI Fellows group

The Fellows are composed of some of the most recognized members of the regional science community and thus provide a great resource for the future development of RSAI, the supra regional groups and the sections as well as the perception of the field both within and outside of the regional science community. This group is mostly composed of older members of the community, mostly men and disproportionately from North America. Efforts are needed to create more balance in terms of these apparent or seeming imbalances. Further, this is a sub-group within the community that offers a considerable resource for all of the community but specifically for the young scholars group. There is a need to find vehicles for interfacing the Fellows with young scholars and for the Fellows to become more accessible to students and young professionals. Some suggestions are:

- Adopt a rule that the Fellows will arrange one or more special sessions at RSAI and supra regional conferences (and possibly some section conferences) followed by a reception for young scholars or at alternative venues such as a breakfast meeting of students and Fellows.
- Experience suggests that the Fellows would accomplish this objective more easily if some administrative support accompanied by financial support for the reception or breakfast event was supplied.
- A paper is needed on possible roles beyond the above mentioned ones that the Fellows could provide. For example, in fund raising from foundations or government agencies one or more fellows could be involved in proposal writing or pre submission evaluation of such proposals as well as meeting with the potential sponsors.

- A page on the RSAI web site needs to be developed that not only lists the Fellows and brief biographical information but also explains the role and function of the Fellows.
- Assist in development of new sections and workshops.
- Involvement in special sessions at super regional meetings.

Goals: establish a Fellows-Student interaction session at each supra regional association meeting and at RSAI world congresses; produce a paper on the possible roles of the Fellows and related action items.

9. Fund Raising

Geoffrey Hewings and others at University of Illinois, during the time that RSAI was based there, created a fund raising program that has produced over the years a fund of approximately \$50,000 US that is maintained through a non-profit foundation that was set up to housing the program. Funds have been generated through requests from members and others near the end of their careers and a formal request from all members to contribute to the fund. The fund is now maintained but U.S. law has required a change in the status of the foundation to one where 5% of the fund must be spent each year beginning in 2009 to maintain its status. Geoff has suggested that the Council needs to develop guidelines on how the 5% yield each year be spent (student support, support of a broader fund raising effort, new section start up costs, etc.) as well as a proposal for future fund raising in support of RSAI. Further, Roger Stough has been working on a development grant from a foundation to support RSAI development goals over the intermediate future which also seems to be an appropriate topic for this part of the strategic development plan. Some action items are:

- Develop guidelines for disbursement of 5% of the yield from the foundation fund

- Develop fund raising plan
- Produce proposal for development grant to selected foundations

Goals: Increase fund to \$100,000 by 2012; obtain a development grant of \$300,000 by 2012.

WE WELCOME ALL COMMENTS AND OPINIONS ON THESE IDEAS. PLEASE E-MAIL GRAHAM CLARKE OR ROBERTA CAPPELLO

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roberta.capello@polimi.it



Future Events

For an extensive overview of all future events, please visit the RSAI calendar at www.regionalscience.org. Below we simply remind you of some key events.

'Global Challenges, Regional Responses' 21st Conference for the Pacific Regional Science Conference Organisation, 19–22 July, 2009, Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia

Abstract deadline: 20th March 2009

The committee will welcome papers on any aspect of regional science, but is particularly interested to receive papers reporting research or case studies on the following themes: The Impact of Climate Change on Regional Communities, Regional Integration around the Pacific Rim, Partnerships for Regional Development, Advances in Regional Data Analysis, Regional Issues and Analysis in China, Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural Well-being in Regions, Indigenous Contributions to Regional Development, Urbanisation and Mega-City Regions, Emergency Relief for Regional Disasters and Infrastructure Issues in Urban/Rural Development.

To submit your abstract: http://www.uow.edu.au/conferences/PRSCO2009/call_for_abstracts.html

'Territorial cohesion of Europe and integrative planning', 49th Congress of the European Regional Science Association, 25th - 29th August 2009, Lodz, Poland

Abstract deadline 16th January, 2009

The central theme of the Congress is 'Territorial cohesion of Europe and integrative planning'. It is our ambition to relate the issues discussed during the Congress to the overriding objective of the European regional policy – cohesion in social, economic and territorial dimensions. Discussions will also be centred around the integrative approach to regional development of Europe.

To submit your abstract: <http://www.ersa.org/spip.php?rubrique12>

56th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, 2009, 18th–21st November, San Francisco.

Abstract deadline 1st August, 2009. More details will be posted on the web as they become available.

'Networks and Regional Development', University Jean Piaget, Cape Verde, 6 to 11 July 2009. The 2nd Portuguese-Speaking Regional Science Conference will take place in Praia, Santiago Island, Cape Verde, from the 6th until the 11th July 2009. The meeting is also the 1st Cape Verde Congress of Regional Development, the 15th Congress of the Portuguese Association for Regional Development and the 3rd Congress of Nature Management and Conservation.

<http://www.apdr.pt/congresso/2009/home.html>

4th Kuhmo-Nectar Conference and Summer School in Transport and Urban Economics Technical University of Denmark on June 29 – July 3, 2009. The Summer School is held June 29 – July 1, with the Conference being held immediately after the Summer School. Submissions are accepted until March 1, 2009.

<http://kuhmonectar2009.dk>

NARSC Conference 2008

The 55th North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International took place in New York, just at the end of the Brooklyn bridge. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York was so kind to host the North American Regional Science Reception and RSAI Awards Ceremony in their beautiful building.

Congratulations to all the local organisers, especially Mike Lahr.





RSAI Future Prizes

Please do not forget to nominate colleagues in 2009 for:

The Peter Nijkamp RSAI Research Encouragement Award for an Early Career Scholar from a Developing Country

The Award recognizes the outstanding potential of an early career researcher from a nation in the developing world and in which there is a formal Section of RSAI, and seeks to encourage the development of the early career scholar as a high quality researcher in the field of Regional Science and as a participant in the international Regional Science community. Eligibility to apply for the Award is restricted to early career researchers, defined as person in full time employment in either a teaching or a research position in a university or research institution in a developing nation in which there is a member section of RSAI, and who has held their doctoral qualification for not more than seven (7) years as at the 31 December in the year in which they apply for the Award. An applicant for the Award must provide the RSAI Executive Director with an electronic copy of a paper, formatted in accordance with the requirements for submitting a manuscript to Papers in Regional Science, that is intended to be presented or which has been accepted for presentation to a forthcoming NARSC, ERSA or PRSCO conference or the RSAI World Congress. In addition, an applicant for the Award must provide the RSAI Executive Director. Nomina-

tions to Graham Clarke please by June 1st 2009.

Dissertation Award

The Association invites the submission of dissertations completed in 2008 in the field of Regional Science to the annual competition.

To apply, send an executive summary electronically no later than June 1, 2009 to rsai-dissertation@wu-wien.ac.at. This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it. Two copies of the dissertation and a letter of nomination from the research supervisor should follow by regular mail, to be received no later than July 1, 2009. Send all submissions to Professor Gunther Maier, Institute for Regional Development and Environment, Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Augasse 2–6, A-1090 Vienna, Austria. The dissertations should be in finished form and professionally presented. A CD with a PDF copy of the dissertation may be included.

For further information about the RSAI Dissertation Competition, please contact Prof. Maier at gunther.maier@wu-wien.ac.at



Next Issue

The next issue is expected to be sent out at the beginning of the summer. The theme will be 'Women in Regional Science'. Any input is more than welcome and can be sent to [Eveline van Leeuwen Eleeuwen@feweb.vu.nl](mailto:Eveline.vanLeeuwen@feweb.vu.nl).