



# 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 Washington, D.C. From the Wednesday workshops to the final papers that were delivered in the final session the conference was a huge success and a total of 740 papers were presented. Much of this newsletter is devoted to the conference, so please browse its pages and read more about what went on in Washington, D.C.

Thank you to the NARSC Program Chair, Rachel Franklin and the two Local Organizers, John Carruthers and Meagan Cahill whose diligence and hard work contributed so much to the success of the conference. Next year we will be in Portland, Oregon November 11-14, 2015. Mark your calendars and be sure to join us there.



## Words from the Editors

We are delighted to bring you the latest issue of the North American Regional Science Association (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 text of the presidential address by Janice Madden, a summary of the Boyce, Hewings, and Isard award winners; biographies of new NARSC Councilors Peter Stenberg and Monica Haddad; and an update from the member NARSC regional sections.

At this time, we also wish to share with you that this will be Ralph's last issue as co-editor of the newsletter. Ralph has taken a full-time position as Housing Economist with the online real estate firm Trulia. You can follow his work at <http://www.trulia.com/trends>.

The co-editor that will succeed Ralph is Assistant Professor Ran Wei from the University of Utah. Welcome Ran!

Elizabeth Mack and Ralph McLaughlin  
Newsletter Co-Editors

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*Would you like to contribute to the newsletter?*

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## The Demography of Commuting: How Population Groups Create and Respond to Cities

by Janice Madden

The process by which workers are placed in jobs and residences constructs the city, producing the locations of firms and households and the value of land. Location is one of many attributes valued when workers choose their residences and take jobs. For homogeneous workers with the same job location, longer commutes must be compensated by lower housing prices; similarly, for homogeneous workers with the same residential location, longer commutes must be compensated by higher wages, at least for someone in the household. But workers are not homogeneous. They have different skills and preferences for jobs, housing and commuting. These differences interact with agglomeration forces, creating varying production effects at different job locations. The commute, the residence, and the job are jointly selected. The aggregation of those selections creates the metropolitan area.

If members of particular population groups, such as African Americans (AAs) or women workers, have different preferences or constraints with respect to selections of residences, jobs, or commuting time, then demographic composition affects what cities look like. Urban structure, in turn, may generate different location outcomes, and imply differences in welling being, for population groups.

Commuting distances provide information about unobserved attributes of housing and job outcomes. To interpret what commuting says about these outcomes, analyses must include the attributes of jobs, residences, and value of time affecting commuting and also model their simultaneous selections.

When demographic groups have different residential or job locations, commutes differ. I concentrate on two topics, racial segregation and gender differences in commuting, although many of the insights pertinent to understanding these topics extend to spatial labor market analyses more broadly.

### **Racial Segregation**

The extreme residential segregation of AAs in the US has been salient for centuries. Racial segregation peaked in 1970 and subsequently declined. While racial integration over the last four decades must arise from some combination of white neighborhoods attracting AAs and AA neighborhoods attracting whites, the fact is that white neighborhoods integrate but AA neighborhoods do not. The share of neighborhoods between 0 and 2.5% AA has steadily declined and the share between 2.5% and 40% AA has increased. For AA neighborhoods, there is no movement toward racial integration. In many large cities with increasing integration, especially those in the Midwest and Northeast, the number of over 90% AA neighborhoods actually increased, while the share of metro AAs residing in them steadily declined.

Both AA and white neighborhoods are more likely to integrate when they are in central cities. The social and economic stability of neighborhoods, however, does not strongly influence racial integration. The increases in Hispanic residents among Western metros largely accounts for their greater decreases in segregation, and especially for the disappearance of AA neighborhoods.

There is little empirical research about the implications of decreasing segregation occurring as AA neighborhoods with diminished populations expand.

Segregation and the detrimental effects of ghettos have been analyzed as constraints on residential location and mobility that may result in longer commutes and/or inferior jobs and housing for AA residents. While the literature on segregation is vast, no broad consensus has emerged. Because people choose their neighborhoods, it is difficult to separate the effects of the neighborhoods themselves from those unobserved characteristics of people who select themselves into the neighborhood. Are AA neighborhoods creating a new social and economic inequality for their residents, which differ from the effects of segregation when metros were more segregated?

The best empirical evidence indicates that restrictions on AA residential locations have not limited job accessibility, although they lead to many other negatives, notably inferior mental and physical health. Regional scientists, however, should not be surprised that constraints on residence forcing more centralized metro locations yield worse “well-being,” but not worse job accessibility.

### **Women’s Shorter Work Trips**

Gender differences in commuting raise issues of women’s job accessibility. Workers in two-earner households have residential location constraints that may affect individual job accessibility. On the one hand, because women are more likely to be in two-earner households, they are expected to commute farther. On the other hand, women’s greater responsibilities for home and child care may make their commuting time more costly, resulting in their commuting less than men with similar skills and earnings potential. The latter effect appears to dominate. Do the resulting shorter commutes mean women have less job accessibility, or the same job accessibility because their households locate closer to their jobs?

Research has clearly established that, across time and space (countries), women commute less than men and that the relationships between family and commuting trips differ by gender. Marriage and children increase men’s commutes. Marriage increases, and children decrease, women’s commutes. Analyses of the roles of family status and job status in creating commuting differences require location theories that endogenize both residential and job locations, and also micro-data that include distance commuted, detailed qualities of residences and jobs, and worker skills. Unfortunately, such models and data are rare. As a result most research does not endogenize residence and job locations and commuting decisions, but “fixes” at least one of these choices. These compromises mean that the basic question of the causes and effects of women’s shorter commutes have not been answered.

Household responsibilities of women are decreasing over time. But, the gender differences in commuting times have actually grown. Why have decreasing household duties and increasing relative wages and occupational attainment not led to a decrease in the gender commuting gap? This outcome is more puzzling to me than decreases in segregation not leading to relative job improvements for AAs. Residential segregation actually improved AA job accessibility but impeded access to quality housing and neighborhoods. There is not such an obvious answer to why decreasing household responsibilities and improving jobs have not led to relative increases in commuting for women.

Fifty years of regional science research on household choice of residence and job locations show the importance of including the simultaneity of these selections. But, what is it that we do not understand about putting job and residential locations together that might explain these puzzles for population groups? Demography may index different tastes or preferences, location constraints, productivity or spatial distributions of productivity. The truth is out there for a new generation of scholars to find.

*Janice Madden is Professor of Regional Science, Sociology, and Real Estate at The University of Pennsylvania, and currently serves as President of the North American Regional Science Council.*

## Michael Lahr wins the 2014 David Boyce Award for Service to Regional Science



The winner of this year's David Boyce Award is Michael Lahr who is a Professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. This award is in honor of Professor David Boyce and honors the service contributions that members have made to Regional Science. Dr. Lahr is the Association Director of the Rutgers Economic Advisory Service (R/ECON) and Associate Research Professor of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. Dr. Lahr has published over 40 articles in journals and edited volumes on a variety of important topics including economic modeling; development economics; planning and fiscal issues; and the mobility of poor families. He is the co-editor of *The Review of Regional Studies* and sits on the editorial board of several journals including the *Journal of Regional Science*, *Economic Systems Research*, and *Papers in Regional Science*. Dr. Lahr is currently the President of the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA) and is also the Vice President of the International Input-Output Association and Treasurer of the Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship of the North American Regional Science Council.

## Gilles Duranton wins the 2013 Walter Isard Award



The winner of this year's Walter Isard Award is Gilles Duranton who is the Dean's Chair in Real Estate Professor and Chair of the Real Estate Department at the University of Pennsylvania. This award was established in 1994 and is in honor of Professor Walter Isard who is the founder of Regional Science and the Regional Science Association. Recipients of this award have made noteworthy theoretical and methodological contributions to Regional Science throughout their careers. Dr. Duranton's research interests are in urban and transportation economics and he has written several noteworthy publications in distinguished outlets such as the *Journal of Political Economy*, *Econometrica*, the *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, and *The Journal of Urban Economics*. He is currently the co-editor of the *Journal of Urban Economics* and is a research affiliate of the Spatial Economics Research Centre at the London School of Economics and a Senior Fellow at the Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis in Canada.

## Eleonora Patacchini wins the 2014 Geoffrey Hewings Award



Eleonora Patacchini is the winner of this year's Geoffrey Hewings Award which is given to young scholars who have recently completed their doctoral studies. Dr. Patacchini is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Syracuse University and has a Ph.D in Economics from the University of Southampton in the U.K. Dr. Patacchini's research record includes publications in several distinguished journals including the *Journal of Econometrics*, *Regional Science & Urban Economics*, the *Journal of Regional Science* and *Labour Economics*. Dr. Patacchini is also a research fellow or affiliate at several prestigious institutions including the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

## NARSC Student Paper Competition Results

Thank you to Monica Haddad and Haifeng Qian for chairing the student paper competition this year. Monica was the chair of the graduate student-authored paper competition and Haifeng chaired the graduate student-led paper competition.

### Winner Graduate Student-Authored Paper: Tate Twinam, University of Pittsburgh

Tate is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Economics at the University of Pittsburgh where he researches topics in urban, environmental, and public microeconomics.

### Winner Graduate Student-Led Paper: Sungyup Chung, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

Sungyup is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Economics at Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is also affiliated with the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL). His graduate advisor is Geoffrey Hewings.

## 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. 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 2015-2016 year. The application deadline is February 15, 2015. 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)
  - 2014: No fellowship awarded
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## Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Monica Haddad



Dr. Haddad is an Associate Professor of Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University. Monica has a Ph.D. in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. Monica's research interests include human development, with a focus on education, Iowa and the bio-economy, social planning in the American Midwest and Latin America, and the application of spatial analysis to community and regional planning issues. Dr. Haddad is currently working on three research projects. The first project examines the quality of education and the allocation of public resources in Brazil. The second project examines issues related to floods and planning in Iowa, and the third project involves the development of a methodology for planners to do housing needs assessments.

## Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Peter Stenberg



Peter is a Regional Economist at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Dr. Stenberg researches economic development policy with a focus on physical and human infrastructure. Past projects include rural telecommunications, the impact of science and technology on rural-urban economic clusters, and investments in higher education (i.e. land-grant institutions). Peter has a Ph.D. and an M.S. in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Stenberg is also a member of the

American Economics Association, American Agricultural Economics Association, Western Economic Association International, and Regional Science Association International.

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## Regional Section Updates

### **Canadian Regional Science Association (CRSA)**

CJRS: The Canadian Journal of Regional Science / Revue canadienne des sciences regionales has transitioned to an online, open-access format. Starting with Volume 34, John Miron of the University of Toronto has taken over as editor from Chris Bryant, who served as editor for over ten years. Volume 35 (1) has now been published. Also, a complete set of CJRS back issues may be accessed online. Please have a look at the new CJRS at <http://www.cjrs-rcsr.org/>

### **Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA)**

MCRSA 45th annual conference co-hosted with the 10 Biennial IMPLAN National User's Conference in Madison, WI. The conference had 107 registrants, 63 papers were presented, and there were two plenary panel sessions. 51 people attended the two pre-conference IMPLAN workshops.

John Leatherman to serve as Local Arrangements Chair for NARSC 2016 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN.

### **Western Regional Science Association (WRSA)**

WRSA's 53rd annual meeting was held in San Diego, California and had just over 200 participants. Art Getis has endowed an annual lecture in spatial analysis at the WRSA meeting. The inaugural speaker in Santa Barbara was Keith Ord; the 2014 speaker was Luc Anselin; the 2015 speaker will be Harry Kelejian.

## 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>.

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## Upcoming Regional Science Meetings

WRSa will hold its 54th annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona, February 15–18, 2015.

SRSA will hold its 54th annual meeting in Mobile, Alabama March 26–28, 2015.

MCRSA will host its 46th annual meeting in St. Louis, MO, May 27–29, 2015.

WRSa will hold its 55th annual meeting on the Big Island of Hawaii, February 14–17, 2016.