



# NARSC NEWS



## Welcome from the Executive Director



On behalf of the North American Regional Science Council I would like to thank everyone who attended the recent North American Meetings of the RSAI in Atlanta, Georgia. From the Wednesday workshops to the final papers that were delivered in the final session the conference was a huge success. A total of 643 presentations were made.

Much of this newsletter is devoted to the conference, so please browse its pages and read more about what went on in Atlanta. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NARSC Program Chair, Peter Stenberg, and our two Local Organizers, Chris Cunningham and Warren Kriesel, whose diligence and hard work contributed so much to the success of the conference. Thanks are also due to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta who made us feel very welcome in their wonderful facility during the Thursday evening reception. Next year we will be in Washington, D.C., November 12-15.



## Words from the Editors

We are delighted to bring you the second issue of the North American Regional Science Association newsletter. This edition of the newsletter will provide readers with a summary of this year's annual meeting. Featured items of this edition include: a summary of the Boyce, Hewings, and Isard award winners; acknowledgement of three generous Benjamin Stevens Award gifts; biographies of new NARSC Councilors Sandy Dall'erba and Mark Partridge; a thought piece by Gordon Mulligan; and an update of happenings of NARSC subsections.

As editors, our goal is to provide the NARSC membership with fresh insights and themes in each edition. In this regard, any feedback, comments or suggestions you have about this edition of the newsletter or future editions are greatly appreciated.

Elizabeth Mack and Ralph McLaughlin  
Newsletter Co-Editors

## ISSUE 2, DECEMBER 2013

### Featured Content:

#### Boyce Award Winners:

Marlon Boarnet and Mark Partridge	2
--------------------------------------	---

#### Hewings Award Winner:

Laurent Gobillon	3
------------------	---

#### Isard Award Winner:

Stuart S. Rosenthal	3
---------------------	---

#### Editorial:

Regional Science at 60 by Gordon Mulligan	3
--	---

Updates of Regional Sections	6
------------------------------	---

#### Meet your New Councilors:

Sandy Dall'erba and Mark Partridge	7
---------------------------------------	---

#### Benjamin Stevens Fellowship:

Call for Donations	8
--------------------	---

Upcoming Regional Science Meetings	8
---------------------------------------	---

*Would you like to contribute to the newsletter?*

Contact editors Elizabeth Mack

([eamack1@asu.edu](mailto:eamack1@asu.edu)) or Ralph McLaughlin  
([ralph.mclaughlin@sjsu.edu](mailto:ralph.mclaughlin@sjsu.edu))

## Marlon Boarnet and Mark Partridge win the 2013 David Boyce Award for Service to Regional Science

### Marlon Boarnet



The North American Regional Science Council is pleased to announce Marlon Boarnet as co-recipient of the 2013 David Boyce award for service to Regional Science. Marlon Boarnet completed his PhD in 1992 at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. After ten years on the faculty of the University of California Irvine, where he achieved the rank of Professor in both Planning and Economics, he moved in 2011 to the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy, where he is Professor of Public Policy and Director of Graduate Programs in Planning.

He is an authority on urban economics, urban growth patterns and transportation. He is renowned for his contributions to research on the links between urban form and travel behaviour. He recently served on the National Research Council Committee that authored *Driving and the Built Environment*.

Marlon Boarnet has provided exceptional service to Regional Science as a journal editor. He was managing co-editor of the *Journal of Regional Science* from 2002 to 2010 and co-editor from 2010 to the present. He has served or is serving on the editorial boards of *Papers in Regional Science*, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Journal of Planning Literature*, *Journal of Transport and Land Use*, *Journal of Transportation and Society*, and *Transport Policy*. In 2006 he was guest editor of a special issue of the *Journal of the American Planning Association* in health and planning.

### Mark Partridge



The North American Regional Science Council is pleased to announce Mark Partridge as co-recipient of the 2013 David Boyce award for service to Regional Science. Mark Partridge completed his PhD in Economics in 1991 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After academic appointments at the University of Montana, Georgia Southern University and St. Cloud University he was appointed as the Canada Research Chair in the New Rural Economy and Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. In 2006 he moved to the Ohio State University, where he is the C. William Swank Chair in Rural-Urban Policy and Professor of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics.

He is one of the world's most published scholars in the fields of community and regional economics, regional economic development and growth, poverty and spatial modeling of the rural-urban interface. He is co-author with Dan Rickman of a major book on the geography of American poverty published by the W.E. Upjohn Institute. He has consulted with the OECD, the European Commission, the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and has testified before both the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament on regional issues.

Mark Partridge has provided exceptional service to the *Journal of Regional Science* as a journal editor. He has been co-editor of the *Journal of Regional Science* since 2007 and managing editor since 2010. He is also co-editor of *Springer Briefs in Regional Science* and serves on the editorial boards of the *Handbook of Regional Science*, *Letters in Spatial and Resource Sciences*, *Annals of Regional Science*, *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, *Growth and Change*, *Région et Développement*, and *Review of Regional Studies*. In 2005 he was President of the Southern Regional Science Association and 2013 he was appointed as a Fellow of the Southern Regional Science Association.

## Laurent Gobillon wins the 2013 Geoffrey Hewings Award



The North American Regional Science Council is pleased to announce Laurent Gobillon as the recipient of the Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award for 2013. Laurent Gobillon received his Ph. D. from Ecole Nationale des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) Paris in 2002 and *Habitation* from University of Aix-Marseille II in 2010. He is currently a full time researcher at Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED) in Paris. He is also an associate researcher at the Paris School of Economics and a research affiliate at the Centre for Economic Policy Research in Washington DC.

His research interests include housing, migration, local labor markets, spatial mismatch, applied econometrics, health, and gender discrimination. He has numerous refereed publications in top economics and regional science journals and books on a range of topics including agglomeration; housing and location choice; skills, job search and spatial mismatch; and a variety of policy topics including local taxation, enterprise zones and housing subsidies. He is an associate editor of the *Journal of Regional Science* and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Housing Economics*.

## Stuart Rosenthal wins the 2013 Walter Isard Award



The North American Regional Science Council is pleased to announce Stuart Rosenthal as recipient of the 2013 Walter Isard award for his many contributions to Regional Science. Stuart Rosenthal completed his PhD at the University of Wisconsin in 1986 and has served successively as staff economist for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve and as faculty at the University of British Columbia, Virginia Tech, and the University of Syracuse since 1999.

While it is not possible to summarize briefly Stuart Rosenthal's many contributions to Regional Science, a few of them can be highlighted. His work with Stuart Gabriel shows an important tension between the locations that firms prefer and where households would like to locate. His work on agglomeration with William Strange has explored many hitherto unknown aspects and determinants of agglomeration including the range at which agglomeration economies operate and the importance of local market structure. His work on neighborhood dynamics with Jan Brueckner has highlighted some interesting cyclicalities and proposed a convincing explanation for it based on the life cycle of housing structures. His recent work forthcoming in the *American Economic Review* has taken this approach one step further by demonstrating the empirical importance of "filtering" in the supply of housing for low-income households. Finally, some of his recent work has focused on fixing some problems in housing finance in the US.

His many technical contributions have included widely read papers on congestion and city sizes, spatial externalities, and the theoretical analysis of systems of cities. His work on agglomeration and the location of firm headquarters combine modern economic and geographical theory to analyze important policy questions about the efficiency of cities.

Beyond these widely cited contributions, Stuart Rosenthal has also provided outstanding leadership as general editor for the *Journal of Urban Economics* and past president of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association among others.

The North America Regional Science Council is pleased to designate Stuart Rosenthal as recipient of the Walter Isard Award for 2013.

## Editorial: Regional Science at 60

By Gordon Mulligan



The first Regional Science meetings were held in Detroit nearly 60 years ago. Since that occasion the scholarship in the profession has widened and deepened in very impressive ways. I encourage all young scholars and newcomers to regional science to become better acquainted with the profession's major interests and milestones by consulting the Golden Anniversary Issue of the *Papers in Regional Science* (2004), edited by Raymond Florax and David Plane.

Much of our research is based on the observation that the earth's surface is differentiated for purely economic reasons. In commenting on August Lösch's famous book, *The Economics of Location*, Stefan Valavanis (1955) observed that a large part of this geographic variation reflects three factors: internal economies of scale, transportation costs, and agriculture's need for space. Before the advent of CGE models, partial equilibrium models, addressing different combinations of these three factors, were widely used to show how the space-economy is ordered and how economic landscapes, at different scales, might change as any of these factors shifted. Using the powerful insights provided by Alonso-Mills-Muth in the 1960s, our research steadily strengthened over the years by adapting these same three factors to the post-industrial era, and interest turned more to external economies of scale, the time-cost budgets of the individual, and the urban household's need for space. Analysts now routinely look at the various behaviors of a wide variety of private and public agents that strategically compete for scarce space in cities having polycentric or even more dispersed forms.

Of course, our scholarship has progressed in other significant ways as well. Walter Isard's (1960) treatise already showed a great appreciation of regional multiplier analysis, and impact models (economic base, input-output, etc.) have remained a staple of empirical and applied research up to the present time. While the research of Benjamin Stevens and Ronald Miller 30-40 years ago dealt with topics like interregional feedbacks, today's work by scholars like Geoffrey Hewings deals more with impact targeting, contextualizing the impact estimates, and embedding the various feedbacks into wider regional systems of activity. Location-allocation modeling, which is neo-Weberian in one sense and neo-Christallerian in another, has shed remarkable light on issues related to the provision of public goods. Early research dealt more with efficiency issues while later research, spearheaded by people like Britton Harris and Charles ReVelle, has dealt more with the conflicts that might arise when introducing important equity concerns. One still wishes, however, that the facility location literature would become more user friendly, thereby allowing different public inputs to be seamlessly incorporated into otherwise highly technical solutions. Likewise, as David Boyce recently emphasized for the anniversary issue of the Japan section, assignment-based transportation analysis has undergone fundamental changes. Much of the early work employed single-user gravity (or entropy) concepts while later work, picking up on the early ideas of people like John Wardrop and Martin Beckmann, now recognizes network-based multi-user equilibrium states. Regional cluster analysis, which remains very popular with many applied practitioners, is also neo-Weberian in one sense although people like Michael Porter have borrowed and very successfully adapted a few key ideas from other fields like oligopoly/game theory. All of today's regional scientists should also be aware of the great changes that have taken place in spatial statistics and spatial econometrics in the past 30 years, to the point where regression-based tests for dependency and heterogeneity have become standard requirements for submitted research. Moreover, regional scientists, especially in Europe, have

*Continued on pg. 5...*



shown great interest in determining whether regions of diverse scale are converging or diverging in their socio-economic attributes. The Europeans have also led the way in studying the widespread but underappreciated effects of immigration in urban labor markets.

Despite this evident abundance of solid theoretical and applied research I believe that several areas of scholarship remain somewhat underdeveloped in regional science and I'll use this opportunity to highlight a few of those areas.

- Back in the early 1980s I upgraded my understanding of the various computer-based impact models that had been developed here in North America after the energy boom of the mid-1970s. Many of these models (with acronyms like BREAM and REAP) identified local labor markets having intertwined demand (multiplier-based) and supply (labor participation) modules that would be balanced by in- or out-migration. This led me to better appreciate the key *role of demography* in changing the nature of the regional or local space-economy. Soon thereafter Andrew Isserman (1986) published an edited volume that shed even more light on the importance of demography in regional studies. It now seems to me that regional science could really benefit by re-examining the ideas of people like Nathan Keyfitz and Richard Easterlin, among others, and adapting some of their ideas to the sub-national level. More precise generational accounting at the regional level is needed, for instance, to clarify the extent of the looming fiscal problems that will arise as the interlocked geographies of ageing and debt become increasingly uneven.
- While regional science has paid a lot of attention to the so-called production problem (simply consider the Fujita-Krugman-Venables paradigm) much more remains to be known about the inherent *variety in human consumption*. Very clearly people are motivated by factors like quality of life and happiness and this has great implications for the locations chosen by people to undertake their remarkably diverse social and leisure activities. Hedonic models shed some light on this issue but other approaches must be taken to fully appreciate matters. For example, households allocate different amounts of their money budgets across the spectrum of available goods and services as they age (see above) and upon aggregation these incremental changes can add up to significant shifts in regional demand patterns.
- A lot of research has viewed decision-making agents or even entire regions as being, for all practical purposes, similar and interchangeable entities. But this is hardly the case. At one level the very nature of the household has changed so much in recent decades that it makes sense only to apply the term "representative household" in the most abstract, mathematical analysis. Also, diverse production-oriented entities like NGOs and multinationals are motivated in very different ways depending upon their size and how they are funded. On comparing (in time or space) two entirely different regions, industry jobs can be quite similar but occupation jobs can be quite different. And what insights are really gained when simply distinguishing specialized from diversified cities or fast-growing from slow-growing regions? In fact, many of these aforementioned units are *highly heterogeneous*, both in structure and in behavior, and regional scientists must do a better job of recognizing this. Classification is a central activity in science and clearly it should be used a lot more to provide better insights into the nature of locational and regional phenomena.
- Many theories and models in regional science are still unidirectional although it is widely known that most socioeconomic processes are multidirectional. As an alternative to developing complicated multi-layered regional-econometric models, it is often feasible to create much simpler local and regional *adjustment models* that capture feedbacks occurring between key variables like total

*Continued on pg. 6...*

employment and population, or export employment and local employment. When models are poorly specified because feedbacks are not included, the appropriate econometric estimates are apt to be very mistaken. In any case, regional scientists must strive to improve the accounting of those long-term, evolutionary processes that continuously transform the economic landscape at various scales.

- Some of the early regional scientists, like Edgar Hoover (1948), were very interested in understanding how regional attributes and location principles could assist in formulating sound *public policy-making*. This is another area where regional science could certainly do more, although I admire a lot of the work being done by the resource economists here in North America, especially those who regularly attend the Mid-Continent meetings. Their various impact and industry-targeting models often exhibit an interesting mixture of sound economic theory, large data sets, and an intimate local knowledge of the main actors and their diverse stakes.

In closing I encourage our youngest scholars in regional science to be more *skeptical* of popular paradigms in the best sense of that word. While the pressures of advancement and tenure are real, and the numbers of citations and publications will always be noted by colleagues and administrators, there is much satisfaction to be gained from working in some of lesser developed areas of regional science.

*Gordon Mulligan is Professor Emeritus of Geography and Regional Development at the University of Arizona, a fellow of the Regional Science Association International, and past editor of the Journal of Regional Science*

---

## Regional Section Updates

### **Southern Regional Science Association**

The 2013 annual meeting was held at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, VA with Dan Rickman presiding. The conference keynote speaker was Kathy Jacobs, U.S. Whitehouse Assistant Director for Climate Assessment and Adaptation, who presented "The National Climate Assessment: Preparing for a Change."

### **Western Regional Science Association**

The 52<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting was held in Santa Barbara, California. There were over 200 participants. The meeting featured the first annual Art Getis lecture in spatial analysis. The inaugural speaker was Keith Ord. The 2014 speaker will be Luc Anselin.

### **Mid-Continent Regional Science Association**

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual conference was held in Kansas City, MO. There were 53 registrants, 44 papers presented, and 3 workshops.

### **Canadian Regional Science Association**

The Canadian Regional Science Association had a very successful virtual conference, which followed their hosting of the 59<sup>th</sup> annual North American meetings of RSAI in Ottawa, Canada. The virtual conferences provide flexible participation for attendees. Presentations are recorded in advance and posted to a conference site.

## Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Mark Partridge

Mark Partridge is the C. William Swank Chair of Rural-Urban Policy at The Ohio State University and a Professor in the Agricultural, Environment, and Development Economics Department. He is also a Faculty Research Affiliate, City-Region Studies Centre, University of Alberta. Prior to Ohio State, he was the Canada Research Chair in the New Rural Economy at the University of Saskatchewan, where he is an Adjunct Professor. Professor Partridge has published over 100 academic and scholarly papers and his work has been ranked among the top-1000 economists in the world. He has published in many journals such as the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*. He co-authored the book *The Geography of American Poverty: Is there a Role for Place-Based Policy?*, published by the W.E. Upjohn Institute. Professor Partridge has received research funding from many sources including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Brookings Institution, European Commission, Infrastructure Canada, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, U.S. National Science Foundation, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Social Science and the Humanities Research Council of Canada.



Dr. Partridge's current research interests include investigating rural-urban interdependence, why some communities grow faster than others, and innovations in regional policy and governance. Professor Partridge served as President of the Southern Regional Science Association. He is Co-Editor of the *Journal of Regional Science* and is on the Executive Council of the Regional Science Association International. He is also on the editorial boards of *Annals of Regional Science*, *Growth and Change*, *The Review of Regional Studies*, and *Region et Developpement*. Dr. Partridge has consulted with OECD, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, various governments in the U.S. and Canada, and he is currently working a project for the European Commission. He has presented to the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament on regional issues. Professor Partridge received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois.

---

## Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Sandy Dall'erba



In 2012 I co-founded the Regional Economics And Spatial Modeling laboratory for which I currently act as Director. I hold an Associate Professor position in the School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona with affiliations in the Institute for the Environment, department of Economics and the Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Statistics. I received my doctorate in Economics from the University of Pau, France, in June 2004 after spending two years at the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. This is also the place I went to for a one-year post-doctoral stay in 2004-2005 which was followed by another year at the Department of Spatial Economics of the Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

My research interests focus on regional science in general and economic growth, regional development policies, the housing market and human-environment interaction in particular. In addition to the traditional estimation of the dynamics at work, I study each of these fields by modeling and measuring the spatial interactions that take place between regions. An example would be the presence of spillover effects when regional policies are implemented to correct economic imbalances. In that purpose, I use various tools of regional science but mostly spatial statistics, spatial econometrics and interregional input-output. I have published several articles on these topics and with those tools in various refereed journals and book chapters and I have been awarded various prizes for my work. My research always attempts to provide a range of exposure to new curricula materials, methods of conducting interdisciplinary and international collaborative research and guidance in the preparation of material for dissemination in the public policy arena.

## Call for Donations: Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship

In order to continue to offer The Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science, the Stevens Fellowship committee seeks donations in ongoing support of this award. This call for donations follows receipt of annual donation pledges by three NARSC members: David Boyce, Ronald Miller, and Tony Smith. Their generous annual contributions will help ensure the future viability of the award for emerging scholars in Regional Science. Moreover, a generous grant was recently received from the Quaker Hill Foundation, the foundation of the J. P. Stevens family. Donations may be made online at <http://www.narsc.org/newsite/donations2.php>.

### About the Benjamin H. Stevens Fellowship

The Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science was established in 1998 in memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stevens (1929-1997), an intellectual leader whose selfless devotion to graduate students as teacher, advisor, mentor and friend continues to have a profound impact on the field of Regional Science. Graduate students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in North America are eligible to compete for the Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in support of their thesis research in Regional Science. Faculty at all North American Ph.D. programs are asked to encourage their best students to apply for the Fifteenth Stevens Graduate Fellowship, which will support the winning student's thesis research in the field of Regional Science with a fellowship of \$30,000 for the 2014-2015 year. The application deadline is February 15, 2014. Full submission guidelines may be found at [http://www.narsc.org/newsite/?page\\_id=444](http://www.narsc.org/newsite/?page_id=444).

The Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science has also been awarded to the following students:

- 2000 Michael J. Greenwald (University of California, Irvine; Marlon Boarnet, advisor)
- 2001 Rachel Franklin (University of Arizona; Brigitte Waldorf, advisor)
- 2002 Jung Won Son (University of California-Los Angeles; Leobardo Estrada, advisor)
- 2003 Alison Davis Reum (North Carolina State University; V. Kerry Smith, advisor)
- 2004 Nicholas Nagle (Univ. of California-Santa Barbara; Stuart H. Sweeney, advisor)
- 2005 Xiaokun Wang (University of Texas at Austin; Kara Kockelman, advisor)
- 2006 Joshua Drucker (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Harvey Goldstein/Ed Feser, advisors)
- 2007 Alvin Murphy (Duke University; Patrick Bayer, advisor)
- 2008 Paavo Monkkonen (University of California, Berkeley; David E. Dowall, advisor)
- 2009 Elizabeth Mack (Indiana University; Tony H. Grubestic, advisor)
- 2010 Adam Storeygard (Brown University; J. Vernon Henderson, advisor)
- 2011 Peter Richards (Michigan State University; Robert Walker, advisor)
- 2012 Ran Wei (Arizona State University; Alan Murray, advisor)
- 2013 Zhenhua Chen (George Mason University; Kingsley Haynes, advisor)

---

## Upcoming Regional Science Meetings

Western Regional Science Association (WRSA): Paradise Point Resort, San Diego. February 16-19, 2014.

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA): Marriott Plaza, San Antonio. March 27-29, 2014.

Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA): WI Concourse Hotel, Madison. May 2014.

Pacific Regional Science Conference Organisation (PRSCO): Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. May 26-30, 2014.

European Regional Science Association (ERSA): Smolny convent, St. Petersburg, Russia. August 26-29, 2014.