

Regional Science: Origins and Development – A Personal Perspective

Luc Anselin
University of Chicago

This talk gives a personal perspective on the origins, development and future prospects of the field of regional science. In part, this is based on my own experience as one of the Cornell PhD students of Walter Isard, as former editor of both the *Papers in Regional Science* and the *International Regional Science Review*, and as a participant in frequent discussions with the late Andy Isserman about the “meaning of regional science.” The talk reflects on a number of statements about the field expressed at several points in time, during the original gestation, and at the occasion of celebrating 40 years and 50 years of its existence. It separates the progression into four main periods: Walter Isard and the classic era; regional science comes of age; reflections at anniversaries; and the post-Isard era. It concludes with some speculations about the future of the field.