

NARSC NEWS



Words from the Executive Director



When I became Executive Director of NARSC in 2013, one of my first initiatives was to create the newsletter that you are reading now. The newsletter is published twice a year (June and December) and to each issue I have contributed a short piece. This will be my final such contribution, as I will be stepping down from the position of Executive Director effective December 31.

After nine years serving as Executive Director, I felt that it was time for fresh leadership. That leadership will come in the form of John Sporing. John brings a wealth of experience to the position. He has served as co-Executive Director of the Southern Regional Science Association for 17 years and has worked closely with me on the last four NARSC Conferences as Local Organizer. I have tremendous respect for John and know that NARSC will be in very capable hands after I step down.

It has been an honor to serve as Executive Director of NARSC during the last nine years. During that period there have been some challenging circumstances, including navigating the organization through the COVID-19 pandemic. While our 2020 Conference was virtual, we made the decision to hold our 2021 conference as an in-person event. Approximately 200 Regional Scientists travelled to Denver, CO last month to present their research and participate in the scholarly exchange of ideas with their peers. While most of the participants were from the United States, it was great to see colleagues from other countries including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Israel, Mexico, and the Netherlands. For those unable to or hesitant about traveling to Denver, we did have a Virtual Conference Day. Whether you traveled to Denver or participated in the Virtual Conference, I thank you for making NARSC 2021 such a success. Conferences are successful because there are people working behind the scenes to make them so. NARSC 2021 was no exception. In particular, I would like to thank Soomi Lee and John Sporing for their hard work in this regard. Soomi served as Program Chair and did a fantastic job putting together not one, but two

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programs (one virtual and one in-person). John served as Local Organizer. Like Soomi, he contributed to the success of both the virtual and in-person conferences. His responsibilities ranged from ensuring that the Zoom technology was working to making sure that the meeting rooms in Denver had the necessary AV equipment. I would also like to thank the individuals who assisted John with the Virtual Conference Day and also served behind the registration desk in Denver – Bekka Apardian, Elham Erfanian, and Caleb Stair.

Next year, NARSC will be in the beautiful city of Montreal, Quebec. The dates of the conference are November 9-12, so mark your calendars.

In closing, I offer you my best wishes for a safe, peaceful, and happy New Year.

Neil Reid

Executive Director

North American Regional Science Council

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 Steve Deller; a summary of award winners; student paper competition results; biographies of new NARSC President Bruce Newbold, Executive

Director John Spring, Chair Amanda Ross, and Councilors Biswa Das and Ting Zhang; and an update from the member NARSC regional sections. Finally, we would like to thank the outgoing Executive Director, Neil Reid, who has been a tremendous support to us during our years as editors and we look forward to working with John Spring as he steps into the role as the new Executive Director.

Thank you, Neil, for all your years of service to NARSC and its members!

Isabelle Nilsson and Ran Wei

Newsletter Co-Editors

“Community Systems Thinking and Modeling Uncertainty”



NARSC 2021 Presidential Address by Steve Deller

When one thinks about why one community is vibrant and dynamic and another is stagnant and perhaps declining, Walter Isard was right, one needs to take an interdisciplinary approach. Economists have much to add to the discussion, but sociologist and political scientists contribute equally valuable insights. A system thinking approach, such as the Community Capitals framework offered up by Cornelia Flora, offers one such framework. Such an approach, however, reveals two complicating factors: everything matters when trying to understand community economic development and everything is interdependent, or endogenous. For an empirical regional scientist, the

"everything matters" dimension can be thought of as modeling uncertainty. This is compounded when

we have multiple ways of measuring different elements. For example, what is the "right" measure of human capital for the question at hand? One empirical approach that is gaining favor in multiple scientific disciplines is that of model averaging. This can be in the form of frequentists model averaging (FMA) or Bayesian model averaging (BMA). Here the researcher scans across a wide range of modeling spaces with the aim of allowing the data to best reflect the underlying processes. The frequentist approach is aimed at finding the model which works well, while the Bayes method is trying to focus on what is true. In either case, model averaging is proving to be a viable tool for the empirical regional scientist who seeks to better understand why one community thrives and another struggles.

Steven Deller is a Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics and an Extension community development economist with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a Fellow of both the Southern and Mid-Continent Regional Science Associations and a recipient of the NARSC's Walter Isard Award for Distinguished Scholarly Achievement in the Field of Regional Science. He co-authored the textbook Community Economics: Linking Theory and Practices and has co-edited five books, each focusing on community, rural and regional economic development. The most recent is entitled Local Food Systems and Community Economic Development. He has authored or co-authored 124 referred journal articles and published 31 separate book chapters. He has been quoted in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and Chicago Tribune among others and is a regular guest on Wisconsin Public Radio.

James LeSage wins the 2021 Walter Isard Award



Dr. James LeSage is Professor Emeritus at Texas State University where he was the Fields Endowed Chair in Urban and Regional Economics. Prior to that he held academic appointments at University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University. Dr. LeSage received his Ph.D. in Economics from Boston College. Dr. LeSage is a Fellow of the Spatial Econometrics Association, the Southern Regional Science Association, and the Regional Science Association International. In 2019, Dr. LeSage was given the Jean Paelinck Award for Distinguished Sustained Scholarship in Regional Science Methods by the Regional Science Association International. Dr. LeSage currently serves as co-editor of Journal of Spatial Econometrics and a member of numerous editorial boards. He has previously served as co-editor of Papers in Regional Science and editor of several handbook chapters or special issues and has been an active member in each of the regional science associations across the U.S.

Dr. LeSage's path-breaking work in spatial and Bayesian econometrics has resulted in nearly 150 journal articles and published book chapters. He has also co-edited books for Advances in Econometrics. Professor LeSage's work has been cited 17,762 times and he is listed among top published authors in Regional Science and Applied Econometrics. Much of Dr. LeSage's work has focused on Bayesian estimation of linear and non-linear spatial process models as well as their interpretation in cross-sectional and panel settings. Dr. LeSage applied his work across a wide range of topics including trade, knowledge spillovers, natural disasters, transportation networks, and many more. Beyond his theoretical contributions to spatial economics, Dr. LeSage's lasting contributions were synthesized in the instant classic Introduction to Spatial Econometrics coauthored with Kelley Pace. This classic has become the "go to" reference for students and scholars of spatial econometrics and is reflective of the 6,412 citations to the book.

In the spirit of Walter Isard, Dr. LeSage has a reputation of being accessible and making his work accessible to those around him. As one nominee noted, "I first met Jim at SRSA when I was a grad student. Jim always took the time to answer my questions, engage in conversation, and answer follow-up questions over e-mail." Throughout his career he has also posted his original code in his "Spatial Econometrics Toolbox" listed on his website and in doing so making his work accessible to the public. This toolbox has enabled hundreds of regional science scholars to apply state-of-the-art spatial econometric methods across a range of research questions. Without this toolbox the wide-spread use of spatial econometrics now so common in the applied regional science would have been greatly hindered. Through this toolbox and his willingness to spend countless hours with students and colleague Jim has become a mentor to many of us. The North American Regional Science Council is therefore pleased to present the 2021 Walter Isard Award for distinguished contributions to regional science to Dr. James LeSage.

Tessa Conroy wins the 2021 Geoffrey Hewings Award



Dr. Tessa Conroy is currently an Economic Development Specialist and Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She completed her Ph.D. in 2014 at Colorado State University. The quality of Dr. Conroy's research is remarkable. She has published several high-impact journal articles in regional science outlets such as *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *International Regional Science Review*, *Review of Regional Studies*, *Annals of Regional Science*, and *Regional Studies* along with additional publications in economics journals including *Economic Inquiry*, *Small Business Economics*, and *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* as well as *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. Dr. Conroy also has many other excellent papers with a total of more than 21 peer-reviewed journal articles, several working papers, and multiple book chapters. This impressive volume of work speaks highly of her work ethic, creativity, passion for research, and ability to get things done.

Dr. Conroy has received previous research awards including the 2021 Dan Rickman Award for best paper published in the *Review of Regional Studies* during the previous year, the 2020 Miernyk Research Excellence Medal for best paper by a junior scholar presented at the Southern Regional Science Association Annual meetings, and the 2021 George Goldman Award by the Community and Regional Economics Network of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association for her sole authored *Regional Studies* paper on childcare and women entrepreneurship. She is clearly a well-respected scholar in the regional science community.

As an Extension Specialist Dr. Conroy must balance the needs of the state in terms of helping inform economic growth and development policies and contributions to the academic literature. This interplay is what the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Carnegie Foundation refer to as "Engaged Scholarship". Dr. Conroy has excelled at being the embodiment of the "engaged scholar" whether it is her work on entrepreneurship, broadband, the influence of taxes on business relocation decisions, or assess to childcare, among others. At the core of this impressive range of research and engagement topics, the core of Dr. Conroy's work is entrepreneurship with a focus on gender. The dual questions she addresses are what community characteristics are associated with entrepreneurship and how does entrepreneurship influence the economic well-being of those same communities.

Dr. Conroy is widely sought after as a community speaker and is regularly quoted in the media across Wisconsin. She was recently quoted in the Wall Street Journal about how the growth in telecommuting could be beneficial to high quality of life rural communities. In addition, she is a regular guest on Wisconsin Public Radio. In recognition of her contributions to regional science and public policy discussions at the local, state and national levels the North American Regional Science Council is therefore pleased to present the 2021 NARSC Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award for distinguished contributions to Regional Science research.

Jaewon Lim wins the 2021 David Boyce Award



Dr. Jaewon Lim is an Associate Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator in the School of Public Policy and Leadership in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is also serving as a Brookings Mountain West Senior Fellow. Dr. Lim earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Regional Planning. Between 2003 and 2007, he had served as a research assistant for REAL (Regional Economics Applications Laboratory) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, focusing on development and use of analytical models for urban and regional forecasting and economic development. Before joining University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Dr. Lim held positions as a regional economist and affiliated faculty in Office of Economic Development and School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona.

His research interests concern urban/regional demographic and economic analysis with the tools of spatial analysis on the topics of sustainable economic development through R&D activities, technology transfer, and workforce development. His current research evolves towards the further investigation on one of the most fundamental issues in population geography and economic geography, 'do people follow job?' or 'do jobs follow people?' The series of research efforts to identify the comprehensive framework incorporating interregional trade and demographic transformation and its regional economic impacts on a knowledgebased economy will provide some answers to these important questions. His work has led to 44 journal article publications.

Dr. Lim is currently serving as the Executive Director of Western Regional Science Association (WRSA) since 2018, a voting member for North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) of Regional Science Association International (RSAI) and a councilor for Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization (PRSCO) of RSAI. He also serves as an associate editor for Annals of Regional Science and on the editorial board for the International Journal of Urban Sciences, and Culture and Politics. Dr. Lim's leadership at WRSA has been invaluable to promote a greater participation of young scholars and deal with the (re)organization of the 2019 and 2020 conferences due to COVID19. In recognition that we have all benefitted from the many ways in which he has provided service to various regional science organizations, the North American Regional Science Council is therefore pleased to present the 2021 David Boyce Award for distinguished service to regional science to Dr. Jaewon Lim.

Geoffrey J. D. Hewings wins the 2021 Roger R. Stough Award



Dr. Geoffrey J.D. Hewings is an Emeritus Director of Regional Economics and Applications Laboratory, Emeritus Professor in geography and geographic information science, in economics, and in urban and regional planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Hewings was the founding Director of REAL and served in this position until August 2016. Prior to coming to Illinois in 1974, he was on the faculty of the University of Kent at Canterbury (UK) and the University of Toronto (Canada).

He is also a recipient of the Fulbright and the Woodrow Wilson awards and he has also been nominated Fellow of the Regional Science Association International. He is also Fellow of the International Input-Output Association and the Western Regional Science Association. Geoffrey has also served as President of the North American Regional Science Council, the

Regional Science Association International, the Western Regional Science Association and the International Input-Output Association.

His major research interests lie in the field of urban and regional economic analysis with a focus on the design, implementation and application of regional economic models. He has devoted considerable time to the way in which these models might become useful in policy formation and evaluation. In addition to the continuing development of regional econometric-input-output models for a number of US states and metropolitan areas, Hewings is working on several modeling projects in Brazil, Colombia, Japan, Korea and Indonesia. Recent work in the Midwest, Brazil and Korea has focused on linking regional macro models with transportation network models to explore impacts of unexpected events, for example earthquakes, expansion of transportation infrastructure and the impacts of port efficiency. At the metropolitan scale, attention has been directed to the estimation of intra-metropolitan flows of goods, people, income and consumption expenditures within the Chicago region to measure the changing degree of interdependence.

Dr. Hewings has been an excellent mentor for young regional scientists and future generation of regional science. Since 1995, the North American Regional Science Council has annually recognized distinguished contributions to regional science research by scholars who have recently completed doctoral studies for the Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award named in honor of Dr. Hewings, who over the years introduced numerous graduate students to regional science and mentored them as young scholars. Throughout his career, Dr. Hewings has shown a particular interest in the training and mentoring of young scholars from all over the world to the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has guided over 60 Ph.D. students under his supervision and actively mentored young and early-career visiting scholars thorough continuous scholarly interactions. The North American Regional Science Council is therefore pleased to present the inaugural 2021 Roger R. Stough Outstanding Mentor Award to Geoffrey J.D. Hewings

Kara Kockelman Receives RSAI Fellows Award

The RSAI fellowship is a world-wide sign of scientific recognition that is bestowed on a regional scientist with outstanding research credentials in her field.



Dr. Kara Kockelman is Professor of Civil Engineering at University of Texas at Austin. She has held multiple named Chair and Distinguished Professor positions during her career and now holds the Dewitt C. Greer Centennial Professorship in Engineering. Professor Kockelman has held many visiting and honorary Professorships at numerous institutions around the world. She has won countless awards and honors. For example, she was voted one of the world's Top 100 Young Innovators for MIT's Technology Review, and was the recipient of the Western Regional Science Association Tiebout Prize, NARSC Hewings Award, and the American Society of Civil Engineers Energy Division's Stephen D. Bechtel Jr. Energy Award. Dr. Kockelman served as NARSC President in 2020 and organized the 2009 NARSC meetings. Professor Kockelman is a frequent speaker at universities and workshops, being especially popular for

her recent work in high technology and autonomous vehicles. Dr. Kockelman received her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from University of California at Berkeley.

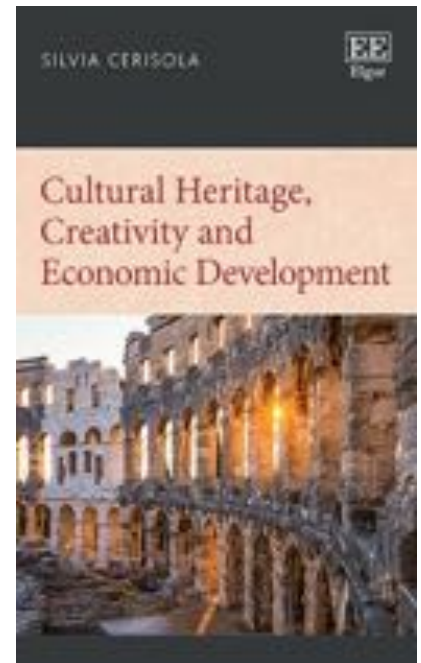
2021 William Alonso Memorial Prize

The William Alonso Memorial Prize for Innovative Work in Regional Science is awarded no more frequently than once every two years for innovative work in Regional Science in the spirit of William Alonso and his book, *Location and Land Use*. At the 2021 North American Meetings in Denver, the latest winners of the William Alonso Prize were announced. The co-winners were:



Silvia Cerisola for her book *Cultural Heritage, Creativity and Economic Development* (2019 Edward Elgar). A comprehensive, innovative, rich and sound academic book on an intangible and fuzzy concept, that of creativity. By interpreting creativity as a mediating factor between cultural heritage and regional development, the book provides a real novelty in the literature.

Publisher abstract: The book explores the relationship between cultural heritage and local economic development by introducing the original idea that one possible mediator between the two can be identified as creativity. The book econometrically verifies this idea and demonstrates that cultural heritage, through its inspirational role on different creative talents, generates an indirect positive effect on local economic development. These results justify important new policy recommendations in the field of cultural heritage.



To find out more or purchase the book, click [here](#). The publisher is currently offering a 50% discount with the code ECON50.

Edward Glaeser and **David Cutler** for their book *Survival of the City* (2021 Penguin Random House). A very interesting and exceptionally well written book that deals with health issues and future of urban



areas suddenly more deadly in time of COVID. It elegantly discusses problems and some possible policy approaches.

Publisher abstract: Cities can make us sick. They always have—diseases spread more easily when more people are close to one another. And disease is hardly the only ill that accompanies

urban density. Cities have been demonized as breeding grounds for vice and crime from Sodom and Gomorrah on. But cities have flourished nonetheless because they are humanity's greatest invention, indispensable engines for creativity, innovation, wealth, and connection, the loom on which the fabric of civilization is woven.



But cities now stand at a crossroads. During the global COVID crisis, cities grew silent as people worked from home—if they could work at all. The normal forms of socializing ground to a halt. How permanent are these changes? Advances in digital technology mean that many people can opt out of city life as never before. Will they? Are we on the brink of a post-urban world?

City life will survive but individual cities face terrible risks, argue Edward Glaeser and David Cutler, and a wave of urban failure would be absolutely disastrous. In terms of intimacy and inspiration, nothing can replace what cities offer. Great cities have always demanded great management, and our current crisis has exposed fearful gaps in our capacity for good governance. It is possible to drive a city into the ground, pandemic or not. Glaeser and Cutler examine the evolution that is already happening, and describe the possible futures that lie before us: What will distinguish the cities that will flourish from the ones that won't? In America, they argue, deep inequities in health care and education are a particular blight on the future of our cities; solving them will be the difference between our collective good health and a downward spiral to a much darker place.

To find out more or purchase the book, click [here](#).

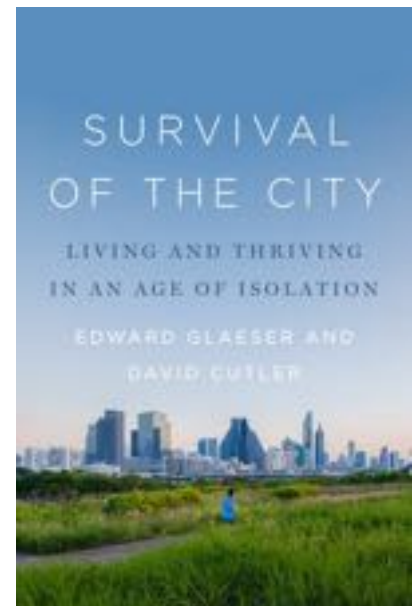
Members of the William Alonso Memorial Prize committee for the current round (2021-2022) were Roberta Capello, Peter Gordon, Janet Kohlhase, and Gordon Mulligan.

The 2022 Regional Science Policy & Practice Best Paper Award

Following the procedures to select the RSPP paper award, the jury constituted by Gordon Mulligan, David Plane, Philip McCann, Neil Reid and Tomaz Dentinho selected two articles as winners of the 2022 Best Paper award:

Gabriel Lyrio de Oliveira and **André Luis Squarize Chagas** (2020) [Effects of a cash transfer programme on origin–destination migration flows](#). *Regional Science Policy & Practice* 12(1), 83–104.

Kevin Credit (2020) [Neighbourhood inequity: Exploring the factors underlying racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 testing and infection rates using ZIP code data in Chicago and New York](#). *Regional Science Policy & Practice* 12(6), 1249–1271.



NARSC Student Paper Competition Results

Chairs of the student paper competition this year, Christa Court and Carlianne Patrick, would like to thank the reading committee for reviewing all 16 submissions which were received (8 graduate-student-led and 8 graduate-student-authored papers). Finalists from the two student paper competitions were featured in two special sessions with expert discussants assigned to each paper. The chairs would like to thank all the discussants as well for providing students with their insights.

We would also like to thank the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) for its contribution of a cash prize to the winners.



Paul Jung receives his award by Christa Court.

Winner Graduate Student-Authored Paper: Pedro Herrera-Catalan, Autonomous University of Madrid, West Virginia University

The title of the paper is "Industrial Agglomeration and Infrastructure Investment Prioritisation: Evidence from Peruvian Firm-Level Data"

Advisor: Coro Chasco

1st Runner-up Graduate Student-Authored Paper: Samhitha Srinivas and Arwa Alalwani, University of Wisconsin – Madison

The title of the paper is "Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Maternal Mental Health and Labor Supply"

Advisor: Christopher Taber

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

The title of the paper is "State Failure, Violence and Trade: Deadly Trade Routes in Colombia"

Co-authors: Jean-Claude Thill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Luis Armando Galvis-Aponte, Banco de la Republica, Colombia

1st Runner-up Graduate Student-Led Paper: Catherine Isley, University of Missouri – Columbia

The title of the paper is "Broadband's Impact on Rural Employment During COVID-19"

Co-author: Sarah Low, University of Missouri – Columbia

Yimin and Xiao Zhuang Graduate Student Travel Award

The Yimin and Xiao Zhuang Graduate Travel Award provides financial support for graduate students to participate in the NARSC Conference. This year, three students each received a \$500 Travel Scholarship from the Yimin and Xiao Zhuang Scholarship Fund. These were:

Paul Jung from University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Motahare Mohammadi from University of Illinois-Chicago

Christopher Rick from Syracuse University

Meet Your New NARSC Executive Director: John Sporing



John Sporing will assume the role of NARSC Executive Director in January 2022 succeeding outgoing ED Neil Reid. Currently, John is the Co-Executive Director/Secretary of the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA). John is detail oriented and addressed the small items in advance of (and during) meetings so that other officers and council members could focus on their primary leadership responsibilities. During his tenure at SRSA, he demonstrated an ability to work with host hotels to mitigate financial burdens to the organization. John's "no stone unturned" with SRSA approach provided a comfort to leadership knowing that membership was served effectively each year during the annual meeting.

John has worked with NARSC as local organizer since 2018, and was instrumental in assembling a team that assisted regional science associations across the globe conduct virtual conferences in 2020 and 2021. In 2020, he won the Boyce Award for distinguished service to the regional science profession.

John entered regional science through his career with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

While at the BEA, John contributed to the research on GDP, GDP by Industry, GDP by State, GDP by County, and the US Input/Output tables. Through his leadership, regional science scholars gained access to prototype BEA data products that proved essential for quality academic regional science research. During this time, John cultivated cross-agency relationships between the Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics driving engagement of demographers, economists, and statisticians actively involved in SRSA, NARSC, the Midcontinent Regional Science Association (MCRSA), and the Western Regional Science Association (WRSA). While at the Administrative Office of the U.S Courts, he led the statistics gathering and modernization efforts across the Federal Court system. In 2016, John retired from Federal Service. Throughout his career with the Federal Government and while working with SRSA and NARSC, John has strived to be inclusive to ensure that everyone is represented, both in the government, and in regional science organizations. He has mentored young scholars over the years to give them the opportunity to become the next generation of leaders and scholars.

Today, John runs an eno-tourism company (when travel is allowed) and teaches part time at the Jack Welch Management Institute's MBA program. John has been a member of RSAI, NARSC, and SRSA since 2004.

Meet Your New NARSC President: Bruce Newbold

Dr. Bruce Newbold is a Professor of Geography and the Director of the School of Earth, Environment & Society (SEES) at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He earned his PhD in Geography from McMaster in 1994 and worked at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign before returning to McMaster in 2000. He has held guest scholar positions at the University of California San Diego and at the University of Glasgow's Urban Studies and Social and Public Health Sciences Units. He is the former Director of the McMaster Institute for Environment and Health. Trained as a population geographer and funded by NSF, SSHRC, CIHR and other agencies, Dr. Newbold's research



interests focus broadly on population issues. One theme of his work has focused on domestic migration and human capital development in both the US and Canadian contexts. A second theme has focused on immigration, including immigrant settlement, health, and acculturation. A more recent research theme focuses on the nexus of aging, transportation, and mobility.

Bruce has served as President of the Canadian Regional Science Association and the Western Regional Science Association. He received the North American Regional Science David E. Boyce Award for service to Regional Science (2012). He has Chaired the Association of American Geographers Population Specialty Group (PSG) and has received the PSG Research Excellence Award. He currently serves on the editorial board of several academic journals, including *Journal of Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy*, *Asia-Pacific Journal of Regional Science*, and *Population, Space & Place*. He has authored two population textbooks, *6 Billion Plus* and *Population Geography: Tools and Issues*, and co-edited *A Research Agenda for Migration and Health* and the recent *Economic Geography of Cross-Border Migration*. He has authored or co-authored over 175 papers, along with 28 book chapters. Bruce is also committed to public service through his role as Chair of Clean Air Hamilton, a multi-stakeholder group dedicated to improving Hamilton's Air Quality. He also currently sits as a board member on the Bay Area Climate Change Council, a collective of organizations advancing climate action in Hamilton and Burlington.

Meet Your New NARSC Chair: Amanda Ross



Dr. Amanda Ross is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Alabama. Dr. Ross' research examines the impact of public policies on the development of cities. Her research has been published in various outlets including the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Real Estate Economics*, the *Journal of Regional Science*, and *Economic Inquiry*. Dr. Ross has previously served as the Editor-in-Chief for *The Review of Regional Studies* and is currently a Co-Editor for *Contemporary Economic Policy* and the *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis*. She is also on the Editorial Board for the

Journal of Regional Science and *International Regional Science Review*. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics from Syracuse University in 2011 and her B.A. in Economics from Binghamton University in 2006. Prior to joining the University of Alabama, Dr. Ross was an Assistant Professor at West Virginia University.

Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Biswa Das



Biswa Das is Associate Professor in the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University. He is also an Extension Economist with ISU Extension and Outreach, Community and Economic Development. He teaches graduate courses in public finance, and public policy. He is the lead PI of the Iowa Government Finance Initiative (IGFI), an extension program targeted toward state and local government officials in Iowa. The initiative uses local level data to present customized financial information at the city and county level.

Beginning in 2013, the extension program continues to be an important resource in the

state of Iowa for local governments. In addition, his extension work in community and economic development focuses on issues relating to housing, transportation, and workforce, primarily relating to Iowa.

His main areas of research are in public finance, economic development and natural resource and environmental economics. Biswa is currently involved in multiple research projects. The Rural Shrink Smart project, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a 3-year period is an effort to expand understanding of how select small and declining rural communities in Iowa continue to offer good quality of life to its residents. In another study, funded by the NSF, he is involved in assessing how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted residential rental property owners across select cities in the U.S. He is also working with a group of ISU design faculty in engaging communities to adopt innovative home modifications for older households with a goal of 'aging in place.' His work is community centric and has a strong engagement component that brings extension and academic research closer. His research has been published in *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, *Journal of Extension*, *Regional Science Policy and Practice*, *Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics*, *International Journal of Tourism Research*, *Journal of Applied Communications*.

Biswa serves as an advisor to the Iowa Department of Revenue and provides feedback and inputs on an ongoing basis on research relating to state finance. Prior to joining ISU, Biswa worked as a Research Assistant Professor and Research Associate in the Agricultural Economics departments at Kansas State University and University of Arkansas, respectively. He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Texas Tech University. Biswa has been a member of Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA) since 2009. He served as the Vice President, President Elect and President of the association during 2014-17. He has also participated at NARSC meetings. He lives in Ames with his wife and two children.

Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Ting Zhang



Ting Zhang is an Associate Professor of the Department of Finance and Economics at the Merrick School of Business, Harry Y. Wright Chair, Associate Director of the Jacob France Institute, University of Baltimore, an appointed member of the Maryland Governor's Office of Equal Pay Commission, and Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Entrepreneurship Faculty Fellow. Dr. Zhang's research interests include human capital, employment and businesses, entrepreneurship, and workforce development. Dr. Zhang has been a Principal Investigator and lead economist for many workforce-related national, state, and local grants, with a total of \$9 million USD, including grants from US Department of Labor (USDOL), US Department of Agriculture ERS, US Department of Education, the Gates Foundation, the Kauffman Foundation, Abell Foundation, Maryland

Department of Labor, Maryland Department of Disability, Maryland Department of Human Services, etc.

Dr. Zhang is a published author of peer-reviewed books and academic journal articles, including articles in *Small Business Economics*, *Applied Economics*, *Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics*, *Papers in Regional Science*, *International Journal of Manpower*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Accounting Education*, *Applied Economics Letters*, etc. Her 2008 book *Elderly Entrepreneurship in an Aging US Economy* was favorably reviewed by Dr. Jan Wassel in *The Gerontologist* as a "highly sophisticated" with "the in-depth discussion on structural disincentive and incentives for older adults to remain productive in a

knowledge economy”, “strong methodological analyses”, and “practical recommendations to encourage later-life entrepreneurship”; her 2013 book *Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth in China* was regarded in China as one of the best economics books on China studies written in English on Feb 15, 2016 by 海外汉学研究.

She has given invited talks at the US Congress Joint Economic Committee, the House Committee on Small Businesses, the US National Press Club, USDOL, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Cambridge University, and other well-reputed universities in the United States, Europe, and China, and given invited keynote speeches at the University of Lisbon (Portugal), Uddevalla Symposium (Italy), Leadership in Motion (Sweden), Johns Hopkins University, George Washington University, UMBC, national medical device conference, and other professional venues. Dr. Zhang’s research has been quoted in popular media such as *Forbes*, *Time*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Academic Times*, *Market Watch*, *Epoch Times*, *Baltimore Sun*, and so on. Dr. Zhang was a winner of the Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship (2007), the finalist of the Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science (2008), USDOL Research Fellowship (2009-2011), Kauffman research grants/fellowship (2015-2019), T. Rowe Price Excellence in Teaching awards (2016-2019), Labor and Employment Relations Association Best Paper selection (2017, 2018, 2019, 2021), Harry Y. Wright Chair (2020-present), APPAM Entrepreneurship Faculty (2021), etc.

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 2021-2022 Stevens Fellowship competition was overseen by a Selection Committee composed of: Daoqin Tong, Arizona State University (Chair); Elizabeth Mack, Michigan State University; Steven Deller, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Nicholas Nagle, University of Tennessee; and Shaoming Cheng, Florida International University.

Melissa Haller, a Ph.D. candidate in Geography at the University of California, Los Angeles has been selected as the winner of the 21st Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science. The Fellowship will provide a 2021–2022 Academic Year stipend of \$30,000 to support Ms. Haller’s dissertation research on “Economic Crises, Knowledge Workers, and the Geography of Economic Recovery.” Ms. Haller’s research investigates economic decline in large firms across the United States and the consequences of that decline for workers and cities. The results of this dissertation will be of wide-ranging interest to regional scientists and policymakers, especially in the context of the resilience of cities and regions to the economic disruptions and restructurings brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. Ms. Haller’s doctoral research is supervised by David Rigby, Professor of Geography at UCLA.

In addition to selecting the Fellowship recipient, the Selection Committee identified two applicants as meriting special recognition as finalists in the 21st Annual Competition: **Amelia Pludow**, University of California, Santa Barbara, advised by Alan Murray; and **Hui Shen**, University of Illinois at Chicago, advised by Jane Lin.

Faculty at all North American Ph.D. programs are asked to encourage their best students to apply for the 22nd 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 2022-2023 year. The application deadline is February 15, 2022. 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 may be sent to: The Stevens Fellowship Fund, Freestar Bank, 1205 S. Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820 USA. Checks should be drawn to *The Stevens Fellowship Fund*. Donations may be made online at <http://www.narsc.org/newsite/donations2.php>. When you donate, you can request that your donation is made in memory of an individual in Regional Science. If you wish, your donation will be acknowledged on the Stevens Graduate Fellowship web page.

Regional Section Updates

Canadian Regional Science Association (CRSA)

CRSA currently looking for new Executive Director following resignation of previous Director, Eric Vaz. The Canadian Journal of Regional Science (CJRS) continues to publish twice yearly. Volume 44 #1 and #2 are already published and can be found at <https://idjs.ca/en/cjrs>. It is co-edited Sébastien Breau, McGill University, and Jean Dubé, Université Laval. The journal has substantially re-built itself over the past few years under the direction of Breau and Dubé. The CRSA is excited to host the 2022 NARSC meetings in Montreal and looks forward to welcoming everyone!

Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA)

MCRSA held the 51st Annual Conference jointly with the 13th Biennial IMPLAN National Users Conference June 9-11, 2021 online. A total of 74 attendees joined the conference (54 regular members and 19 student members). The MCRSA Board is exploring options for the 52nd Annual Conference and working to determine if we will hold it online or in-person in June 2022. Volume 50, published in one issue in 2020, contained 7 articles totaling 95 pages. The acceptance rate in 2019 was between 9.76% and 16.33%, depending upon how resubmissions are counted. For articles going to referees, the time of first decision increased from 48 days to 70 days.

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA)

The 60th annual meetings were held virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The conference had 105 registrants (79 full registrations and 26 student registrations) and 31 sessions (including virtual Presidential and Fellows' addresses and business meetings). The annual Undergraduate Poster Session was postponed until in-person meetings can resume. The 2021 Barry M. Moriarty Graduate Student Award went to Sultana Fouzia of Oregon State University for the

paper titled "The welfare effects of the climate-related disaster: Evidence from the US counties". For calendar year 2020, the Dan Rickman Best Paper Award, awarded by *The Review of Regional Studies*, went to **Tessa Conroy (University of Wisconsin)** and **Steven Deller (University of Wisconsin)** for their paper titled, "Regional Level Social Capital and Business Survival Rates". The 2021 Miernyk Research Excellence Medal, awarded by the Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University, went to **Dr. Joao-Pedro Ferreira of the University of Florida**, for his driving intellectual effort behind the paper titled "2018 Red Tide and peer-to-peer accommodations: assessing the economic impacts using a multiregional input-output model", written with co-authors Bijeta Saha, Gabriel Carrero, Jinwon Kim, and Christa Court (all from University of Florida).

At the annual meeting in 2021, Carlianne Patrick (Georgia State University) was elected as the SRSA 2022 Program Chair, Juan Tomas Sayago Gomez (Universidad Icesi) and Dave Shideler (Heartland Forward) were elected to the Council, and one new SRSA Fellow was named, Steve Deller (University of Wisconsin). Caleb Stair (University of Florida) was also nominated to fill a newly created position within the Executive Council, Associate Executive Director. The 2022 SRSA Conference will be held April 6-10, 2022 at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol in Austin, Texas.

The Review of Regional Studies transitioned to a new Editorial-in-Chief team for the term April 2021 – April 2026, led jointly by Tammy Leonard (University of Dallas) and Lei Zhang (Old Dominion University). The new team has also acquired two new technical editors, Yong Chen (Oregon State University) and Shishir Shakya (Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania). The former Editor-in-Chief (Amanda Ross –University of Alabama) completed and was thanked for her service.

We are happy (and a little sad) to report that John Sporing (Secretary, Co-Executive Director) will transition to the role of Executive Director of NARSC (and out of his role with SRSA) in January 2022. John has agreed to work with the SRSA Council to find a new Co-Executive Director by the April 2022 meetings.

Western Regional Science Association (WRSA)

WRSA's 60th annual meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19. We had 130 paper presentations with 138 participants from 17 countries. This February, Seunghoon Oh (University of Cincinnati with the advisor, Rainer von Hofe) and Noe Nava (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with the advisor, Sandy Dall'erna) are selected as co-winners of the 35th Tiebout Prize. During our annual board meeting held virtually on February 22, 2021, Makena Coffman (University of Hawaii at Manoa) was selected as WRSA 2021–2022 Vice President. Also, Yuri Mansury (Illinois Institute of Technology) is selected as a new board member of WRSA. WRSA will hold its 61st annual meeting in Scottsdale (near Phoenix), AZ, February 17–20, 2022. 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 was Harry Kelejian; the 2016 speaker in Hawaii was Ed Glaeser; the 2017 speaker in Santa Fe was James LeSage; the 2018 speaker in Pasadena was Michael Goodchild; the 2019 speaker was Michael Batty from UCL. Getis-Ord Lecture committee selected a speaker for 2020 meeting in Hawaii, Shaowen Wang from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and he will be invited as the speaker for the 2021 virtual meeting. WRSA's 2023 meeting will be held in Big Island, HI, Feb 15-18 (Wednesday to Saturday). WRSA's 2024 meeting place is still undecided. WRSA will decide after a field trip to Monterey, CA in December 2021.

Upcoming North American Regional Science Meetings

WRSa is planning to hold its 61st annual meeting in Scottsdale, AZ February 17-20, 2022. Please visit this [link](#) for updates.

SRSA is planning to hold its 61st annual meeting in Austin, TX April 6-10, 2022. Please visit this [link](#) for updates.

MCRSA is exploring options for its 52nd annual conference and working to determine if they will hold it online or in-person in June 2022. Please visit this [link](#) for updates.

The 69th North American Meetings of RSAI will be held in Montreal, QC November 9-12, 2022. Please visit this [link](#) for updates.