



NARSC NEWS



Words from the Executive Director



In November, NARSC and the Southern Regional Science Association hosted the 65th North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International in San Antonio, Texas. The meetings, as usual, attracted regional scientists from around the world, eager to share their latest research with their colleagues. This issue of the NARSC Newsletter is devoted to the

meetings in San Antonio, so if you were unlucky enough to miss them, you can catch up on some of the activities here.

Behind every successful conference, there are people working behind the scenes on a variety of organizational details. I would like to thank the people who contributed to the organizational and intellectual success of the conference in San Antonio. Program Chair, Monica Haddad, did a fantastic job in putting together a cohesive and interesting program. Among a hundred other tasks, Local Organizer, John Sporing made sure that the break-out rooms were equipped with all the necessary audio visual equipment, and that the coffee and snacks showed up on time. There were also a number of student volunteers, who assisted with audio-visual set-up and ensured that the registration desk was staffed at all times. These student volunteers were Matt Lehnert, Heritage Oyelade, Elham Shirinkaam, and Erika Zuloaga. Next year, we will meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The meetings will take place at the beautiful and historic Omni William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh, November 13-16. Please consider joining us.

Finally, I would like to welcome Isabelle Nilsson of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte as the new co-Editor of the NARSC Newsletter. Isabelle replaces Liz Mack, who decided to step down. Liz was one of the original co-editors of the Newsletter when it was established in 2013. I would like to thank Liz for her contributions to the Newsletter over the years.

Neil Reid

Executive Director

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Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Contact editors Isabelle Nilsson (inilso1@uncc.edu) or Ran Wei (ran.wei@ucr.edu)

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 Mark Partridge, a summary of the Boyce, Hewings, and Isard award winners; biographies of new NARSC President Stephan Goetz, Chair Tony

Grubestic, and Councilor Jason Brown; and an update from the member NARSC regional sections.

Isabelle Nilsson and Ran Wei

Newsletter Co-Editors

Rural Communities in an Urbanizing World Will They Survive? Should Urbanites America Care?

by Mark Partridge



The rise of populist political parties centered in rural areas has led to renewed interest in rural areas in developed countries. A common theme is that rural areas are increasingly being left behind and share an uncertain future of economic stagnation and decline. I will assess how much of this popular perception is true. I find that much of the rural decline is really a reclassification issue and that rural development doesn't look so bad when viewed in that context. In addition, many rural areas are thriving today, especially those with high amenities, mineral resources (though these will likely decline after the resource is extracted), and those near urban areas. However, there is a large share of rural areas that are in long-term decline calling for policy action. Namely a triage choice has to be made in that the most vulnerable rural

communities are unlikely to be "saved" by government action because they are no longer sustainable. Other communities can be saved by government support, but if government resources are spread too thin, there will be insufficient government support to help those that can benefit. In particular, helping rural areas with nearby urban ties is one of the best use of rural development funds and has by far the highest chance of success. I then describe what successful rural development policy looks like when facing these realities. Presentations slides from Dr. Partridge's talk can be found [here](#).

Mark Partridge is the C. William Swank Chair of Rural-Urban Policy at The Ohio State University and a Professor in the AED Economics Department. He is also an economic consultant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Adjunct Professor at Jinan University, Guangzhou China; and Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy. His research explores a wide range of topics focused on regional economic growth, urban spillovers on rural economies, why regions grow at different rates, and spatial differences in income equality and poverty. Dr. Partridge is President-Elect of the RSAI, a Fellow of the RSAI, and the winner of several lifetime achievement awards in regional science including the Isard Award and Boyce Award.

Rick Church and Steve Deller win the 2018 Walter Isard Award



Dr. Richard Church is one of the two 2018 recipients of the Walter Isard Award for distinguished scholarly achievement. Richard Church is Research Professor at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) where he is a Professor of Geography. There, he also served as an Associate Dean of Math, Life and Physical Sciences and as Chair of the Department of Geography. Before coming to UCSB, he was on faculty at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Professor Church has made important and sustained academic contributions to location science, spatial optimization, natural resource management, and transportation. He has authored over 270 publications, including a book, journal articles, book chapters, conference proceedings, and technical reports. This research has had a major influence on regional science. He has over 14,000 Google Scholar citations and his Scopus citations total over 6,800. Rich is most prominently known for his research in location science. His contributions have spanned the spectrum of location science, but there are two that clearly stand out. One is coverage modeling, beginning with one of his first papers appearing in *Papers in Regional Science* (1974) entitled "The Maximal Covering Location Problem." It is a major contribution, garnering over 2,380 Google citations. The other area Professor Church has made his most significant contributions is in location-allocation modeling, especially his work that enhances capabilities for solving the p-median problem. His approach is now the standard for quickly and efficiently solving the p-median problem. A culmination of his research expertise in location science is the 2009 book titled *Business Site Selection, Location Analysis and GIS*. This book reflects on his theoretical contributions to location science while addressing application-oriented issues central to site selection and land use planning. Professor Church has also made important contributions to transportation, biological conservation, natural resource management, and remote sensing. Professor Church is a Fellow of both the Regional Science Association International and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received his Ph.D. from John Hopkins University.



Dr. Steven Deller is one of the two 2018 recipients of the Walter Isard Award for distinguished scholarly achievement. Steven Deller is Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economic at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he is also Interim Director of the Center for Community and Economic Development. He is also an affiliated faculty member of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an affiliated faculty member of the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the same University. As one of his letter of nominations rightly stated Prof. Deller is a modern-day "renaissance scholar" who applies regional science concepts and spatial methods across disciplines and on a wide range of topics. Professor Deller made a substantial and important contribution to regional science. He is a prolific researcher whose research program demonstrates both breadth and depth. He published in leading journals not only in regional science, but also in agricultural economics, rural sociology, public finance and public administration. He contributed greatly to the development

of several research fields including entrepreneurship, infrastructures, social capital, public finance and management, and the role of amenities in economic development. On the latter topic, Dr. Deller has written an influential set of papers contributing to the theoretical and empirical understanding of natural amenities, amenity-led migration, and the amenity-rural growth nexus. Work on this topic alone includes over a dozen journal articles, a co-edited book (*Amenities and Rural Development: Theory, Methods and Public Policy*, 2005), and an AJAE [American Journal of Agricultural Economics] article with almost 800 citations in Google Scholar. He has over 6,000 Google Scholar citations and h-index of 36 and has co-authored over 100 articles with at least 10 citations. Prof. Deller served in leadership positions for the North American Regional Science Council, the Southern Regional Science Association and the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association. He was co-editor of the *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy* and serves on the editorial boards of *Review of Regional Studies*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Economic Development Quarterly* and *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

John V. Winters wins the 2018 Geoffrey Hewings Award



Dr. John V. Winters is the 2018 recipient of the Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award for distinguished scholarly contributions by a PhD graduate within the last 10 years. John Winters is Associate Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at Iowa State University, a Research Fellow with the Institute of Labor Economics and Fellow of Global Labor Organization. Past places of employment include Oklahoma State University, University of Cincinnati and Auburn University. He graduated from Georgia State University in 2009 with a doctorate in economics. He has served on the executive council of the Southern Regional Science Association

and serves on the editorial boards of *Growth and Change*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Research in Higher Education* and *The Review of Regional Studies*. John has already established himself as a prolific researcher, publishing approximately 45 academic journal articles. He has published in regional science and urban journals such as *Annals of Regional Science*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Papers in Regional Science*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics* and *Urban Studies*. Other papers have appeared in highly-ranked economics journals including *Energy Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, and *Journal of Labor Economics*. John's areas of study are wide-ranging across the spectrums of labor economics, public economics, and regional and urban economics. Highly-cited papers include those on the nexus between regional development and growth and the presence of research universities and migration of college graduates. Other areas of study include the effects of state merit aid programs for college, STEM education, immigration and natural amenities. In a recent article on regional science publications John was ranked 10th in the U.S. According to rankings by *Research Papers in Economics (RePEc)*, he ranks in the top two percent worldwide for publications in the last 10 years and ranks 42nd for publications by scholars whose first publication was 10 years ago or less.

John Leatherman wins the 2018 David Boyce Award



The David Boyce Award for Service to Regional Science this year goes to Prof. John Leatherman. John Leatherman is Professor at Kansas State University and has served as Executive Director of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA) since 2001. During that time he has done an exceptional job in this role. Due to John's judicious leadership, the MCRSA has not only stabilized but grown in recent years. Additionally, the MCRSA is in a significantly stronger financial position than when John assumed the Executive Director role. John has achieved this while taking the MCRSA Conference to what one might think of as less-than-salubrious cities. In recent years, for example, MCRSA annual meetings have been held in Detroit, Michigan and Toledo, Ohio. We applaud him for doing

so. In addition to his exceptional service to MCRSA, John has found the time and energy to be of precious service to NARSC. In fact, on four occasions Prof. Leatherman served as the Local Organizer for NARSC meetings - Las Vegas (2005), Denver (2010), Minneapolis (2016), and Vancouver (2017). His attention to detail and ability to meet deadlines are two of John's traits which make him the perfect conference organizer. If you enjoyed the NARSC meeting in Las Vegas, Denver, Minneapolis, or Vancouver you have, to a large extent, John to thank.

NARSC Student Paper Competition Results

Thank you to Mikaela Backman and Jaewon Lim for chairing the student paper competition this year and to the reading committee for reviewing all 16 submissions which were received (14 graduate-student-led and 2 graduate-student-authored papers).

We would also like to thank Edward Elgar, Elsevier and the North American Regional Science Association (NARSC) for their contributions of prizes to these award winners; Edward Elgar contributed books, while NARSC provided a cash prize.

Winner Graduate Student-Authored Paper: Luke Petach, Colorado State University

The title of the paper is "Local Financialization, Household Debt, and the Great Recession"

Advisor: Stephan Weiler

Runner-up Graduate Student-Authored Paper: Jae-Wan Ahn, The Ohio State University

The title of the paper is "Sprawling versus Compact Cities: How Do New Residential Development Patterns Affect Air Quality in Metro Areas?"

Advisor: Elena Irwin

Winner Graduate Student-Led Paper: Paul Jung, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

The title of the paper is "Spatial Autocorrelation Statistics of Areal Prevalence Rates under High Uncertainty in Denominator Data"

Advisor: Jean Claude Thill

1st Runner-up Graduate Student-Led Paper: Juan Munos, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The title of the paper is “Unraveling Place-Based Preferences: Do School Shooting erode Property Values?”

Advisor: Ruchi Singh

2nd Runner-up Graduate Student-Led Paper: Oudom Hean, The Ohio State University

The title of the paper is “Technical Migration; Technology-Induced Demand of Education and Spatial Skill Inequality: Evidence from U.S. Urban Patent Counts”

Advisor: Mark Partridge

Meet Your New NARSC President: Stephan Goetz



Stephan Goetz is the Director of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development and Professor of Agricultural and Regional Economics at The Pennsylvania State University. He holds Ph.D. and M.Sc. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University, and an undergraduate degree in Agriculture/Agricultural Economics from the University of Guelph in Canada. Before coming to Penn State in 1999, he served on the faculty at the University of Kentucky for nine years with research and teaching responsibilities in economic development.

As Director of the Northeast Center, Dr. Goetz provides leadership for rural and community development research and extension activities across 13 states. This responsibility includes linking state activities to regional and national initiatives. His research focus on the determinants and effects of economic growth and development, with current applications of network science principles to economic growth, resilience and innovation.

Dr. Goetz has published or presented over 200 professional papers and he is the senior co-editor of four books, including *Targeting Regional Economic Development* (Routledge, 2009). He is the principal investigator on external grants valued at over \$15 million. Among other service roles, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania (a legislative agency of the PA General Assembly) and the Council of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics (C-FARE). In an interview with Penn State News, Dr. Goetz himself says the following regarding his recent appointment as president of NARSC: “As a member of NARSC, I already have benefited from the interdisciplinary exchange the organization fosters around methods and theoretical frameworks specifically designed for regional analysis. I’m very pleased for this opportunity to serve as president of an organization whose mission aligns so closely with the regional research perspective of the Northeast Regional Center.”

Meet Your New NARSC Chair: Tony Grubestic



Grubestic is the College Professor of Policy Analytics and the Director of the Center for Spatial Reasoning & Policy Analytics at Arizona State University. Grubestic is also an FAA certified commercial drone pilot. His research and teaching interests are in geographic information science, spatial analytics, regional development and public policy evaluation. Author of over 160 research publications, his recent work focuses on community vulnerability, environmental risk and regional infrastructure systems. Grubestic obtained a B.A. in Political Science from Willamette University, a B.S. in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, a M.A. in Geography and Planning from the University of Akron and a Ph.D. in Geographic Information Science from Ohio State University.

Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Jason Brown



Jason Brown is Assistant Vice President and Economist in the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. In this role, he leads the regional and commodities research of the Bank. Brown also regularly briefs the Kansas City Fed's president, a member of the Federal Open Market Committee, on regional economic activity in the 10th Federal Reserve District. Prior to joining the bank, Jason was an economist at the USDA Economic Research Service in Washington D.C. He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Purdue University. Brown conducts research on issues related to regional economic growth, emerging industries, natural resource development, and structural change in regional industry and labor markets. His research has been published in *Journal of Regional Science*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Economic Geography*, *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, *Growth and Change*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Review of Regional Studies*, *Energy Economics*, *Resource and Energy Economics*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. Jason has been a member of RSAI, NARSC, and SRSA since 2006, when he first joined in graduate school under the supervision of Raymond J.G.M. Florax. He serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Regional Science* and *Review of Regional Studies*.

Other Highlights from the Conference

A NARSC, in addition to the Presidential Address, two other major talks were given. Dr. Jean-Claude Thill gave the RSAI Fellows Lecture where he talked about "Scale in World City Networks" (you can find a link to the slides from his talk [here](#)). For the Isserman Lecture, Dr. Jouke van Dijk presented the on the topic "Human Capital, Regional Economic Development and Inequality" (see slides from his presentation [here](#)).

New RSAI Fellows

Three North American Regional Scientists were made Fellows of RSAI this year. Please join us in congratulating Alan Murray, Janet Kohlhasse and Dan Rickman on their new fellowships.



Regional Section Updates

Canadian Regional Science Association (CRSA)

2018 saw renewed energy and investment in the CRSA. Spearheaded by John Miron, the CRSA has sought to re-build its membership and its Executive Officers. During the 2018 NARSC meetings, Eric Vaz (Ryerson University) was ratified as President, Jean Dubé (Université Laval) was ratified as Vice President, and Pierre Desrochers (University of Toronto) was ratified Secretary-Treasurer. Membership is free, and we encourage anyone that is interested to join! The CRSA has also hosted special sessions at the Association of American Geographers annual meetings, organized early scholar sessions at the annual NARSC meetings for the last couple of years, and also continues to publish the on-line Canadian Journal of Regional Science. Further information is available at <http://www.cjrs-rcsr.org/>. Watch for updates in the near future on CRSA activities! Bruce Newbold (McMaster University) is the new NARSC representative of the Canadian Regional Science Association, replacing Bill Anderson.

Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA)

The 49th MCRSA annual conference co-hosted with the 12th biennial IMPLAN National User's Conference was held at the InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri with 72 conference registrants and 52 papers presented. An IMPLAN pre-conference workshop was offered with 12 attending. The conference had three plenary presentations and two luncheon speakers. A special Distinguished Service Award was presented to out-going Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy Editor-in-Chief Richard Cebula. The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development sponsored graduate student travel awards for NCRCRD institution graduate students. Three students each received \$500 to attend the conference.

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA)

The 57th annual meetings were held in Philadelphia, PA, and had about 120 participants and 30 sessions. The second annual Undergraduate Poster Session included seven presentations and was very well attended. The 2018 Barry M. Moriarty Graduate Student Award went to Jing Chen of West Virginia University for the paper entitled "Interpreting Economic Diversity as the Presence of Multiple Specializations". The first annual Dan Rickman Best Paper Award was awarded by *The Review of Regional Studies* to Pablo Mejia-Reyes and Reyna Vergara-Gonzalez (Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México) for the paper entitled "Are More Severe Recessions Followed by Stronger Early Expansions of Employment in the Mexican States?". The Robert T. Miki Award for distinguished editorial service 2008-2017 was presented to Michael Lahr (Rutgers University).

Western Regional Science Association (WRSA)

WRSA's 57th annual meeting was held in Pasadena, CA, and had almost 200 participants. This February, Robert Manduca (Harvard University) won the 32nd Tiebout Prize. At the annual meeting, Janet Kohlhase was selected as WRSA 2018-2019 Vice President. The 2018 Arthur Getis lecture was given by Michael Goodchild. The 2019 Getis lecture will be given by Michael Batty from University College London.

Jaewon Lim (University of Nevada-Las Vegas) is the new NARSC representative of the Western Regional Science Association, replacing Rachel Franklin.

Call for Applications: 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 dissertation research in Regional Science. The 2018-19 Stevens Fellowship competition was judged by a Selection Committee composed of: Daoqin Tong, Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University; Elena Irwin, Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, The Ohio State University; Mario Polèse, Urban and Regional Economics, Université du Québec, Chair; Amanda Weinstein,

Economics, The University of Akron; and Elizabeth Mack, Geography, Michigan State University. 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.

Daniel Crown, a Ph.D. candidate in agricultural, environmental, and development economics at The Ohio State University, was selected as the winner of the Eighteenth Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science. The Fellowship will provide a 2018-19 Academic Year stipend of \$30,000 to support Mr. Crown in his dissertation research entitled, "Foreign-Born Graduates and Innovation at Domestic Institutions: Evidence from an Australian Skilled Graduate Visa Program." The research will investigate the effect of a unique Australian skilled visa program on the innovative output of domestic research institutions. The visa program grants foreign-born graduates temporary residency, post-graduation, and is one potential pathway to permanent residency. The results will be of interest to policymakers around the world as they consider implementing or refining skilled immigration policies. Mr. Crown's doctoral research is supervised by Professor Mark Partridge, Swank Chair in Rural-Urban Policy at Ohio State and formerly supervised by Professor Alessandra Faggian, Director of Social Sciences and Vice Provost for Research, at the Gran Sasso Science Institute.

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 Nineteenth Annual Stevens Graduate Regional Science Fellowship. The winning student's dissertation research in the field of Regional Science will be supported during the 2019-2020 year with a one-year stipend of \$30,000. The application deadline is February 15, 2019. Full submission guidelines may be found at <http://www.narsc.org/newsite/awards-prizes/applications/>.

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, Attn: Danville Trust Department, One Towne Center, Danville, IL 61832 USA. Checks should be drawn to The Stevens Fellowship Fund. Donations may be made online at www.narsc.org/newsite/donations2.php. If the donor desires, a donation made in memory of an individual will be acknowledged on this web page.

Upcoming North American Regional Science Meetings

WRSa will hold its [58th annual meeting](#) in Napa Valley, California February 10-13, 2019.

SRSA will hold its [58th annual meeting](#) in Arlington, Virginia April 4-6, 2019.

MCRSA will host its [50th annual meeting](#) in Madison, Wisconsin June 4-6, 2019.

The [66th North American Meetings of RSAI](#), will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania November 13-16, 2019.