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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Welcome from the President

by **Andrés Rodríguez-Pose**



Welcome to another edition of the Newsletter, so efficiently edited by Andrea Caragliu and Graham Clarke.

I am writing from the unusual position of acting president and despite having already written a farewell address, which was published in the

previous edition. The reason for this is that the incoming RSAI president, Professor Jacques Poot from PRSCO, has had to resign as president of the RSAI.

Last December, Jacques let the RSAI Executive know that his wife, Heather, had been diagnosed with a serious illness and could not take over until she was better. In the meantime, I – with the valued support of the Executive – have continued to take care of the RSAI's daily business as acting president. It has now become clear that Jacques will not be able to take over and has decided to step down. This is most unfortunate for the RSAI as Jacques was elected with a programme full of interesting projects and was undoubtedly the right person to steer the association over the next two years. He was full of energy and itching to move things forward. But, unfortunately, we are never in control of our destiny and Jacques' decision to stay by his wife in these very difficult times is most necessary. We are all appreciative of the contribution Jacques has made to the association and stand by him at these very difficult times. Our thoughts and prayers are with Heather and Jacques in the firm hope that Heather will make a complete recovery very soon.

Jacques' resignation leaves the RSAI in an unusual situation as this is, I believe, the first time a sitting president has resigned. According to Article V, section 7d of the Constitution, in case of resignation of the president

“the Immediate Past President shall serve as Acting President during the first year of the presidential term and the Vice-President and President-Elect shall succeed to the Presidency during the second year of the uncompleted term”. While this could be a potential solution, it does create serious problems in assuring the principle of equal representation among super-regions. The current situation would, in particular, put PRSCO at a disadvantage, as it will not be able to have a proper president, under the rotating presidency system, until 2025.

As we are still very early in the presidential cycle, the Executive therefore has suggested that a Nomination Committee to elect a PRSCO president with immediate effect is set up. This was approved by e-mail by the Council and the committee has been already established. The aim is to move swiftly in order to be in a position to propose a president that could be voted by Council online before the RSAI meeting in Tainan.

Hence, you will have a new set of words of welcome by a new president in the next Newsletter. In the interim, rest assured that the RSAI will continue to function as always, with our Executive Director, Tomaz Dentinho, and our Financial Officer and Website Curator, Elisabete Martins, always on top of things.

Looking forward to seeing you all at future regional science gatherings,

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Acting President ([A.Rodriguez-Pose@lse.ac.uk](mailto:A.Rodriguez-Pose@lse.ac.uk))

### 1.2. Welcome to the 25th Pacific Conference of the RSAI

by **Fu-Chuan Lai**, RCHSS, Academia Sinica, President of the Chinese Regional Science Association-Taiwan, [uiuclai@gate.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:uiuclai@gate.sinica.edu.tw)

Dear Colleagues,

The 25th Pacific Conference of the RSAI will be held on May 17-20, 2017 in Tainan, Taiwan, and will be hosted by National Cheng-Kung University. This biannual conference



is a great platform for scholars coming from different countries to exchange research results and share diverse ideas. We have received more than 160 abstract submissions from 25 countries, and expect to have more than 200 participants in this conference. The theme of our conference is a hot and

important issue — “Sustainable and Resilient Regional Development” — which can be explored from many aspects such as environment, innovation, knowledge, transportation, spatial economy, urban and regional planning, and other topics of regional science. In order to demonstrate our spirit of sustainability, participants experience sitting in a pioneer green building during the keynote speeches, where natural ventilation causes air conditioning to be unnecessary when the outside temperature is under 31.



Confucian Temple in Tainan

Tainan is the oldest city in Taiwan and now is the second largest in southern Taiwan. She was once the largest city and the capital of Taiwan for more than 200 years, beginning from the Dutch stage (1624-1662), and later under the Koxinga family (1662-1684), and Qing Dynasty (1684-1895). In the Japan stage (1895-1945), the capital position of Tainan was gradually replaced by Taipei. As a historical city, Tainan has many interesting sites for tourists. First, the Taiwan Confucian Temple was built in

1665 by the son of Koxinga, and was the first school for children in Taiwan during the Qing Dynasty. Second, Anping Fort (site of Fort Zeelandia, 1624) was the original political centre of the Dutch administration. Third, Chikan Tower (originally named Provintia by the Dutch) was the business centre during the Dutch and Koxinga periods. Fourth, Eternal Golden Castle was the largest military facility during the Qing Dynasty.

Tainan is a warm city for every visitor, based on her deep trade culture and subtropical climate. In May, flowers of the Delonix regia are blossoming and make the whole city red in colour, just like the hearts of the warm people in Tainan. We sincerely welcome you to Tainan.

### 1.3. Welcome to the 2017 ERSA Congress

by Paul Elhorst, University of Groningen, Chair of the LOC, [ERSA2017@rug.nl](mailto:ERSA2017@rug.nl)

Dear colleagues,

After 23 years the ERSA congress is back in Groningen, a lively student city with more than 200,000 citizens located in the most northern province of the Netherlands. By



direct train it is approximately two hours away from Schiphol Amsterdam International Airport. The congress will be held between August 29 and September 1 and will be hosted by the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Spatial Sciences of the University of Groningen. The congress venue and social events are in the city centre and within walking distance from most of the hotels.

The main theme of the congress “Social Progress for Resilient Regions” (Resilience, Well-being, Inequality, Segregation, Poverty) attracted almost 1,000 submissions by more than 900 people, and 34 proposals for special sessions next to 20 regular general (sub)

themes. No doubt, the ERSA congress will again be the place to meet colleagues, to learn the latest research results, and to discuss their significance. The conference programme will offer a diverse and challenging scientific program garnished with plenary sessions – the keynote speech at the opening session on Tuesday will be given by Tony Venables, – technical excursions on Wednesday and Friday, and – an innovation to the ERSA congress – a policy day on Thursday. This is a one day event, which is organized as a special programme within the full congress, with the specific aim of enhancing the interaction between scientists and policymakers. To make this possible, the LOC has invited public representatives and policymakers, professionals in public or private organisations and consultants working in the field of regional policy. The Policy Day starts with a plenary session for all congress participants with keynotes and a roundtable discussion in which Marc Lemaître of EU DG REGIO and Joaquim Oliveira Martins of the OECD will participate.

The LOC of ERSA2017 is also proud to offer free use of exclusive daycare for children of the congress participants. This service is provided by the professional childcare organization SKSG. More details can be found at the congress website <http:// groningen.ersa.org>.

As a lively university city, Groningen has the youngest average population in the Netherlands. Furthermore, it has a long and turbulent history, which becomes evident from the historic warehouses, courts and buildings. Groningen is also a bold city with many examples of innovative architecture within its boundaries. In addition, it was once proclaimed the city with the best city centre in the Netherlands because of its charm. Experience all of this and explore Groningen at <http://citytrip.groningen.nl/en/> or <http://toerisme.groningen.nl/en/about-groningen/city-of-groningen>. Consider coming a few days early and enjoy the festivals in late August!

We are looking forward to your visit of ERSA 2017 in Groningen!

## 1.4. Welcome from the Editors

by Andrea Caragliu ([andrea.caragliu@polimi.it](mailto:andrea.caragliu@polimi.it)) and Graham Clarke ([G.P.Clarke@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:G.P.Clarke@leeds.ac.uk))



Andrea Caragliu



Graham Clarke

Dear all,

We are happy to welcome you to the latest issue of the RSAI Newsletter.

Many of you will read the printed version at the PRSCO Tainan congress or at the ERSA Groningen conference. Many more will access this newsletter through the RSAI web site.

As usual we have been blessed by a number of interesting contributions from a range of celebrated members of our community.

In the main Section of the Newsletter we address one of the hottest topics today, i.e. the spatial implications of populism. The referendum held in the UK on Thursday 23 June 2016, introduced the notion of Brexit to many people all over the world. While the referendum only involved British voters, its potential fallout on the whole structure of the European Union is potentially very relevant, and represents an excellent case study for understanding the consequences of voting on complex issues such as membership of supranational entities. On this topic, Bernard Fingleton first shows that Brexit will have long-lasting employment effects way beyond the short-run decrease in investment and output it will engender. Then, Robert Stimson provides a thought-provoking overview of the linkages among the unexpected voting outcomes in the UK, Australia, and USA, paving the way for many spatial analyses of the determinants of these phenomena.

For the 'Centre of Excellence in Regional Science' column we fly to Istanbul, for an interesting story about the role of

Istanbul Technical University in nurturing the birth and prosper of the Turkish Section of the RSAI. Lastly, in 'Meet the fellows' Alex Anas tells us about his lifetime commitment to research in spatial (urban) modelling.

We are both happy to wish you all an enjoyable read, and are keen to talk to you at some RSAI event in the near future concerning potential topics of interest.

## 2. News from the RSAI Council

### 2.1 RSAI World Congress 2018 to be held May 25th through May 29th in Goa, India

by **Sumona Banerjee**, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, President of the Regional Science Association of India, [sumona\\_bm@yahoo.com](mailto:sumona_bm@yahoo.com)



Goa in India will host the RSAI World Congress of 2018. The Regional Science Association of India is collaborating with Birla Institute of Technology to organise this event under the aegis of RSA International. The choice of India as the destination for the World Congress is

extremely significant in the context of impacts of globalisation in South Asia. The purpose of this Congress is to create an opportunity for bridging the networks established by the supra-regional organizations and to provide a scientifically and socially attractive event for scholars and postgraduate students from all parts of the world.

The main theme of the Congress is Regional Cooperation and Development. The challenge is to understand the factors that explain cooperation and conflict in different parts of the world mainly looking at the barriers to trade, investment and migration and the effects they create for regional sustainable development. The sub-themes and special sessions will be organised around demographic, economic, social, political and cultural aspects of regional cooperation and hopes to cover a wide range of issues impacting regional development. The Inaugural Plenary Sessions

and pre-conference workshops will be organised at the campus of the Birla Institute of Technology, a premier institution of the Indian sub-continent. From day 2 onwards, the Congress is likely to move to a hotel by the pristine beaches, for the delegates to enjoy the sunset after a hard days' work.

Goa is one of the idyllic tourist destinations of India – its location in the hilly western coast brings together the beauty of the terrain and the Arabian Sea. Steeped in history, Goa presents a blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures – Old Goa is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The local culture is a blend of sorts and reflected in its customs, traditions, cuisine and music. Tourists from all over the world visit Goa around the year to experience the beauty of its landscape and culture. From the most luxurious hotels to home stay in villages, Goa provides it all.

Dabolim Airport in Vasco da Gama lies just 29 kilometres from the state's capital, Panjim and just 9 kms from BITS campus. Some airlines fly directly to Goa, but most international flights arrive in Mumbai. There are daily flights to and from Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Cochin and Bangalore. We hope to see you there!

### 2.2 New editorial team for Regional Science Policy and Practice 2017-2019

by **Tomaz Ponce Dentinho**, editor-in-chief of RSP, [tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt](mailto:tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt)



With the support of an excellent editorial team, a committed editorial board and building on the fantastic work done by Michael Carroll and his colleagues, we proposed a three years project to edit RSP that

received the approval of the RSAI Council.

The aim of RSP is to promote and diffuse the understanding of human interaction in space; based on sound, rigorous and updated methodologies; and focusing on real and urgent issues for peoples and places, that require scientific, practical and political responses.

To achieve that the Editorial Team and Board are committed: a) to further enhance the scientific character and geographical scope of the journal; b) to focus on urgent global issues sensed locally; c) to promote a fruitful interaction between the various agendas of Regional Science; and d) to mobilize the personal and organizational capabilities of the regional science community.

The main aim is to reach an Impact Factor of 0,5 by 2019 and 1,25 by 2022, and to increase the number of issues per year from four in 2016 to six in 2019.



### 2.3 2016 ERSA Summer School organized at Politecnico di Milano, Italy

In the week between Jul. 3 and Jul 10 2016, the Politecnico di Milano hosted the 29th ERSA Summer School on “Space, Territory and Growth. Advances in Regional Science”. 75 applications were received, coming from as many as 25 Countries (including Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom). Eventually, 51 students participated, with a good level of satisfaction as can be inferred by the questionnaire administered at the end of a rather intensive week of lectures with the likes of Ansgar Belke, Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Fabio Mazzola, Peter Nijkamp, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, and Frank Van Oort taking part.



Participants and lecturers at the Summer School 2016

### 2.4 New RSAI Fellows elected

The RSAI Fellows selection committee has deliberated on the raw results of the election of Fellows of RSAI.

The Committee is glad to announce the election of three nominees:

- Marlon Boarnet
- Roberto Camagni
- Adam Rose

From the RSAI, warm congratulations to the three new Fellows on their election!

## 3. The spatial implications of ‘popularism’

### 3.1 Brexit: some possible outcomes for employment across the EU regions

by **Bernard Fingleton**, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, [bf100@cam.ac.uk](mailto:bf100@cam.ac.uk)

What will be the impact across the EU regions of a shock to the UK economy following Brexit? What I want to do is show possible, speculative, predictions of the impact of Brexit on employment across the EU. The Brexit effect will not be confined to the UK, but how far will it spread, and how long will it last? I am using a state of the art modelling approach, but the predictions, like all predictions, can only be very imprecise. Nevertheless, we can look at the outcome qualitatively. The main outcome of my effort is that spatial and temporal spillovers are a significant feature. In other words, the impact of Brexit will extend beyond the shores of the UK, and will persist as impacts on employment levels, even after reductions in output and capital investment due to Brexit have presumably disappeared. Hopefully policy makers will take note, and as regional scientists we can help them understand the fuller consequences of their actions!



To give estimates of the Brexit effect, I estimate employment levels across  $N = 255$  EU regions with and without Brexit. Without Brexit, I assume a continuation of current austerity into the future. With Brexit, I assume uncertainty and reductions in trade reduces demand so that output and capital investment levels fall. With Brexit, I assume that capital and output fall significantly below their post 2007 paths from 2017. In line with current thinking, as Brexit negotiations commence at the time of writing, I assume that there will be a so-called Hard Brexit rather than soft Brexit. To capture this, I speculate that for the UK regions output and capital remain at 5% below their non-Brexit paths for the years 2017 to 2021 before reverting to their post-2007 paths. Optimistically, I assume that trade patterns embodied in the  $N$  by  $N$  interregional 'connectivity' matrix  $W_N$ , whereby employment depends on employment in  $W_N$  other regions, remain the same, so here we simply explore the impact of within-UK region changes in output and capital, which will themselves be partly in response to changing trade relationships. Capturing trade effects explicitly is also possible, but beyond the scope of this short note. So, I predict the job shortfall, relative to region-specific counterfactual post 2007 non-Brexit paths, of shocks to employment and capital in the UK regions alone, assuming the same interregional connectivity as pre-Brexit.

Clearly what the with-Brexit predictions are based on is crucial to our interpretation. For prediction, we need a model, preferably driven by theory. My underlying theory has a strong post-Keynesian flavour. In other words, the theoretical basis of my analysis is the so-called Verdoorn's Law, linking productivity to output. This can be written with employment as the dependent variable, and elaborated by introducing temporal and spatial spillovers. The key variables are Employment in  $N = 255$  regions at time  $t$  ( $E_t$ ), GVA or 'Output' ( $Q_t$ ) in  $N$  regions, plus a measure of investment in capital, namely Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), 'Capital' ( $K_t$ ), hence the model is

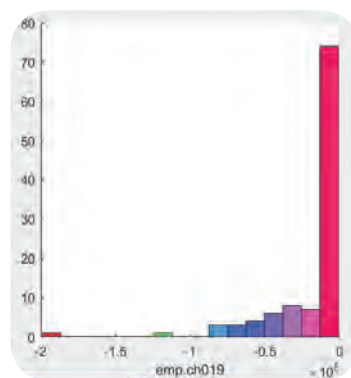
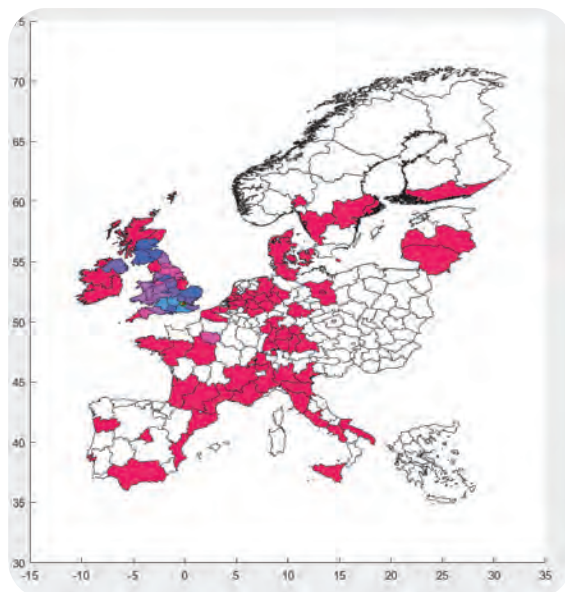
$$\ln E_t = \gamma \ln E_{t-1} + \rho_1 W_N \ln E_t + \beta_1 \ln Q_t + \beta_2 \ln K_t + \varepsilon_t$$

$$\varepsilon_t = u_t - \rho_2 W_N u_t$$

$$u_t = \mu_t + V_{it}$$

Following Baltagi et al. (2014), estimation is in the spirit of Arellano and Bond, mixing spatial and non-spatial instruments together with a GMM estimator for spatially dependent moving average errors  $\varepsilon_t$ . The errors allow for other unobservable

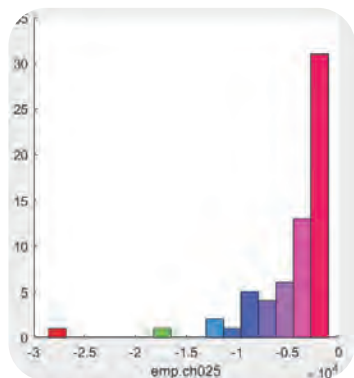
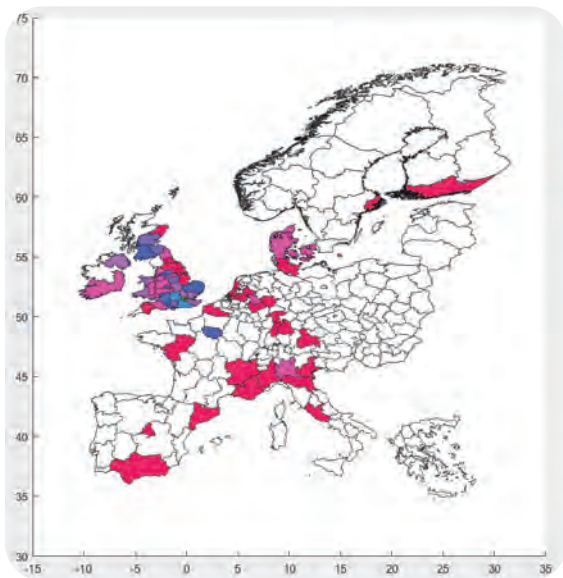
**Hard Brexit: Employment deficit in 2019**



effects, notably controls for regional heterogeneity across regions  $i = 1, \dots, N$ . This gives plausible estimates, which incidentally are based on an assumption of endogeneity for the drivers of employment, namely output and capital. Both  $\ln K_t$  and  $\ln Q_t$ , and the spatial and temporal lags, are highly significant causes of variation in  $\ln E_t$ . The prediction equation for this model is solved recursively starting at 2017.

These are speculative simulations, conditional on important assumptions, so the numbers SHOULD NOT be taken too seriously. The prediction is a shortfall of 198,800 jobs in an otherwise booming Inner London for 2019, falling to 28,500 by 2025, but these numbers are entirely dependent on arbitrarily assuming a 5% drop in output and capital. However, the story they tell in a qualitative sense is that the Brexit effect on

## Hard Brexit: Employment deficit in 2025



employment will be longer lasting and extend further geographically than the assumed direct local impacts on output and investment. In terms of total employment, its impact will be felt most strongly in southern England, but have non-negligible effects beyond the confines of the UK to the rest of Europe, as highlighted by the shaded areas which indicate regions with a job shortfall of at least 1000. Hopefully I am wrong!

Great caution is needed in interpreting the validity and value of any 'prediction' effort. It is worth recalling the words of George Box: "All models are wrong but some are useful". The parameters of the model may be wrong, even if the overall specification is correct. But it is likely and possible that both the structural equation and the parameters may be wrong. We might try to get around this by fitting different model specifications, to see if the

predictions come out, more or less, the same. So we can never be precise in prediction, we might predict the average outcome, but there is undoubtedly a dispersion around the mean which should also be taken into account.

David Spiegelhalter, Professor of the Public Understanding of Risk at the University of Cambridge, refers to Donald Rumsfeld as the patron saint of Risk Analysis. He will be remembered for famously saying that "but there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we do not know we don't know". We should therefore put forward predictions with all due humility, but clearly and without fear, because we don't want to come across as 'dithering scientists'. In defence of the approach adopted, there is support from the words of Pesaran (1990), who points out that 'Econometric models are important tools for forecasting and policy analysis, and it is unlikely that they will be discarded in the future. The challenge is to recognise their limitations and to work towards turning them into more reliable and effective tools. There seem to be no viable alternatives'.

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## 3.2 Recent Voting Outcomes: Fertile Ground for Regional Science Research

by Robert J. (Bob) Stimson, AM, Melbourne University, [rstimson@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rstimson@unimelb.edu.au)

What a twelve-month period it has been for surprising voting outcomes across several countries in the western world.

First was the Brexit vote in the UK last May, which saw a small majority vote to exit the EU. Then there was the big gain in votes for the independents





and non-major parties in the Australian Election in July, with strong voting support for a swag of minor parties and independents. In November, there was surprise victory of Donald Trump in the US Presidential Election. More recently there had been large voter support for populist candidates in the elections in The Netherlands and in France where the main political party candidates have been eliminated in the first round of the election for the President of France, with Marine Le Pen and Emmanuel Macron to contest the final round of voting next week.

And there is probably more to come as it seems that voter sentiment is angry with the 'political class' with big drifts away from the major parties (note that Trump is not seen as a mainstream Republican and was an outsider candidate, threatening to 'drain the Washington swamp) and the issues they promote. It seems there is most fertile ground for voter backlash against the establishment and the major political parties as voters unleash a storm populist backlash at the ballot box.

But are these outcomes really surprising? Should they have been predicted by the pollsters and the political pundits who seemed to be bowled-over and perplexed at how the voters have been so stupid to rebel against the political establishment?

Let me make some observations.

In the UK the Brexit vote was not expected but it happened relatively big time, defying all the pundit and opinion polls. It polarised the nation, with the big cities and periphery (such as Scotland) voting to remain and the smaller cities and towns and rural areas voting to exit the EU. The ramifications of Brexit will likely take years to play out.

In Australia independents and far right One Nation Party garnered enough votes in the upper house (Senate) to hold, along with a bevy of other minor parties and independents, a significant balance of power in the Senate (the Upper House) and to have garnered sufficient votes in the Lower House (House of Representatives) to see the allocation of their preferences to cause the sitting conservative government to scrape home with a razor edge majority of one seat. Their supporters, such as those that voted for the Pauline Hanson One Nation Party, were geographically concentrated on the fringes of the big cities and some of the regional cities and towns and rural areas.

In the US, the Trump bandwagon saw him win a significant majority of Electoral College votes for 'The Donald' to take the

Presidency, by taking a number of the more populous States (with a significant number of Electoral College votes) from the Democrats in capturing Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, and holding Florida. This was a significant attack on the Democrat's 'Wall of Blue' across the Mid-West. It did not matter that Hillary Clinton won the 'popular vote' by a couple of million votes, but a lot of that was due to her overwhelming support in the two populous states of California and New York. The pundits and the pollsters sure got it wrong in confidently predicting a win for Hillary. The Trump supporters were garnered from the Southern (traditionally Republican) States, but also were swung over from the Democrats across the declining industrial heartland States and particularly in their smaller cities and towns, that are finding it tough economically, and rural areas. The reality was that Trump only had to get a voter swing of about 3 to 4% in three or four of those Mid-West States that had voted Democrat in the previous Presidential Election in 2012 to gain a majority of Electoral College votes -, and that he did.

The voting patterns for the candidates in round one of the Presidential Election in France also showed patterns of marked geographic differentiation.

What strikes me as a powerful thread across all three of these polls is the complex juxtaposition between geography (the socio-economic environments where people live), demographic groupings (ethnic, socio-economic, gender, age), and how those people and those places vote.

I was not really surprised at the voting outcomes associated with Brexit, the Australian Senate, and the US Presidential race. I think all of them were predictable and occurred with reasonable levels of probability that the political 'in-class', the big city elites, and green-left ideologues simply ignored and/or were so arrogant and out of touch with the rest of the electorate that they did not even contemplate it could happen. But it did!!

And it should have been predicted, because it has well been known for some time - especially in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis of a decade ago - how many of the communities that were once prosperous industrial regions have been adversely impacted by globalisation and the GFC and continue to suffer from economic transition and technological disruption, without-migration and high levels of unemployment, and poor prospects for future labour-force engagement for particular

demographic cohorts.

I am tempted to liken all of those blinkered attitudes of the 'insiders' and 'elites' as being typical post-modernist attitudes and behaviours. They simply dismiss as 'out of hand' those having views and attitudes and values that differ from their own often green-leftist ideologies. The sizeable 'silent majority' from the suburbs, smaller cities and towns, and the rural areas have revolted as they sought their revenge against the 'in groups'. One might see this as truly being democracy at work. In the US Presidential Election, Clinton's railing against the Trump supporters across the de-industrializing Mid-West heartland of America as labelling them 'deplorables' was typical of the off-handed insulting abuse that the 'in group' ideologues load on those opposing their privileged dogmatic views. In fact, Clinton's statement was itself deplorable and a dreadful castigation of her fellow citizens. That behaviour seems to be entrenched in the thinking of the 'in group', and this is seen as highly condescending by those they dismiss and ignore. (By the way, I am certainly not condoning the uncouth and vulgar utterings of Trump throughout the Presidential campaign).

So what might be the factors that could explain the voter revolt in Brexit, the Australian Senate and the US Presidential voting outcomes?

Let me make some suggestions:

1. Middle and working class people (men especially, but also plenty of women, older people, and people suffering from the unequal impacts of globalization who are largely whites) are, frankly, fed-up and are now wielding the power of what are powerful and widespread concentrations of dissolution, economic suffering, and a feeling of being ignored. They are simply sick of being dismissed and forgotten.
2. The 'gender' issue is now irrelevant, and when played in the context of supporting a female candidate per se is likely to be counter-productive.
3. 'Political correctness' is coming close to having had its day. It might sit well with (and indeed is the invention of) the political class and big city elites, but it is anathema to the 'silent majority' (which is much more geographically and demographically diverse than the elites have imagined).
4. People are well-and-truly sick of the notion of political entitlement (*vis a vis* political dynasties), corrupt or at best

dubious behaviours on the part of elected officials, the roles of the unelected political machine advisors, and the sanctimonious attitude of much of the media.

5. There is the immigration issue which in the UK and Europe is being widely seen as having escalated out of control, along with concerns about Islam and terrorism, that also feeds into the feelings of being disadvantaged and marginalised by disaffected voters. Call it xenophobia and even racism as the elites and politically correct class do, but it is nonetheless a factor driving voter discontent across large parts of the electorate, and this becomes fertile ground for populist candidates to attract voter support.

Focusing on the US Presidential poll (it was fascination for me to watch from Australia the unfolding of the voting outcomes on various TV channels that gave continuous coverage to it), it is obvious that Clinton was 'damaged goods', with very many voters having the attitude of 'anyone but Hillary'. Too much was taken for granted by the Democrats, and they got it terribly wrong. While a huge majority of votes were won by Clinton in CA and NY and some other States with US's 'world cities', those places are hardly the home of the disaffected 'silent majority' across the industrial heartland.

I could go on, but I won't.

Overall the voting outcomes in nations as diverse as the UK, US and Australia are indeed fascinating. All of the outcomes should have been seen as being strong possibilities, but it was not by the political and media in-class and pollsters. (By the way, it is evident that the methodologies being used by the pollsters surely needs rethinking and redesign.)

The polarization that is so evident in those voting outcomes has a marked geography to it, and this spatial differentiation is worthy of concerted investigation. I hope that regional scientists will now enter the fray to take up that challenge and undertake sophisticated spatial modelling, at various levels of spatial disaggregation, to seek explanation and help untangle the web of demographic and socio-economic factors that are embedded within those spatially differentiated patterns of voting outcomes that are so evident in the Brexit poll, the Australian House of Representatives and Senate elections, the US Presidential Election, and elections for the French President. Regional scientists have the tool-kit necessary to do this using spatial

modelling drawing on local voting data and a variety of spatially demographic, socio-economic, and local environmental situational data to search for relationship among those data potentially proffer explanation as to causative factors in the vote backlash that is occurring.

Long live voter power and the ability of the populace to generate unexpected outcomes which we might not like, but will have to graciously accept and attempt to understand why that is happening in the context of globalisation, technological disruption, economic transition and regional economic performance, social change, and demographic dynamics.

## **4. Centres of Excellence in Regional Science: Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Turkey**

Istanbul Technical University (ITU) is one of the important centres of Regional Science for at least three reasons. First, the Turkish Section of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) was established at Istanbul Technical University. Second, the Regional Planning Master Program at Istanbul Technical University is one of the two Regional Planning Master Programs in Turkey. Third, the Turkish Section with its increasing number of members is one of the largest sections of the RSAI and around 30% of the Turkish Section members are associated with Istanbul Technical University. Istanbul Technical University has played a pioneering role in the establishment of the Turkish Section of the RSAI and has contributed a lot to the institutionalization of regional science and the development of regional studies in Turkey.

The roots of Regional Science at Istanbul Technical University go back to the early 1980s when the Department of Urban and Regional Planning was established (1983) and the Regional Planning Section started to perform academic activities under this new department. Professor Orhan Göçer was the first Chair of the Regional Planning Section. In order to develop regional planning courses in the curricula, a questionnaire was posted to heads of Planning Departments in Europe, to find out the philosophy and structure of planning education and to contextualize regional development and planning courses.

Next, they were invited to Istanbul, for a one-day seminar, "Regional Planning Seminar" which was organized in 1984. Within this first period, regarding the founders' areas of specialization, Professor Orhan Göçer introduced the concept of network/corridor development, and has written books on national and regional planning, development corridors, and related subjects. Professor Vedia Dökmeci (PhD, Columbia University) conducted research, extensively on location theory. Professor Fulin Bölen focused on development planning. Professor Gündüz Atalık oriented his research to systems approach, and methods of regional analysis. Professor Gülden Erkut dealt with the system dynamics, regional socio-economic development models, and regional policy.



Gündüz Atalık, 11th National Regional Science/Regional Planning Congress, Istanbul Technical University, 2007

After Professor Orhan Göçer, Professor Gündüz Atalık became the Chair of the Section. This second period was a milestone in the development of regional science in Turkey at both national and international levels with the establishment of the Regional Planning Master Program and the Turkish Section of the RSAI. Following the First and the Second National Regional Science Congress in 1987 and 1989 at Istanbul Technical University, Professor Atalık founded the Turkish Section of the RSAI first with a temporary status regulation in 1989; in 1990, the status changed to a full-fledged association and finally the Turkish Section was institutionalized in 1991 as the Turkish National Committee of Regional Science.

Meanwhile, the Regional Planning Master Program was established (1989) as one of the master programs of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Istanbul

Technical University and one of two in Turkey. Gündüz Atalık was the President of the Turkish Section of the RSAI was the founder of the program. Vedia Dökmeci, Fulin Bölen, Yücel Ünal, Gülden Erkut were the scholars who made major contributions to the program. This second productive period under the presidency and leadership of Gündüz Atalık lasted until his death in 2013. Professor Atalık was a prominent member of the regional science international community, fully devoted to the development of regional science in Turkey and within the European Regional Science Association (ERSA). Following the first and the second National Regional Science Congress in 1987 and 1989, he organized the 30th ERSA Congress in 1990 in Istanbul. Under his leadership, Istanbul Technical University hosted 6 out of the 12 national congresses from 1987 to 2007 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 10th and 12th), the 30th ERSA Congress in 1990 and the ERSA Summer Institute in 2000. These events inspired the new generations of Regional Science at Istanbul Technical University. Young scholars had the chance to meet distinguished regional scientists. Professor Peter Nijkamp, Professor Peter Batey, Professor Geoffrey Hewings and Professor Manfred Fischer were among the most frequent visitors of Istanbul Technical University, supporting the department and contributing a lot to the development of regional science in Turkey.



ERSA Summer Institute, Istanbul Technical University, 2000

After the retirement of Gündüz Atalık, Gülden Erkut led both the Regional Planning Section and the Regional Planning Master Program between 2000-2009. During this period, especially from 2000 to 2006, the program curriculum had been conducted by Gülden Erkut, Tüzün Baycan and Ferhan Gezici with contributions from the new members of the Regional Planning Section. In 2009, academic re-organization ended up

with the demolition of chair/section heads and a new system introduced. Against the chair of the Regional Planning Section disappeared, Regional Planning Master Program has become increasingly more attractive in the following period. Gülden Erkut continued to chair the Regional Planning Master Program until 2012. Interregional disparities; the issues of rapidly growing metropolitan regions and less developed regions had long been the main interests for both academia and policy makers in Turkey. Therefore, the program was established in order to analyse these issues and to develop alternative solutions based on empirical research. However, the influence of globalization, changing paradigms in regional development, EU accession process and methodological improvements created a great attention to regional science and we can call this as a "rising period" for the program. In recent years, the content of the curriculum has become more interdisciplinary with the contributions from the Department of Business Management, Humanities and Social Science and Geomatics. Meanwhile, the members of the program have been involved in a wide range of international scientific networks; both being visiting scholar and developing research collaborations: University of Illinois Regional Economics Application Laboratory, George Mason University, Free University of Amsterdam, University of Barcelona Research Institute of Applied Economics, Cardiff University, University of Berlin, Politecnico di Milano, University of Pecs, Madrid Autonoma University ECONRES and Oviedo University REGIOLAB. 2013 would be remembered as one of the sad periods for the Turkish Section as well as the RSAI. Professor Gündüz Atalık passed away at the age of 82 and 2013 has been the end of an important period with his death.

The period following the death of Professor Gündüz Atalık was very challenging. A new Board came together and decided to organize a national congress as soon as possible in order to activate the Turkish Section and to come together with the all members at the General Assembly. The following period was an extremely dynamic period with lots of challenges achieved. First, the Turkish Section has enlarged, the number of members tripled in one year from 36 in 2013 to 107 in 2014. This enlargement has brought an interdisciplinary diversity as well with the involvement of economists and geographers from different universities. Turkish Section has transformed from a

small and closed community of planners into an open and large regional science society of economists, geographers and planners. The 14th National Regional Science/Regional Planning Congress hosted by the Istanbul Technical University in 2014 has been a very successful congress with a wide interdisciplinary participation of the new members.

The 14th National Congress was also an extremely important event of the transition period with the participation and support of the ERSA President Jouke van Dijk and RSAI President Andrés Rodríguez Pose. The improvements achieved in such a short period and the success of the transition period was awarded by a Memorandum of Understanding signed at the congress that given the organization of the 11th RSAI World Congress in 2016 in Istanbul.



Tüzin Baycan and Andrés Rodríguez Pose sign the Memorandum of Understanding to organize the 11th World Congress of the RSAI in Istanbul in 2016, 14th National Regional Science/Regional Planning Congress, Istanbul Technical University, 2014

The transition period and opening to a wider community has been also successful in terms of the development of institutional collaborations with the Ministry of Development and the Regional Development Agencies. A huge institutional and financial support from the Ministry of Development and Istanbul Development Agency provided for the RSAI World Congress. Besides the financial support, participation of experts from different Regional Development Agencies to the national congresses was also provided in this period.

In this new period, the new generation of regional scientists and the members of the Turkish Section at Istanbul Technical University have become more active both nationally and internationally as a result of the long-term collaborations with

the Ministry of Development, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Regional Development Agencies and Municipalities of different metropolitan cities in Turkey as well as the long-term collaborations with the important international organizations and schools of regional science in Europe and the US. The members were invited to the ad hoc committees for preparation of regional policy sections of the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Development Plans of Turkey. They collaborated with the Ministry of Development and were commissioned to prepare reports for Regional Development Agencies. They were also involved in the planning process of several cities in Turkey, e.g. Istanbul, Bursa, Eskişehir, and have obtained new consultancy experiences. Moreover the members established co-operations with other international scientific communities: Society for Risk Analysis - Europe (Seda Kundak/President); Association of European Planning Schools (Ferhan Gezici/CoREP of Turkey); European Real Estate Society (Kerem Yavuz Arslanlı/President). The 23rd Annual Conference of the Society for Risk Analysis – Europe was organized by Seda Kundak at Istanbul Technical University in 2014. A Joint Special Symposium of Society for Risk Analysis Europe (SRA-E) and European Regional Science Association (ERSA) was also organized at this conference by Tüzin Baycan as a joint activity of these two associations. Next, the 22nd Annual Conference of the European Real Estate Society (ERES) was organized by Kerem Yavuz Arslanlı at Istanbul Technical University in 2015 and attracted many participants from regional science society as well. The organization of the 11th RSAI World Congress Istanbul was successfully completed until March 2016. The congress attracted regional scientists from 56 countries with around 400 abstracts submitted. It was the largest participation to the RSAI World Congress by that date, but unfortunately several terrorist attacks and the security concerns led first to a postponement of the congress and later on to its cancellation because of the unchanged conditions in Turkey. Against the unfavourable conditions and the cancelled world congress, members have continued to keep the organization of the national congress. The 16th National Congress was organized in December 2016 in Isparta and has been very successful with the highest participation level of members and non-members of scholars.



16th National Regional Science/Regional Planning Congress, Süleyman Demirel University, Isparta, 2016

Active national and international collaborations of the Turkish Section members at Istanbul Technical University have resulted in getting funding and conducting national and international projects. The members are involved in several EU, ESPON and TUBITAK (Turkish National Research Council) Projects. Therefore, the curriculum of the Regional Planning Master Program and the quality of the master theses has been affected by the greater national and international visibility. Members of the program have participated in the European Regional Science Association Congress, whilst students of the program have also been encouraged to present papers at the national and international conferences in order to be the part of regional science as new generations. The program has continued to attract students from cities and universities all over the country and also other countries, e.g. Iran, Turkmenistan, Ghana. Istanbul Technical University has contributed a lot to the institutionalization of regional science in Turkey. With the well-known Regional Planning Master Program at the international standards, Istanbul Technical University has played a pioneering role in the development of regional science in Turkey.

## 5. Meet the Fellows: Alex Anas

I was born in Istanbul to Greek parents. After an education at Robert Academy, the boys' American high school on the Bosphorus, I was offered a scholarship by Carnegie-Mellon University (CMU). I was an intellectual hybrid, trying to

balance assertive right and left cerebral hemispheres; one side engaging in drawing and painting and amateurishly trying creative writing; the other, developing a strong interest in geometry, applied mathematics and science. This drama did not end at CMU. I started out in engineering, then transferred to architecture, finally finding a "home" in civil engineering. I wanted to invent a science that would enable the design of a city as a well-functioning social and physical system. But I was quickly humbled by realizing that while cities should be designed for people, unpredictable human behavior necessitated new designs and so on. This led me to economics, a technical enough science of human behavior that made both prediction and prescription possible. At the time, CMU started double degree programs. I graduated with a B.S. in civil engineering and a B.A. in economics. I had also concentrated my electives, putting me a handful of courses short of a degree in philosophy.



Graduate studies at Penn were ideal. Penn allowed an interdisciplinary approach to urban and regional studies with regional science at the center. I was most strongly influenced by Britton Harris. At the end of my first year, I daringly turned down a fellowship offered by Walter Isard, to continue as a research assistant for Britt. Meanwhile, Colin Gannon taught an influential introduction to urban economics at a time when the field was receiving attention from Robert Solow, Avinash Dixit and Edwin Mills (then at nearby Princeton). Alan Wilson and David Pines who visited Penn were also influential. The monocentric city was the jewel of urban economics. As a student in Colin's class, I was frustrated by its assumptions: a static model, one dimensional and assuming that all jobs are pinned in the city center. The beauty of economics shone through the model, but the anachronism of the model was disheartening. This tension explains why I took an iconoclastic approach to urban economics. In my dissertation at Penn, I modeled a monocentric city as growing in

successive rings, like a tree does, the width of the rings depending on the population added, the income level and other variables in a given time interval. With durable buildings, the model explained rents that rose with distance from the center and possible abandonment of buildings. Later, with Leon Moses at Northwestern, we published a two dimensional version of the monocentric city with public and private transportation competing and producing various land use patterns.

At Penn I discovered two schools of thought on modeling spatial interactions. Alan Wilson at Leeds, a geographer with a background in physics, had developed the macroscopic approach of entropy. Dan McFadden, an economist at Berkeley, was working on a type of econometrics particularly suited for urban studies because it incorporated random heterogeneity in a tractable way. Those who knew both approaches regarded them as inconsistent with one another, but I quickly realized the strong similarity and looked for a synthesis. This resulted in my paper on discrete choice, entropy and the equivalence between multinomial logit and the gravity models.

My true mission as a scholar was the development of computable models of city structure that could be used to make predictions and evaluate policy. Looking back, I have approached this goal systematically and holding myself to strict standards, but perhaps moving a bit too slowly. The standards are: (1) the empirical models should be an implementation of the theory itself preserving cause and effect relationships, not a distortion of the theory; (2) that as much of the available data as possible should be used; (3) that one should avoid over parametrization (a reason I never warmed to spatial econometrics and other descriptive approaches that place more emphasis on errors than on theory).

My book published in 1982 introduced a multi-centric (as opposed to monocentric) version of location and rent theory based on discrete choice, with the aim of making urban economics empirically and computationally pliable. Using a version of this approach, I forecast how much residential rents near transit stations would change on the planned Southwest Corridor rapid transit line in Chicago. Later, after the Orange

line going to Midway was built there, John McDonald and Dan McMillen measured actual rent changes in the Southwest Corridor and concluded that my predictions were accurate. This is the only case of validated prediction that I know in urban economics.

More recently, I have extended the approach to develop the “Regional Economy, Land Use and Transportation (RELU-TRAN)” model, a computable general equilibrium model of an urban economy published in 2007, and I have applied it to Chicago. Articles on the model’s application to Los Angeles and Paris are now in preparation, and there is a European project attempting to apply the model to Amsterdam, Barcelona, Goteborg and Istanbul.

Belief that the science should be applicable has always been the hallmark of my efforts, but I am often frustrated. Modeling cities should be the work of urban economists. They have the best theory of human behavior and of how to allocate resources optimally. Some excellent scholars from other disciplines, notably from geography, urban planning, and transportation, also model cities but with little or no economics. In the real world, such work competes with economics. Meanwhile, the “new urban economics” of the 1970s and 1980s produced much theory, but since the early 1990s there has been a furious flurry of interesting empirical work, adding relatively little to known theory. As such the anachronistic monocentric city is still often used to draw incorrect policy prescriptions. For example, an unregulated congested monocentric city sprawls excessively, but polycentric models such as those I have used show that more urban sprawl is often efficient. It does matter with what tools one looks for the truth.

## 6. Obituary Raymond J.G.M. Florax (1956–2017)

by Henri L.F. de Groot ([h.l.f.de.groot@vu.nl](mailto:h.l.f.de.groot@vu.nl)) and Erik T. Verhoef ([e.t.verhoef.nl](mailto:e.t.verhoef.nl)), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

In the early evening on March 1, 2017, at home in Lafayette, our dear colleague and friend Raymond Florax passed away – totally unexpected, in the middle of his



teaching semester. Raymond was a true academic in all respects. He lived up to the opening sentence of the preface of his PhD thesis (p. xiii): 'Knowledge is increasingly regarded as one of the vital (aspects of) production factors in modern industrialised economies'. Characteristic of everything

he did was his great eye for detail, his passion, and his strive for perfection. This was true for his research, his education, and the many administrative duties.

#### Raymond's career

Born in Heerlen (in the Southeast of the Netherlands) on December 29, 1956, Raymond evolved over his lifetime into a global citizen. Although every Dutch person would immediately recognize his characteristic Southern tongue, and also his typical Southern cultural habits (amongst which the consistent use of no fewer than four initials), for Raymond the reality of these cultural differences never turned into barriers. He felt at home in many places. He talked passionately about Tilburg where he obtained two bachelor degrees (in economics and sociology in 1979 and 1981, respectively) and a master degree in economics (in 1983) from the Catholic University of Brabant. This is where his research interest in economics and human behavior started. Already then, the topic of his master thesis, on the burden of government debt, reflected his interest in theoretically complex, controversial and policy-relevant topics.

During the period from 1980 to 1986, so partly overlapping his studies, Raymond was a high-school teacher in economics, business economics and accounting (and later assistant vice-principal), at the Van Maerlantyceum in Eindhoven. Already so early in his career Raymond thus revealed his great enthusiasm for education of youngsters, and also made it clear he was always happy to undertake

administrative duties.

The next and logical step in his career was to pursue an academic career which started in 1986 at the department of Economics and Public Administration at the University of Twente. As senior research associate, he specialized in spatial economics and planning and the financing of higher education systems, topics that would feature dominantly in his PhD thesis. In 1990, he continued his career as an assistant professor at Wageningen University. His research increasingly focused on regional economics and spatial econometrics and resulted in his PhD thesis which he defended at the University of Twente on October 23, 1992. Also in Wageningen, Raymond was called upon for administrative tasks, this time to become the President of the university council (1994-1997). In that role, he provided substantial contributions to the internal restructuring process of the university and its amalgamation with agricultural research organizations. He did so with great dedication and eye for detail. In hindsight, this has been a very important period in the process of transforming Wageningen University into one of the top agricultural universities globally in research and education on healthy food and the living environment.

In 1997, Raymond decided to leave Wageningen University for a new challenge, leading the newly established Masterpoint at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam: a research institute established by Peter Nijkamp, focusing on comparative analysis in spatial, transport and environmental economics. It was the start of a very productive period in which he was intensively involved in the supervision of many PhD students, several of whom he had met at Wageningen University.

In 2005, Raymond became full professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, the same department where his wife Brigitte Waldorf holds a full professorship. Although he spent most of his time in the United States, he retained a part-time position at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He almost literally lived in two worlds, active and respected on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, with an impressive network of colleagues, and involved in the continued supervision of a



huge group of PhD students, both in Amsterdam as well as in Lafayette. He took pride in bringing these two worlds together, letting persons benefit from the lively research groups to which he contributed himself with great passion, strongly convinced that working together and enjoying the passion of doing research was the way to push the research frontier ahead. Many people enjoyed his and Brigitte's generous hospitality in Lafayette and in Amsterdam.

Throughout his career, Raymond has provided great services to the field of Regional Science. Just to mention some of his activities, he served as Editor-in-Chief and European editor of Papers in Regional Science between 1997 and 2007, and he has furthermore been on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Regional Science, the International Regional Science Review, and Regional Studies, Regional Science. He has organized several conferences, and he was always available for sharing his strategic insights for others organizing academic events. His contributions to the Regional Science community were recently underlined by the award of the EIB/ERSA award in 2014, and his election as a Fellow of the RSAI in 2015. Raymond was identified as one of the intellectual leaders of the 1990's generation by Andrew Isserman in the "Golden Anniversary Issue" of Papers in Regional Science. He was also fellow of the Spatial Econometrics Association, the Tinbergen Institute and the Wageningen School of Social Sciences.

#### Raymond's academic legacy

For his research, Raymond will mainly be remembered for his great methodological contributions to spatial econometrics and meta-analysis. Although his interest in topics was wide-ranging, from valuation of wetlands to economic growth, inequality and cultural diversity, his main passion was for methodological advances. This in particular was where he always pushed for perfection. This passion for methodology is clearly evident from his PhD thesis on universities as boosters of economic development, which he defended in 1992 at the University of Twente (under the supervision of Peter Boorsma and

Henk Folmer), and for which he was awarded the first prize in RSAI's Dissertation Competition in 1993. This established his reputation as a leading scholar in spatial econometrics and subsequently resulted in several well-known and highly cited publications.



Raymond in the middle of colleagues from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Methodological developments and applications went hand in hand throughout his career. This resulted in several important contributions, many in the field of the empirics of economic growth. This was an area in which for long, the time dimension had been dominant (after Marshall) and where Raymond pushed the research frontier by emphasizing the equally important spatial dimension, truly in the spirit of Walter Isard who criticized mainstream economics in his famous statement 'In this sense, the factor of space is repudiated, everything within the economy is in effect compressed to a point, and all spatial resistance disappears'.<sup>1</sup> In this research, he aimed to address a research challenge that he had already identified in the third proposition accompanying his PhD thesis: 'Empirical research concerned with the catch-up hypothesis (i.e., convergence of per capita income of factor productivity among countries) is to date insufficient, as it mostly consists of data instigated models without an explicit specification of the spatial diffusion of knowledge and technology, the spatial variation in social institutions and processes, the occurrence of special interest groups, etcetera'.

His academic career got a new boost when he joined the

<sup>1</sup> In: Walter Isard (1949, p. 477): 'The General Theory of Location and Space-Economy', Quarterly Journal of Economics, 63 (4), pp. 476-506.

department of Spatial Economics at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in 1997, to lead the MASTER-point research group engaged in research on meta-analysis in spatial, transport, and environmental economics. In a relatively short period in time, he became one of the leading scholars in the field of meta-analysis. Interesting and relevant applications went hand in hand with methodological refinements and fundamental discussions to make the tool of meta-analyses apt for applications in economics.

To achieve this relevance, Raymond continuously challenged the differences between meta-analysis in medicine and psychology (fields where it belongs to the standard toolkit of undergraduate students) and in economics. He enjoyed discussions on the limits of meta-analysis and pushed for methodological developments that made the tool more acceptable in the research field of economics where he witnessed reservation and even skepticism against the use of meta-analysis.

He strongly advocated the view that meta-analysis should not be after the detection of natural constants, but instead should focus on the detection of patterns in heterogeneity that can often be observed in primary literatures. This search for patterns can subsequently result in new insights that are difficult to identify in primary studies. He contributed to several applications of meta-analysis that stood up to this promise. The scholars that apply meta-analysis in economics will deeply miss his sharp and constructively critical approach. The road that he paved for relevant contributions is worth to be pursued further in the near future.

#### Raymond as lecturer and supervisor

Raymond also was a deeply respected supervisor of PhD students. He pushed his students to the limits, challenging them on all fronts. His contagious enthusiasm led many to pursue a career in academia. He also loved to work in teams (as evidenced by the many co-authors in his bibliography). His eye for detail and strive for perfection is also clearly visible in the many PhD theses that he supervised, and often explicitly expressed in their

prefaces. Just some examples to illustrate this from prefaces of PhD theses: 'Raymond, working with you allowed me to reach further than I anticipated. Your enjoyment of getting into all the nitty-gritty parts of estimating and programming the regression models was contagious, and ultimately gratifying' (Jessie Bakens, 2016, p. viii); 'I have worked closely with Raymond Florax during the last four years and his intuition, honesty and search for perfection has been an example (and mirror) for my own work' (Thomas de Graaff, 2002, p. vii). Also as a lecturer, Raymond was appreciated. His lecture material was always well developed, continuously improving, and his lectures were an important source of inspiration. For his students (as well as colleagues), Raymond was a role model in many respects.

#### Raymond as a friend



Doing joint research with Raymond and working together was fun for the many colleagues that were part of his impressive international network. He loved travelling and tasting the good life in different parts of the world, for example during academic conferences and while being a visiting professor

at universities in San Diego and Tucson in the United States, Barcelona in Spain, and Hamilton in New Zealand. Raymond got along with people very easily. The line between professional and personal relationships was thin, and working with Raymond quickly turned into friendship. Raymond was a wonderful scholar and great colleague. We are sad but also extremely grateful for the many important contributions that Raymond made to academia in general and regional science in particular. He will be dearly missed in the many places in the world where he established deep academic friendships that will be warmly remembered.

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