



NARSC NEWS



Welcome from the Executive Director



Thank you to everyone who made the 2016 North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International such a huge success. Approximately 550 regional scientists from across the world gathered in Minneapolis, Minnesota to share their latest research findings over three days of presentations. In addition to dozens of breakout

sessions we had two interesting and highly informative plenary sessions - the RSAI Fellows Lecture delivered by Raymond Florax of Purdue University and the NARSC Presidential address delivered by Dan Rickman of Oklahoma State University. Conferences only happen because there are numerous people working feverishly behind the scenes. To that end I thank Haifeng Qian who served as Program Chair and John Leatherman and Kate Nesse who served as Local Organizers. Thanks also to our student helpers Matt Lehnert, Kevin Credit, and Andrew Young. In 2017 our meetings will be in Vancouver, British Columbia – the dates are November 8-11. Please consider joining us. Finally, I hope that you enjoy this issue of NARSC News. Thanks to newsletter editors Liz Mack and Ran Wei for putting it together. I wish everyone a peaceful and productive 2017.



Words from the Editors

We are delighted to bring you the latest issue of the North American Regional Science (NARSC) newsletter. This edition

of the newsletter will provide readers with a summary of this year's annual meeting. Featured items of this edition include: the abstract of the presidential address by Dan Rickman, a summary of the Alonso, Boyce, Hewings, and Isard award winners; biographies of new NARSC President Alessandra Faggian and Councilors Tony Grubestic and Cynthia Rogers; and an update from the member NARSC regional sections.

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

Elizabeth Mack and Ran Wei
Newsletter Co-Editors

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Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Contact editors Elizabeth Mack (emack@msu.edu) or Ran Wei (ran.wei@utah.edu)



Two Tales of Two States: Storytelling with Regional Science

by Dan Rickman

Kansas and Wisconsin are two notable recent examples of dramatic experiments in U.S. state economic policy and governance. The experiments began with election of their current Republican governors in 2010, Sam Brownback in Kansas, and Scott Walker in Wisconsin. Both took office in January 2011, and along with Republican legislatures began enacting sweeping economic changes in their states. These have been extensively reported on in the media and discussed in policy making circles. Media reports of the experiments typically have portrayed them as economic failures. The conclusions are in large part based on lagging employment growth in the states compared to that of neighbors argued to be economically similar. Wisconsin has routinely been compared to Minnesota, while Kansas has been compared to Nebraska.

In this address, I use empirical approaches found in the regional science literature to more fully assess the relative success or failure of the Kansas and Wisconsin experiments. Applying difference-in-differences (DID), I first compare economic performance of Wisconsin with Minnesota and Kansas with Nebraska, pre- and post-2011. Rather than rely on a single economic indicator, I apply the DID approach to a wide range of indicators to provide a more complete portrait of overall state economic performance. To control for differences between the two states, I also apply DID to the counties along the state borders. Shift-share analysis likewise is employed with DID at the state level to assess the potential influence of post-2011 changes in national industry trends. To assess the efficacy of the two-state comparisons and to provide additional benchmark comparisons for Kansas and Wisconsin, the Synthetic Control Method is then applied to all four states. In a final step, state economic policy changes are examined for patterns consistent with observed differences in economic performance between the experimenting states and the comparison states. The Power Point of Dan Rickman's Presidential address is available at <http://www.narsc.org/newsite/conference/archive/>.

Dan Rickman is Regents Professor of Economics and Oklahoma Gas and Electric Services Chair in Regional Economic Analysis in the Department of Economics and Legal Studies in Business at Oklahoma State University, and currently serves as President of the North American Regional Science Council.

2017 William Alonso Prize for Innovative Work in Regional Science Features Co-Winners

The William Alonso Memorial Prize for Innovative Work in Regional Science was established in 1999 to honor the memory of a revered, pioneering scholar. In 1960 William Alonso was awarded the first Ph.D. in Regional Science by the University of Pennsylvania. The book based on his dissertation, *Location and Land Use* (Harvard University Press, 1964), is often credited with launching the field of urban economics.

The objective of the Prize is to recognize the recent innovative research contribution of Regional Science scholars in the spirit of Dr. William Alonso. The Alonso Prize is primarily a book prize, although occasionally major, seminal journal articles may be selected. To be eligible for the 2017 competition, books or articles must have been published in 2011 or later.

The competition this time featured a large and strong field, and it ended in a virtual dead heat for first place. For the second-time in the history of the Prize, the reading committee has decided to name co-winners. The 2017 Alonso Prize for Innovative Work in Regional Science is awarded to:

The New Science of Cities, by Michael Batty
(MIT Press, 2013)

&

Forecasting Urban Travel: Past, Present, Future, by David Boyce and Huw Williams
(Edward Elgar, 2015)

Professor Batty becomes the first two-time winner of the Alonso Prize; his book *Cities and Complexity* (MIT Press, 2007) received the 2011 Prize.

Traditionally, winning authors present a special plenary session, followed by a reception, at subsequent North American Meetings. Arrangements are now underway for Alonso Prize Sessions to be featured on the programs of both the 2017 and 2018 Meetings.

The 2017 Alonso Prize competition was judged by a five-member Committee consisting of: Gordon Mulligan, Janet Kohlhase, Philip McCann, Kyung-Hwan Kim, and David Plane (Chair). The Committee would like to thank all the researchers whose innovative contributions it was our honor and pleasure to read, as well as those who nominated books and the publishers who supplied review copies. The Committee is also especially grateful to Neil Reid, NARSC Executive Director, for serving as the contact point for nominations, communicating with publishers, and packaging books out to a far-flung committee with members residing in four countries on three continents.

Neil Reid wins the 2016 David Boyce Award for Service to Regional Science



The winner of this year's David Boyce Award is Neil Reid who is a Professor of Geography in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toledo. He is also the Director of the Urban Affairs Center and Executive Director of the North American Science Council. Dr. Reid is a regional scientist and industrial geographer with research interests in local economic development. In addition to his extensive service to the regional science community Dr. Reid has published in a variety of scholarly journals which include the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Papers in Regional Science*, and *Economic Development Quarterly*.

Alex Anas wins the 2016 Walter Isard Award



This year's winner of the Walter Isard award is Alex Anas who is a Professor of Economics at SUNY Buffalo with a wide variety of research interests that include applied econometrics, applied microeconomics, housing policy and computable dynamic general equilibrium models. He has received funding from a variety of reputable agencies ranging from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Anas has received several honors and is a fellow of the

Regional Science Association International, a fellow of the Weimer School of Advanced Studies in Real Estate and Urban Economics, and a recipient of the David E. Lincoln Fellowship from the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy.

Daoqin Tong wins the 2016 Geoffrey Hewings Award



The winner of this year's award, which honors the achievements of young scholars who have recently completed their doctoral studies, is Daoqin Tong. Dr. Tong is an Associate Professor of Geography in the School of Geography & Development at the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on spatial analysis and spatial optimization with applications to transportation, urban activity, public health, and the geography of food. Dr. Tong has published in a wide variety of reputable journals from *Geographical Analysis*, to *Applied Geography* to the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. She has also received funding for research from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Natural Science Foundation of China.

NARSC Student Paper Competition Results

Thank you to Henry Renski and John Winters for chairing the student paper competition this year. Henry was the chair of the graduate student-authored paper competition and John chaired the graduate student-led paper competition. We would also like to thank Edward Elgar and the North American Regional Science Association (NARSC) for their contributions of prizes to these award winners; Edward Elgar contributed books, and NARSC provided a cash prize.

Winner Graduate Student-Authored Paper: Dhari Aljutaili, University of California Irvine

The title of the paper is "The Effect of Neighborhood Design on Social Interaction as Measured by Carpooling"

Runner-up Graduate Student-Authored Paper: Wei You, University of California San Diego

The title of the paper is "The Economies of Speed: The Electrification of the Streetcar System and the Decline of Mom-and-Pop Stores in Boston 1885-1905"

Winner Graduate Student-Led Paper: Leonardo Bonilla and Esteban Lopez, University of Illinois

The title of the paper is "House Prices and School Choice: Evidence from Chicago's Magnet Schools Proximity Lottery"

Runner-up Graduate Student-Led Paper: Anders Van Sandt, Colorado State University

The title of the paper is "Place based Factors and the Success of Farm Level Agritourism: A Spatial Interaction Model of Agritourism in the U.S."

Runner-up Graduate Student-Led Paper: Minhong Xu, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

The title of the paper is "Environmental Hazards and Mortgage Credit Risk: Evidence from Texas Pipeline Incidents"

Meet Your New NARSC President: Alessandra Faggian



Dr. Faggian is Professor of Economics in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development (AED) Economics at the Ohio State University. She is a regional and urban economist with over 60 peer reviewed articles in reputable journals such as *Economic Geography*, *the Cambridge Journal of Economics*, and *Regional Studies*. Dr. Faggian is co-editor of *Papers in Regional Science* and has served the regional science community as a Councilor of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) and the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC).

Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Tony Grubestic



Dr. Grubestic is College Professor of Policy Analytics in the College of Public Service & Community Solutions and Director of the Center for Spatial Reasoning & Policy Analytics at Arizona State University. He is a geographer and currently holds appointments in Public Affairs, Criminology & Criminal Justice, and Geography and Urban Planning. Dr. Grubestic's research interests include public health, transportation, crime, and technology policy. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Regional Science Review* and Associate Editor for *Telematics and Informatics*.

Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Cynthia Rogers



Dr. Rogers is Professor of Economics at the University of Oklahoma. She is a regional and urban economist with special research interests in public finance and economic development. Dr. Rogers has been published in a wide variety of reputable economics journals including: *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *the Journal of Regional Science*, and *the Journal of Urban Economics*. She has served on several editorial boards and currently serves on the boards of *the Review of Regional Studies* and *the Journal of Urban Affairs*.

Regional Section Updates

Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA)

The MCRSA 47th annual conference was co-hosted with the IMPLAN Group in Charlotte, NC this year. Richard Cebula was the recipient of the MCRSA Distinguished Fellow Award and Steven Deller was the recipient of the JRAP Research Impact Award. The 48th annual conference will be June 7-9, 2017 at the Renaissance Toledo Hotel Downtown in Toledo, OH.

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA)

The 55th annual meetings were held in Washington, DC and had about 140 participants, and 56 sessions. The 2016 Barry M. Moriarty Graduate Student Award went to Renata Caldas of the Federal University of Pernambuco for the paper "Eligibility Assessment of the Brazilian Semi-Arid Criteria: Impacts on Municipalities' Employment and Income". The 2017 meeting will be in Memphis TN March 31-April 2, 2017.

Western Regional Science Association (WRSA)

WRSA's 55th annual meeting was held on the Big Island of Hawaii. Ed Glaeser gave the annual Getis lecture in spatial analysis. WRSA will hold its 56th annual meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, February 15-18, 2017.

Call for Applications: Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship

This fellowship was established in 1998 in memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stevens (1929-1997) in honor of his devotion to teaching, advising, and mentoring graduate students. Students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in North America are eligible to apply for the fellowship to support their thesis research in Regional Science.

The 2016-17 Stevens Fellowship competition was judged by a Selection Committee composed of: Laurie Schintler, Public Policy, George Mason University, Chair; Nathaniel Baum-Snow, Economics, Brown University; Elena Irwin, Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, The Ohio State University; Mario Polèse, Urban and Regional Economics, Université du Québec; and Amanda Weinstein, Economics, The University of Akron. The Stevens Fellowship Committee administrates the Stevens Fellowship Fund on behalf of the North American Regional Science Council; its members are: Tony Smith, Chair; David Plane, Secretary; Michael Lahr, Treasurer; Janet Kohlhase; and Neil Reid, Executive Director of NARSC.

Nick Tsivanidis, a Ph.D. candidate in economics at the University of Chicago, was selected as the winner of the Sixteenth Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science. The Fellowship will provide a one-year stipend of \$30,000 to support Nick Tsivanidis in his research entitled, 'Commuting Technologies, City Structure and Urban Inequality: Evidence from Bogotá's TransMilenio.' This research will estimate the impact of a novel bus rapid transit (BRT) system in Bogotá, Colombia - TransMilenio - in reducing congestion costs along two margins. First, what was the total effect of TransMilenio on city productivity and welfare? Second, to what extent did the system disproportionately benefit the urban poor, by reducing their commuting time and improving their access to jobs? Since the poor rely on public transit while the rich drive cars, TransMilenio may have had both important aggregate and distributional effects for Bogotanos. Tsivanidis's research is supervised by Professor Chang-Tai Hsieh of the University of Chicago.

Faculty at all North American Ph.D. programs related to the interdisciplinary field of Regional Science are urged to encourage their best students to apply for the Seventeenth Annual Stevens

Graduate Regional Science Fellowship. The winning student's dissertation research in the field of Regional Science will be supported during the 2017-2018 year with a one-year stipend of \$30,000. The application deadline is February 15, 2017.

An application consists of the following materials:

1. A curriculum vita of no more than two (2) pages in length.
2. A statement in ten (10) pages or less explaining the questions and issues to be addressed, the approach to be used, and the product expected from the dissertation research, preceded by a summary (1-page maximum) describing the intellectual merit of the proposed research, and the broader impacts that may result. The 10-page limit is inclusive of references, but exclusive of tables and figures. This text should be in 12-point or larger font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins; references may be single-spaced.
3. Copies of the candidate's transcripts for all graduate study. Unofficial copies are acceptable.

In addition, the dissertation supervisor shall provide a confidential letter sent separately as an attachment from her/his email account with the student's name in the subject line to Professor Elena Irwin. In the letter the supervisor should assess the quality and significance of the proposed dissertation research, specify the current state of progress toward the candidate's degree and provide a commitment by the dissertation supervisor to obtain a tuition waiver for the candidate for the year of the Fellowship. A condition of the Fellowship is the granting of a tuition waiver for the year of the Fellowship by the university, or equivalent payment of the student's tuition.

Applications should be emailed to Professor Elena Irwin at irwin.78@osu.edu. Questions may also be sent to her at irwin.78@osu.edu. For information about NARSC, go to www.narsc.org/newsite/. For information about RSAI, go to www.regionalscience.org/.

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. The Fellowship is awarded in memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stevens, 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.

Fundraising efforts to increase the Fellowship's endowment are ongoing. Donations should be sent to: The Stevens Fellowship Fund, First Financial Bank, 1205 S. Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820 USA. Checks should be drawn to The Stevens Fellowship Fund. Donations may also be made by credit card through the NARSC website at www.narsc.org/newsite/donations2.php.

Call for Papers: ITEA

Many RSAI members may not know about the International Transportation Economics Association, its annual week-long Summer School and Conference, and its journal, *Economics of Transportation*, published by Elsevier. Given that transportation issues are woven into the fabric of Regional Science, ITEA has a lot to offer RSAI members. The Summer School and Conference, held this coming summer in Barcelona, starts with a 2½ day School consisting of 9 lectures by well-known experts in transportation economics, along with two empirical tutorials. The School is designed for Ph.D. studies from a variety of disciplines (economics, engineering, urban planning, etc.) who wish to deepen their knowledge of transportation economics. The remaining 2½ days of the week are devoted to the ITEA conference, which is now the best annual international conference on transportation economics. Presenters include scholars from all over the world along with some of the School students, who present dissertation work. Both the Summer School and Conference include a number of meals and social events, making for a memorable week. More information can be found at the School/Conference website: <http://itea2017bcn.org/>. The website for last year's Santiago, Chile, event can be found at <http://www.iteacas2016.cl/>. As explained on the 2017 website, paper submission for the Conference will open on January 1, 2017 and application to the School will be possible shortly thereafter (a number of partial tuition scholarships will be made available). RSAI members with transportation interests should strongly consider submitting a paper to the Conference, and faculty with students working in the area should encourage them to investigate the School. In addition, everyone should visit the website of *Economics of Transportation* (<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/economics-of-transportation/>).

Jan K. Brueckner, ITEA President

Call for Papers: REGION

Dear colleagues,

We would like to invite you to submit your NARSC conference research to REGION (region.ersa.org), the peer-reviewed journal of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA). REGION was established in 2014, at the 60-year anniversary of Walter Isard's founding of the Regional Sciences Association. Since then three volumes (five editions) have been published with original scientific work in regional science, regional economics, economic geography, and related areas. Although REGION is affiliated with ERSA, submissions from all regions of the world are encouraged. Examples of articles published in REGION include research on regional impacts related to climate change in Lebanon (Haddad et al, 2014), a meta-analysis of infrastructure and trade by Celbis, Nijkamp and Poot (2014), and regional quality of living in Europe (Lagas et al, 2015).

REGION also offers a venue to publish shorter work related in a Resources section and Young Scholars Letters. The resources section features new datasets, resources for teaching, and information about software use. Daniel Arribas-Bel and Thomas de Graaff's workshop on open workflows is one example of such a publication. The Young Scholars Letter publishes research from authors in the early phases of their careers: Contributions are shorter (around 3,000 words) and provide an opportunity for Master and PhD students or recent graduates to publish their work.

REGION is an open access journal, which means that access to the articles is free, authors are not charged publication fees, and they maintain rights on the article (creative commons license). Each article is subject to the standard double-blind peer-review process. Although REGION is still too young to have an impact factor, it offers fast peer review and electronic publishing.

We look forward to your submissions. Feel free to contact us for further information (jkoschinsky@uchicago.edu).

The REGION Editorial Team

Julia Koschinsky, Ph.D.

REGION Resources Editor

Research Director, Center for Spatial Data Science, University of Chicago

Job Announcements

The Computational Earth Science Group (EES-16) in the Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has an immediate opening for a creative and resourceful postdoctoral research associate in the field of operations research and network optimization. The successful candidate will work as part of a team developing novel and fast solution approaches to network optimization problems, interface design, and geographical information systems and science (GIS/GIScience). The candidate will be working on several CO2 capture and storage (CCS) projects – also known as carbon sequestration – with applications across the United States and China. Specifically, they will be leading development of LANL’s SimCCS optimization framework as well as performing scientific research using SimCCS. Although the position does not require prior knowledge of CCS, the candidate will be expected to demonstrate a keen interest and knowledge of climate- and energy-related research.

See the web site for more information:

https://jobszp1.lanl.gov/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=IRC_VIS_VAC_DISPLAY&OAMC=R&p_svid=53566&p_spid=2434275&p_lang_code=US

Upcoming Regional Science Meetings

WRSa will hold its 56th annual meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, February 15–18, 2017.

SRSA will hold its 56th annual meeting in Memphis TN March 31–April 2, 2017.

MCRSA will host its 48th annual meeting in Toledo, OH, June 7-9, 2017.
