



# NARSC NEWS



## Words from the Executive Director



Welcome to the June 2018 issue of NARSC News. I hope that everyone is having a productive summer. This November (7th-10th) the 65th Annual North American Meetings of the RSAI will take place in San Antonio, Texas. I hope that you will join us for what promises to be another enjoyable and stimulating meeting. This year's local organizer is John Spring and the Program Chair is Monica Haddad of Iowa State University. The deadline for abstract submissions is July 1. More information about the conference can be found at <http://www.narsc.org/newsite/conference/>. In closing I'd like to thank our newsletter editors Liz Mack and Ran Wei for putting together yet another informative newsletter. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

## Words from the Editors



This issue marks the start of the fifth year of the newsletter. Thanks to the great membership, it has been possible to feature important contents and updates in the field of regional science. Thank you to all that have contributed.

This June 2018 edition of the newsletter features updates on past Benjamin Stevens Fellowship Award winners as well as recently funded research and published books of the membership.

We hope you all have a productive and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you all at the NARSC meeting in San Antonio in November.

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@ucr.edu)*

## Benjamin Stevens Award Winners:

### 2006 Winner: Joshua Drucker



I am an Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I work extensively with the Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement and am an affiliate of the Government Finance Research Center, both within the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. I teach classes in economic development policy, economic analysis techniques, regional development theory, and policy analysis. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Economics from the University of Michigan and Masters and Ph.D. degrees in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

My research centers around understanding processes of regional economic development and transformation and designing policies to achieve and sustain positive economic outcomes. Among other topics, I investigate agglomeration and industrial structure; innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship; and how economic development policy interacts with these features. Recent research includes evaluating the emerging strategy of urban innovation districts, gauging the economic impacts of higher education institutions and other anchoring organizations, and examining the incidence and effectiveness of business tax incentives.

I am interested in advancing economic analysis methods useful for practitioners. I am an expert in economic impact assessment; recently studies include measuring the spatial distribution and consequences of wage theft in Illinois and the economic impact of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama. I am participating in multi-year projects to help Illinois communities understand and plan for changes in federal defense procurement and to encourage “green” economic development in the Chicago region.

#### **Drucker on the Stevens Fellowship:**

The Benjamin Stevens Fellowship shaped my academic career in several ways. First, the awarding committee recognized my efforts publicly in a national and international setting. The Fellowship endorsed the validity and importance of my dissertation topic, investigating the occurrence and consequences of industrial concentration at the regional scale, along with the progress that I had made to that point. The award’s prestige and visibility undoubtedly smoothed the path toward subsequent attainments, including a dissertation fellowship from the Ewing M. Kauffman Foundation and eventually a university faculty position. Second, the generous monetary grant was instrumental in supporting my dissertation work, covering necessary expenses and permitting me to extend my research timeline when I encountered delays in obtaining access to critical data. Third, the fellowship led to introductions to many regional scientists – other awardees, colleagues interested in my research subject, senior colleagues who supported the fellowship program financially or by volunteering their time, junior and future colleagues who requested career or research advice or were interested in learning about the award process. In all of these ways, receiving the fellowship advanced my scholarly career and reinforced my attachment to the field of regional science. I was privileged to be awarded the Benjamin Stevens Fellowship in 2006, and I am honored today to be listed alongside the talented and accomplished regional scientists who have received the fellowship.

## 2008 Winner: Paavo Monkkonen



Paavo Monkkonen is Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. He researches the ways policies and markets shape urban development and social segregation in cities around the world. Paavo's scholarship ranges from studies of large-scale housing finance programs to local land use regulations and property rights institutions. His comparative research on socioeconomic segregation and land markets spans several countries including Argentina, Brazil, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, and the United States. He continues to work as a consultant on national housing and urban policy in Mexico, where he has various longstanding research projects. At UCLA Luskin, Paavo teaches on housing markets and policy, applied microeconomics, research methods, and global urban segregation. Paavo is the coordinator of the Regional and International Development Concentration and a Faculty Leader for the Global Public Affairs Initiative. He has published in journals such as the Journal of the American Planning Association, the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, and Regional Science and Urban Economics, and received funding organizations such as the MacArthur Foundation, the Regional Studies Association, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and the Global Development Network. Paavo completed a Master of Public Policy at the School of Public Affairs at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a PhD in City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley. He was previously Assistant Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Hong Kong.

### **Monkkonen on the Stevens Fellowship:**

The Stevens Fellowship was extremely helpful for me early in my academic career. Most directly, it allowed me to focus exclusively on my dissertation research for a year, which I spent in Mexico, and did not require much of me other than carrying out my research as planned. It also connected me to other scholars in the Regional Science community and gave me a highly reputable acclaim for my CV. Compared to other fellowships I received during my graduate studies, the Stevens was notable in that NARSC was very easy to work with. I am still grateful!

## 2009 Winner: Elizabeth Mack



Elizabeth Mack is an Associate Professor of Economic Geography at Michigan State University. Dr. Mack's research program evaluates the impact of information and communications technologies (ICTs) on the development trajectory of regional economies. Recently, her work is focused on understanding entrepreneurial ecosystems and water affordability. Dr. Mack's research has been funded by a variety of agencies including the National Science Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Kauffman National Science Foundation for entrepreneurship research. She is also on the editorial boards of Regional Science, Policy, and Practice and the International Regional Science Review.

Mack holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Virginia Tech, a Masters in Applied Economics from the University of Cincinnati and a Ph.D. in Geography from Indiana University.

**Mack on the Stevens Fellowship:**

It was an honor to receive recognition from the regional science community via the award of this fellowship. Funds from this award enabled me to concentrate full time on completing my dissertation. It also allowed me to serve as a visiting scholar at Arizona State University where I developed new collaborations with gifted scholars working at the GeoDa Center. This time as a visiting scholar helped me establish the foundations of an academic career. Thank you to all donors who made and continue to fund this fellowship, which is critical to launching new scholars onto academic career paths.

**2010 Winner: Adam Storeygard**

Adam Storeygard is an Assistant (Associate as of Fall 2018) Professor of Economics at Tufts University, with research interests in development and urban economics, and particularly in urbanization, transportation, and the economic geography of sub-Saharan Africa and the rest of the developing world. Much of his work uses geographic data, including satellite data. His work has appeared in journals including the American Economic Review, the Quarterly Journal of Economics, the Review of Economic Studies, and Nature, and has been funded by the World Bank and the National Institutes of Health. He received a PhD from Brown University in

2012. In addition to the 2010 Stevens Fellowship, he is also the recipient of the 2016 August Lössch Prize for outstanding academic research in the field of Regional Science. He is a co-Editor of Regional Science and Urban Economics, a member of the User Working Group (UWG) of NASA's Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC), and an affiliate of the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD).

**Storeygard on the Stevens Fellowship:**

The Stevens Fellowship had several professional benefits for me. The process of applying for it and another dissertation fellowship forced me to clarify my research and to argue for its importance in a way that was helpful when I wrote the resulting papers. Receiving the award at the NARSC annual meeting introduced my work to a wider audience than it had been seen by before. The funding allowed me to work on my dissertation full time without having to be a teaching or research assistant. I was able to focus on it and I expect that allowed me to make faster progress. It also meant that it was in good enough shape that I could submit it to a journal before I graduated, which freed up my time to work on new projects once I started my faculty position.

**2012 Winner: Ran Wei**

Ran Wei is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Policy and a founding member of the Center for Geospatial Sciences at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). Her areas of emphasis include GIScience, urban and regional analysis, spatial analysis, optimization, geovisualization, high performance computing and location analysis. Substantively, she has focused on a range of national and international issues, including urban/regional growth, transportation, public health, crime, housing mobility, energy infrastructure, and

environmental sustainability. She has published more than 30 articles in the peer-reviewed journals and her research has been funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Utah Transit Authority, and National Academy of Sciences. In addition to the 2012 Benjamin Stevens Fellowship, she was also the recipient of Best Student Paper awards from the SAM specialty group of the AAG, and the UCGIS. Wei received her PhD in Geography from Arizona State University in 2013. Prior to UCR, Wei was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Utah.

#### **Wei on the Stevens Fellowship:**

It was a great honor to receive this prestigious award at the last year of my PhD program. This fellowship offered great support to me so that I can focus my time on finishing up my dissertation and several journal publications, which are extremely important for my future academic career. I am very grateful for all donors!

### 2016 Winner: Nick Tsivanidis



Nick Tsivanidis is the International Economics Fellow at Dartmouth College. In the fall of 2019, he will join the University of California at Berkeley, Haas School of Business as Assistant Professor. His research centers around connecting theory with empirics that combine new sources of granular data with natural experiments to learn about the process of urbanization in developing countries. In his dissertation, he evaluates the aggregate and distributional effects of improving urban transit infrastructure, through the lens of the construction of the world's most-used Bus Rapid Transit system in Bogotá, Colombia. His other projects use satellite images and machine learning measure the strength of spillovers in Mumbai, India, and cellphone metadata to analyze patterns of migration and assimilation of refugees from Syria into urban life in Amman, Jordan.

#### **Tsivanidis on the Stevens Fellowship:**

The Stevens Fellowship was incredibly useful to support my time as a graduate student at the University of Chicago. In addition to covering living expenses in the sixth year of the program, I used part of the fellowship to support trips to Colombia to access restricted microdata used in my dissertation research.

### 2018 Winner: Daniel Crown



Daniel Crown is a PhD Candidate in the Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics Department at The Ohio State University. His dissertation research explores the implications of skilled immigration policies in the United States and Australia. Specifically, estimating the impact of obtaining citizenship on the productivity of foreign-born doctorates, the labor market impact of a skilled immigration visa in Australia, and the impact of skilled migrants on the innovative output of domestic researchers in Australia. Outside of his dissertation, his research interests span several fields of applied microeconomics including rural development, innovation, and gender inequality. In collaboration with researchers at the Economic Research Service

at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he has conducted research on the role of access to credit, and of establishment-level innovation on the growth and survival of rural businesses in the United States. He is also engaged in an ongoing research project examining the extent and implications of the gender wage gap in academia.

**Crown on the Stevens Fellowship:**

I am grateful to be selected for such a prestigious award, and to join an elite group of past awardees. I place a great value on the flexibility that the Benjamin Stevens Graduate Fellowship award will offer with regards to finishing my dissertation free of outside teaching/work obligations. This flexibility will allow me to devote significant time to work on my research and prepare for the job market this fall. I am thankful for the support and opportunities given to me by Mark Partridge and Alessandra Faggian, and the encouragement and support of my colleagues and friends.

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## 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](http://www.narsc.org/newsite/donations2.php).

## NARSC Members' Recent Grant Awards

**RAPID: The changing roles of social media in disaster resilience: The case of Hurricane Harvey.  
Funded by NSF in the amount of \$199,989**

**Investigators:**

Lam NSN, Meyer M, Park SJ, Reams M, Yang SW, Lee KS

**Project Summary:**

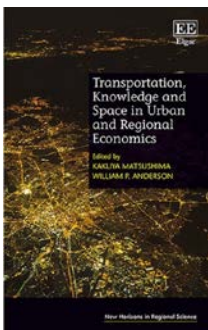
This RAPID research project focuses on the changing roles and effects of social media use in disaster resilience through the case of Hurricane Harvey. A new phenomenon emerged during this event: many resorted to social media to call for rescue when 911 was overloaded. This changing use of social media marks Harvey as one of the very first disastrous events in which social media played an important role in fast-responding rescue missions. The overarching research question is: how effective is social media in enhancing resilience such as its new role of response and rescue, and do we see an increase or decrease in the geographical and social disparities of social media use that may have affected the outcome and the resilience of individuals and communities? This interdisciplinary project collected time-sensitive Twitter data and online surveys of individuals and organizations in the flood-affected communities in the Houston region to examine the patterns, effects, and new roles of social media in disaster resilience.

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## NARSC Members' Recent Books

**Title: *Transportation, Knowledge and Space in Urban and Regional Economics***

**Editors: Kakuya Matsushima and William P. Anderson**



**Description:** "This collection of 16 original research chapters by international scholars addresses the complementary roles of transportation and knowledge and their spatial manifestations in modern urban and regional economies. The authors provide research from North America, Europe and Asia. While the studies employ sophisticated methods and theory, there is a strong element of practical applications and policy implications in each chapter as well. This book will be of interest to communities of research and practice in urban and regional economics and planning, regional science and economic geography, transportation research, planning and management and the knowledge economy." --- Edward Elgar Publishing

## Call for Book Chapters: Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Meet Innovation Systems

**Editors: Alexandra Tsvetkova, Jana Schmutzler, Rhiannon Pugh**

In a new edited book we seek to explore the similarities and differences between the Innovation Systems (IS) and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (EE) approaches in their treatment of common research topics. Our broader goals are (1) to advance the discourse by bridging the two research traditions through the lessons one perspective can learn from the other and (2) to expand the frontiers of current knowledge by encouraging research into previously unexplored areas.

To this end, we invite extended abstract submissions for empirical, theoretical and review chapters that try to bridge the literatures on innovation systems (IS) or entrepreneurial ecosystems (EE) within the blocks of topics listed below.

**Block I - Bridging the IS and EE perspectives:** papers that bridge the IS and EE perspectives:

- theoretical contributions, which - by combining the two approaches - advance our current knowledge;
- critical reviews of the literature that explore similarities, differences, limitations and areas of overlap;
- any other types of contributions that fall within this area, e.g. explorations of various topics made explicitly from the two perspectives.

**Block II - Sustainable development and inclusive growth:** empirical research which explores - from the IS or EE perspectives:

- the ways entrepreneurship and innovation contribute and shape sustainable development and inclusive growth;
- social innovation and social entrepreneurship;
- responsible innovation and responsible entrepreneurship;
- possible limitations of the EE or IS perspectives to adequately explain any topics listed above.

**Block III - The informal economy:** empirical contributions that adopt systems approach to the study of:

- the informal sector in general;
- frugal innovation;
- informal entrepreneurship and informal innovation.

Please submit extended chapter abstracts (800-1,000 words) together with a full list of contributors and a tentative title to Alexandra Tsvetkova (tsvetkova.1@osu.edu) no later than Sunday, August 19th, 2018. The title, the list of authors, their affiliations and references (if any) are excluded from the word count. The editors will screen all submissions for clarity, relevance and expected contribution to the book theme. Acceptance notifications will be sent out on September 3, 2018; chapter submission deadline is January 13th, 2019. We have discussed the book plan with an Edward Elgar editor and received a preliminary approval. We expect to sign a book contract in October 2018 with expected publication in Fall 2019 -Winter 2010.