NARSC NEWS

Words from the Executive Director

In November, NARSC hosted the 69th North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) in Montreal Canada. The DoubleTree Montreal provided a stunning venue for the meetings right in the heart of the city. As per tradition, the contents of this issue of the NARSC Newsletter is primarily devoted to the Montreal meetings.

As with any conference, there were a number of people working behind the scenes to make sure of the success of the Montreal meetings. Neil Reid served as Program Chair and did a fantastic job in putting together a cohesive and interesting program. Elham Shirinkaam made sure that all of the audio-visual equipment was in place, and that coffee and snacks were delivered and available in a timely fashion. At the registration desk, we had a number of people who provided invaluable support – so thanks to Carol Welter and Daniel Centuriao who assisted Elham. Thanks also to everyone who organized special sessions – please consider doing so again for next year's conference. A big thanks to Sebastien Breau for storing our audio-visual equipment for the year. Finally, a huge thank-you to Christa Court and Andre Fernandes Tomon Avelino for organizing and overseeing the NARSC student paper competitions.

In 2023, NARSC will meet in beautiful San Diego, California, the location where our 2020 meetings were due to be held. The dates are November 16-18, and the conference venue is the Westin Hotel in San Diego's historic GasLamp Quarter. Please consider joining us. In addition to the traditional scientific content of the meetings, we are planning several field trips (again) that will provide you with an opportunity to sample some southern California wines and craft beers. I am happy to announce that Soomi Lee will return as the Program Chair for the 70th meetings.

ISSUE 2, DECEMBER 2021

Featured Content:

Finally, thanks to NARSC Newsletter Editors, Isabelle Nilsson and Ran Wei for pulling together another interesting newsletter. If you have suggestions for future Newsletter content please do not hesitate to contact them. Both Isabelle and Ran are stepping down later in 2023. Liz Dobbs, of the Economic Research Service, has stepped up to take the reins in 2023. A big thank you to Isabelle and Ran for all the hard work they have done over the years. I am looking forward to working with Liz as she moves the NARSC Newsletter forward.

John Sporing

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 Bruce Newbold; a summary of award winners; student paper competition results; biographies of new NARSC President Genevieve Giuliano, Chair Isabelle Nilsson (yes, same as the editor of this newsletter), and Councilors Clio Andris and Sarah Low; and an update from the member NARSC regional sections.

Finally, we would like to announce that this will be our last issue as editors of this newsletter. We have enjoyed getting to know our membership and learning about all the innovative and policy relevant work that our members are doing through our work on the newsletter, but we feel that it is time to pass on the torch after many years in this position. Lucky for you readers, Elizabeth Dobis will be taking over as editor! If you have not had the pleasure to meet Liz yet, you will find a feature of her in this issue. She is currently looking for a co-editor, so if you are interested (particularly in formatting and graphics), contact her at elizabeth.dobis@usda.gov. We want to thank our readers and everyone who has contributed with content to the newsletter over the past years and we look forward to continuing to reading about your achievements in future issues of the newsletter.

See you in San Diego next year!

Yours in Regional Science,

Isabelle Nilsson and Ran Wei

Newsletter Co-Editors

"Assessing Older Adult Mobility Using Wearable Technology"

NARSC 2022 Presidential Address by Bruce Newbold

As populations age, there is a need for regional scientists to turn attention to the complexities that aging populations bring. While aging brings several economic, social and health concerns, this presentation focuses on changes in mobility, and ultimately the spatial impacts associated with aging. From a health

perspective, impaired mobility has been shown to be an early predictor of disability, hospitalization, and death. Recent studies suggest that the first change in functioning among older adults is often an "asymptomatic" decline in mobility, referred to as pre-clinical disability. At this pre-clinical disability stage, an older person may be able to compensate for underlying deficits or disease by modifying tasks without a strong perception of difficulty. Older adults with early mobility decline are at higher risk for progression to major mobility disability. Accordingly, there is to understand and identify individuals at risk for early mobility limitation so that interventions can be used to minimize progression to mobility disability.

But how best to capture changes in mobility? Typically, mobility has been assessed using self-reported measures or through the performance of mobility-related tasks. However, both types of measures are obtained at discrete times and may fail to represent the actual mobility of an individual in everyday life. The challenge, therefore, is to ascertain the personal and daily mobility of community-dwelling older adults. With advances in technology, device-based measures allow objective and unobtrusive assessment of mobility. Modern wearable devices (i.e., smartwatches) are often equipped with a built-in accelerometer, gyroscope, inclinometer, and GPS that capture measures such as step count and life space mobility that allow for the estimation of the quantity and quality of everyday activities which could help determine early declines in mobility.

This presentation focused on the first phase of the McMaster Monitoring My Mobility study (MacM3, https://macm3.com), a research platform that focuses on mobility monitoring using wearable technology. The goal of the MacM3 study is to use a smartwatch to collect comprehensive mobility every 4 months for 2 years among 2000 adults aged 65 to 80 years. Selection, validation, and testing of devices was discussed, with the TicWatch ultimately being selected for use in the study. In addition, the various spatial mobility measures that will be collected, including step counts, life space, trip duration, trip length and trip mode, were discussed. These measures are analogous to those used in other transportation studies.

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.

Roberta Capello wins the 2022 Walter Isard Award

The 2022 winner of the **Walter Isard Award for Scholarly Achievement** is Dr. Roberta Capello, Professor of Regional and Urban Economics at the Politecnico di Milano, Milan Italy. Dr. Capello received her PhD in economics from the University of Amsterdam and has been a visiting scholar at Academy of Science, Warsaw, University of Hannover, and the Universitat Menendez Pelayo, Barcelona. She is currently Chair of the Italian Section of Regional Science Association International. Dr. Capello has been the co-editor of "*Letters in Spatial and Resource Sciences*", editor-in-chief of the "*Italian Regional Science Journal*", the journal of the Italian Section of the Regional Science Association International and served on the editorial board of several scholarly journals. Perhaps most importantly, she served as editor-in-chief of "*Papers in Regional Science*", the first scholarly journal in regional science. In 2019 she also co-edited the "*Handbook of Regional Growth and Development Theories*", and in 2017 "*Seminal Studies in Regional and Urban Economics*". Her book "*Regional Economics*" has been translated into several languages. In addition to her outstanding service to regional science, her research on regional and urban growth, regional innovation, and local and regional development policy has had a significant impact on regional science. Her google scholar citation count stands at 15,173 with her most heavily cited paper, entitled "Spatial transfer of knowledge in high technology milieux: learning versus collective learning processes", published in "*Regional Studies*" has almost 1,300 individual citations. In 2022 only she has eight papers appearing in some of the best regional science journals including "*Papers in Regional Science*", "*Economic Geography*", "*Regional Studies*" along with "*Annals of Regional Science*". This outstanding level of scholarly productivity is not atypical of Dr. Capello. In 2021 she had studies appearing in the "*Journal of Regional Science*", "*Regional Studies*" and "*European Planning Studies*" among others. Dr. Capello is the embodiment of an outstanding regional science scholar and winner of the 2022 **Walter Isard Award**.

Zhenhua Chen wins the 2022 Geoffrey Hewings Award

Dr. Zhenhua Chen is an Associate Professor in City and Regional Planning at the Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State University. Dr. Chen received his PhD in Public Policy from George Mason University and was a postdoctoral research associate at the National Center of Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE) at the University of Southern California. His research interests include infrastructure planning and policy, regional science, risk and resilience, and big data analytics. He has a strong background in economic impact assessments of infrastructure investment, disasters and resilience using Computable General

Equilibrium (CGE) models. He is one of the lead developers of the Economic Consequence Analysis Tool, an Excel-VBA software that is intended for policymakers and analysts who need quick estimates of the economic impact of numerous threats, including terrorism, natural disasters, and technological accidents. His dissertation receives a series of awards, including the Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science awarded by the North American Regional Science Council, the Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. Fellowship Award awarded by Economic Club of Washington, D.C., and the Best Dissertation Award of the Regional Science Association International. Dr. Chen has published five books, including "*Chinese Railways in the Era of High Speed*" (2015), "*Economic Consequence Analysis of Disasters: The E-CAT Software Tool*" (2017), "*Big Data for Regional Science*" (2017), "*High-Speed Rail and China's New Economic Geography*" (2019), and "*Development Studies in Regional Science: Essays in Honor of Kingsley E. Haynes*" (2020). He has published 55 academic journal articles and 15 book chapters. His recent research has been published a wide range of journals, such as "*Journal of Transport Geography*", "*Transport Policy, Journal and Transport and Land Use*", "*Land Use Policy*", "*Annals of Regional Science*", "*Papers in Regional Science*", "*Computer Environment and Urban Systems*", "*Economic Systems Research*", "*European Planning Studies*", "*Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*", "*Economic Development Quarterly*", and "*Applied Economic Letters*", among others. Given both the quality and quantity of scholarly output, NARSC is please to present the **Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award** to Dr. Zhenhua Chen.

Stephan Weiler wins the 2022 David Boyce Award

The winner of the 2022 **David Boyce Award for Service to Regional Science** is Dr. Stephan Weiler from Colorado State University. In addition to being a professor of economics, Dr. Weiler is the Director of the university's Regional Economic Development Institute. He served as Research Associate Dean for CSU's College of Liberal Arts from 2006 to 2016, and was awarded the William E. Morgan Chair from 2016-2019. Dr. Weiler did his undergraduate work at Stanford University and his graduate work at the University of California-Berkeley. From 2004 through 2006, Stephan was appointed as Assistant Vice President and Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank's Center for the Study of Rural America to lead the Center's applied research work. The Center was the focal point in the Federal Reserve System for rural and regional development issues, providing cutting-edge research perspectives to private, public, and nonprofit decision makers. His research, teaching, and mentoring have spanned a variety of development and labor market issues in Africa, Asia, Europe, Appalachia, and the American West. His current work focuses on regional economic growth and development, particularly in rural and inner-city areas, combining theoretical, empirical, and policy analyses on topics such as information, innovation, industrial restructuring, land use, public/private partnerships, immigration, entrepreneurship, gender, and the environment. These various elements informed his role as founding research director of the Colorado Innovation Network with a broad-based coalition of leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to understand and enhance the state's innovative capacities. He is distilling these three decades of experience into the Regional Economic Development Institute partnering with the City-Region Economic Development Institute at the Birmingham Business School in the UK to provide information to enhance economic growth and development prospects. This partnership was the basis for his selection as a Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair to further develop the two institutes' collaborations. He is now an Honorary Professor at the Birmingham

Business School. For several years Dr. Weiler worked first with Peter Schaeffer at West Virginia University and now with Sarah Low at the University of Illinois to organize several sessions at the NARSC meetings around U.S. rural economic development.   Over the years, he has organized on average five of these sessions per NARSC conference. Because of Dr. Weiler's commitment, NARSC has become the primary gathering place for rural economic development scholars.   As such NARSC is pleased to honor Dr. Weiler's commitment to NARSC with the **David Boyce Award for Service to Regional Science**.

Mark Partridge wins the 2022 Roger R. Stough Award

Dr. Mark Partridge is the C. William Swank Chair of Rural-Urban Policy at The Ohio State University and a Professor in the Agricultural, Environmental, and Development 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. Prior, he was the Canada Research Chair in the New Rural Economy at the University of Saskatchewan. His work has been ranked number one in regional science and among the top-1000 economists in the world. He has published in many journals such as the *American Economic Review, Journal of Economic Geography*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, and *Review of Economics and Statistics*. He co-authored the book *The Geography of American Poverty: Is there a Role for Place-Based Policy*? Dr. Partridge has served as president of the Regional Science Association International, NARSC, and the Southern Regional Science Association, is a Fellow of both the Southern Regional Science Association and the Regional Science Association International, and has received the NARSC Walter Isard Award for lifetime scholarly accomplishments and the David Boyce Award for Service. Dr. Partridge has served as a mentor to dozens of undergraduate and graduate students both at Ohio State University, University of Saskatchewan as well as the many universities where he has adjunct appointments. Many of his PhD students have gone on to win numerous awards within regional science and have become the next generation of leaders in regional science. Through Dr. Partridge's leadership and mentorship of the next generation of regional scientists the future of regional science as a discipline and profession looks strong. As such NARSC is pleased to honor Dr. Partridge's commitment to regional science with the **Roger R. Stough Outstanding Mentor Award**.

Daniel Griffith receives the 2022 Jean Paelinck RSAI Award

Dan Griffith received the 2022 **Jean Paelinck RSAI award** with the following motivation by the selection committee: "After examining the works as well as considering recommendations by nine distinguished RSAI fellows, the committee is delighted to award the 2022 Jean Paelinck RSAI Award to Professor Daniel (Dan) A. Griffith. The committee is convinced that since early 1970s till these days Professor Griffith consistently contributed and shaped the field of regional science and, in general, advanced spatial statistics by publishing more than 180 journal articles, approximately 70 of them are as single author, in key regional science/spatial statistics journals and 11 important books. His

contributions have been recognized with awards from many academic societies and professional organizations, including being an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association"

Carolina Guevara-Rosero receives Peter Nijkamp RSAI Research Encouragement Award

Dr. Carolina Guevara-Rosero is the 2022 winner of the Peter Nijkamp RSAI Research Encouragement Award for a Mid-Career Scholar from a Developing Country. She received her Ph.D. from the Université Jean Monnet de Saint-Etienne in 2015, and since then, has been an Assistant Professor of Economics at The Ecuador National Polytechnic School. Her record for being a relatively fresh Ph.D. is striking. Dr. Guevara-Rosero has authored or coauthored fifteen peer-reviewed journal articles, received the 2019 Ecuadorian RSAI section's Young Researcher Award, and frequently participates in regional science conferences in Europe and the Americas. Carolina's research focusses on productivity, innovation, and firm location in Ecuador and more broadly in Latin America. Her work is noteworthy for its focus on applied topics with clear policy implications for developing countries in their efforts to achieve higher living standards. Most relevant research on related topics examines advanced economies, meaning Dr. Guevara-Rosero's scholarship brings a relatively fresh perspective to traditional core topics in regional science. Dr. Carolina Guevara-Rosero's excellence in regional science scholarship on developing countries makes her an exceptional choice for the 2022 Nijkamp Award.

Genevieve Giuliano, Budy Resosudarmo, Andre Torre, and Frank van Oort appointed Fellows of the RSAI

The RSAI fellowship is a world-wide sign of scientific recognition that is bestowed on a regional scientist with outstanding research credentials in their field. An extra congratulations to incoming NARSC President, Genevieve Giuliano, for this prestigious fellowship!

NARSC Student Paper Competition Results

Chairs of the 2022 NARSC Grad Student Paper Competition, Christa Court and Andre Fernandes Tomon Avelino, would like to thank the reading committee for reviewing the 10 submissions that were received (4 graduate-student-led and 6 graduate-student-authored papers). Finalists from the two student paper competitions were featured in a special session at the annual meeting.

We would also like to thank Edward Elgar and the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) for their contributions of prizes to these award winners; Edward Elgar contributed books, while NARSC provided a cash prize. Congratulations to this year's winners!

<u>Winner Graduate Student-Authored Paper: Guanting Yi, The Ohio State University</u>

The title of the paper is "Discrimination in Restaurant Patronage at the Onset of the Covid Pandemic"

Advisor: Jason R. Blevins

<u>Winner Graduate Student-Led Paper: Sowon Kim, The Ohio State University</u>

The title of the paper is "The Impact of Wildfires on Regional Demographic Changes: Evidence from Oregon"

Co-authors: Yixuan Wang and Seung-Hun Chung, The Ohio State University

As a reminder, NARSC is not the only association to hold graduate student paper competitions, we encourage everyone to check the eligibility requirements and apply to the graduate student paper competitions hosted by our regional associations:

- **Barry M. Moriarty Graduate Paper Competition**, awarded by the Southern Regional Science Association (submissions typically due in February)
- **M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition**, awarded by the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (submissions typically due in March/April)
- **Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science**, awarded by the Western Regional Science Association (submissions typically due in October)

Meet Your New NARSC President: Genevieve Giuliano

Dr. Genevieve Giuliano is Professor and Ferraro Chair in Effective Local Government in the Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California. Her research focus areas include relationships between land use and transportation, transportation policy analysis, and travel behavior. Her current research includes examination of e-commerce and travel behavior, markets for zero emission heavy duty trucks, and use, and new mobility options for low income communities. She has published over 200 papers and reports and has presented her research at numerous conferences both within the US and abroad.

Until July 2022 Professor Giuliano served as director of the METRANS Transportation Consortium, a multi-university transportation research and education center. Professor Giuliano is a past Chair of the

Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board, a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences, and a RSAI Fellow in Regional Science. She is the recipient of several awards, most recently the Walter Isard award for distinguished scholarship contribution from the North American Regional Science Association. She is a frequent participant in National Research Council policy studies.

For recent publications, see http://www.usc.edu/schools/price/research/publications/index.html

Meet Your New NARSC Chair: Isabelle Nilsson

Isabelle Nilsson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography & Earth Sciences and a core faculty member of the Public Policy PhD program at University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her research interests include housing, transportation, and quantitative approaches for studying intraurban sorting and residential mobility. Her most recent projects includes developing approaches to study the the role realtors and mortgage lending practices play in residential sorting behaviors, and to predict subsequent neighborhood change using text-based data and machine learning approaches. She has published her research in journals such as Urban Studies, Cities, Journal of Transport Geography, Computers, Environment and Urban Systems. Isabelle serves as a regional editor for Regional Science Policy & Practice and is on the editorial board of Computers, Environment and Urban Systems. She is also the current chair of the Transportation Geography Specialty Group for the American Association of Geographers and one of the outgoing editors of the NARSC newsletter. Isabelle's background is in economics and spatial analysis. She holds a PhD from the University of Toledo in Spatially Integrated Social Science, an MA in Economics from the University of Toledo, and a MSc in Economics from Luleå University of Technology in Sweden.

Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Clio Andris

Clio Andris is an associate professor in the School of City and Regional Planning and the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Tech. She directs the Friendly Cities Lab and conducts research on mathematical models of spatial social networks, geospatial flows, and interpersonal relationships in geographic space. Her recent research includes analysis of nationwide chain restaurant proliferation, modeling a mentorship program in a regional context, and developing COVID-19 risk assessment tools for the public. She is currently working on visualization tools for a regional food sharing system for low-income families and on a project analyzing a regional meal delivery service for the elderly. Clio's background is in GIS. She received a PhD from MIT in 2011 in Urban Information Systems where she was an NDSEG fellow and member of the Senseable City Lab. She held postdoctoral positions at the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology and at the Santa Fe Institute. Prior to Georgia Tech, she was a faculty member in the Department of Geography at Penn State, and her lab was an affiliate of the GeoVISTA Center.

Meet Your New NARSC Councilor: Sarah Low

Since August 2022, Dr. Sarah Low has served as professor and head, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Previously, she held the Heinkel Chair in Agriculture within the Division of Applied Social Sciences at the University of Missouri. Before she began her career in academia, Sarah spent 10 years at USDA's Economic Research Service in Washington, D.C. Her research and outreach emphasize how to support and facilitate regional economic development and prioritizes policy-relevant issues, drawing on her experience in federal government. Her research interests include business dynamics, broadband impacts, household wellbeing and entrepreneurial ecosystem building. Sarah has previously served as councilor and president of the Southern Regional Science Association and chair of the Community and Regional Economics Network. She is an external Research Associate with Colorado State University's Regional Economic Development Institute and a volunteer with Economic Research Service. She holds a PhD in Agricultural and Consumer Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Meet Your New NARSC Student Representative: Hanxue Wei

Hanxue Wei's research focuses on urban green spaces, environmental equity, housing market, land use, urban mobility, and health equity. Her dissertation investigates the urban tree canopy in the Puget Sound region and the relevant environmental justice, housing, and health equity issues. Prior to joining Cornell, she worked as an urban planner in Shanghai. She has a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning from Tongji University, a master's degree in Urban Design from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a master's degree in Urban Planning from Tongji University (a dual-degree program with Georgia Tech).

Meet Your New NARSC Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth 'Liz' Dobis

Elizabeth Dobis is a Research Agricultural Economist in the USDA Economic Research Service's (ERS) Rural Economy Branch with a focus on rural health in the United States. Her research interest is spatial economic analysis, particularly pertaining to health, demography, and communities. Her health-related research has focused on topics such as health care utilization of vulnerable populations, spatial variation in life expectancy, insurance coverage among the rural self-employed, and health care supply and demand related to COVID-19. Her other research has included topics such as the evolution of the American urban hierarchy, the colocation of vineyards and wineries, and poverty and place. Dr. Dobis's most recent projects include analyzing changes in mortality rates and health care access in rural America and developing a measure of rugged terrain.

Dr. Dobis has published her work in journals such Social Science & Medicine and the Journal of Economic Geography. She has also led several ERS reports, including Rural America at a Glance. In October 2020, she was named to the board of Directors for the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, and in April 2022 she was elected to the Executive Council of the Southern Regional Science Association.

Prior to joining ERS, Dr. Dobis was a postdoctoral scholar in the area of regional economic growth and development with the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD) at Penn State University. She earned a B.S. in Economics, a B.A. in Geography, and a minor in Mathematics from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. She also holds a Ph.D. and a M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University specializing in Space, Health, and Population Economics. During her time at Purdue, she worked as a research assistant and postdoctoral research associate for the Center for Regional Development.

Elsie Peng of University of Pennsylvania to Receive the 22nd Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science

Xuequan Elsie Peng, a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the University of Pennsylvania, has been selected as the winner of the 22nd Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science. The Fellowship will provide a 2022–2023 Academic Year stipend of $30,000 to support Ms. Peng's dissertation research on "Growing a Mega City."

Ms. Peng has assembled spatially precise panel data on housing and zoning policies from housing assessments and digital archives to research the effect of zoning reform on housing supply. To quantify the regulatory cost associated with zoning and its welfare consequences, she proposes a dynamic spatial model that embeds lumpy investment in durable housing. Her model seeks to predict the counterfactual growth path of the city in the absence of regulatory reform, providing a basis for assessing the reform's aggregate and distributional impacts. The results of her research will be of interest to policy-makers, planners, and regional scientists. Ms. Peng's research is supervised by Dr. Gilles Duranton, Professor in the Wharton Real Estate Department at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Stevens Fellowship Committee thanks the 24 students who entered the competition in 2022, as well as their dissertation supervisors.

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.

Faculty at all North American Ph.D. programs are asked to encourage their best students to apply for the 23rd Stevens Graduate Fellowship, which will support the winning student's dissertation research in the field of Regional Science with a fellowship of $30,000 for the 2023–2024 academic year. The application deadline is February 15, 2023. Full submission guidelines may be found at www.narsc.org/newsite/awards-prizes/applications/

The 2022 Stevens Fellowship competition was overseen by a Selection Committee composed of: Nicholas Nagle, University of Tennessee (Chair); Daoqin Tong, Arizona State University; Steven Deller, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Shaoming Cheng, Florida International University; and Heather Stephens, West Virginia University. The Stevens Fellowship Committee administrates the Stevens Fellowship Fund on behalf of the North American Regional Science Council; its members are: Tony Smith, University of Pennsylvania, Chair; David Plane, University of Arizona, Secretary; Michael Lahr, Rutgers University, Treasurer; Janet Kohlhase, University of Houston; and Neil Reid, Executive Director of NARSC.

Fundraising in support of the Stevens Fellowship began in 1998 and is ongoing. In recent years, donations were also received in memory of two former colleagues of Benjamin Stevens at the University of Pennsylvania, Thomas Reiner (1931–2007) and Walter Isard (1919–2010).

Donations may 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. Alternatively, donations may be made via credit card by logging into your account at "Login to User Area" and clicking on the Register/Donate button. If the donor desires, a donation made in memory of an individual will be acknowledged on this web page.

Regional Section Updates

Canadian Regional Science Association (CRSA)

The CRSA is excited to host the 2022 NARSC meetings in Montreal and looks forward to welcoming everyone! The Canadian Regional Science Association (CRSA) continues to publish the Canadian Journal of Regional Science. This on-line, peer-reviewed journal publishes high-quality work that advances our understanding of regional issues. Content includes both Canadian and international perspectives. Please consider the journal as an outlet for your research, and junior scholars are particularly encouraged to submit. More information on the journal, including submission guidelines and past issues, can be found at https://idjs.ca/en/cjrs. Watch out for further announcements, including a student paper competition, in the coming months.

Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA)

MCRSA held the 52nd Annual Conference jointly with the 14th Biennial IMPLAN National Users Conference June 9-10, 2022 online. A total of 52 attendees joined the conference. The MCRSA Board and IMPLAN agreed to hold the joint conference annually going forward. The June 2023 conference is being planned for in-person with a tentative location of Columbus, Ohio. With respect to the Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy, the December 2021 editor's report notes: 10 JRAP papers were published in 2021; 75,8% (50 papers) were desk rejected as they did not fit the journal's mission. The acceptance rate was 14% for 2021. Two co-editors were added to the journal in 2021.

Northeastern Regional Science Association (NERSA)

A meeting was held at the conference in Montreal to begin the process of officially reviving the Northeastern Regional Science Association (NERSA). NERSA in its current form hosted a successful summer school for students and emerging scholars in New York City in the summer of 2022. Next steps for NERSA include electing officers, creating an official constitution/bylaws, and incorporating as a 501(c)(3). More information about future summer schools and other NERSA activities will be forthcoming.

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA)

The 61st annual meeting was held at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol in Austin, TX. The conference had 59 registrants (47 full registrations and 12 student registrations) and 20 sessions. The annual Undergraduate Poster Session was postponed for a second year. The review committee for the Barry M. Moriarty Graduate Student Award chose not to award a prize in 2021. For calendar year 2021, the Dan Rickman Best Paper Award, awarded by The Review of Regional Studies, went to Jim Dewey, Kristopher Kindle, Sravani Vadlamani, and Reinaldo Sanchez-Arias (Florida Polytechnic University) for their paper titled, "State Marijuana Laws and Traffic Fatalities". The Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University did not award the Miernyk Research Excellence Medal in 2021. The William A. Schaffer Award for Distinguished Service to Regional Science was awarded to John Sporing (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, retired) At the annual meeting in 2022, Philip Watson (University of Idaho) was elected as the SRSA 2023 Program Chair, Kyle K. Hood (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis) and Elizabeth A. Dobis (USDA Economic Research Service) were elected to the Council, and one new SRSA Fellow was named, David McGranahan (USDA Economic Research Service, retired). John Sporing stepped down as the Co-Executive Director – Secretary and Caleb Stair (University of Florida) was elected to take on this role. The Associate Executive Director position is currently open. The 2023 SRSA Conference will be held March 29 – April 2, 2023 at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront in Savannah, Georgia.

Western Regional Science Association (WRSA)

WRSA's 61st annual meeting was held in-person for the first time since 2019 on Feb 17-20, 2022. We had 90 paper presentations from 94 participants from 7 countries. This February, Austin Landini (Colorado State University, with the co-advisors, Anita Pena and Stephan Weiler) is selected as the winner of the 36th Tiebout Prize. During our annual board meeting held virtually on February 18, 2022, Eric Heikkila (Univ. of Southern California) was selected as WRSA 2022–2023 Vice President. Sergio Rey (Univ. of California, Riverside) was selected as a Fellow of WRSA. Also, Ran Wei (Univ. of California, Riverside) is selected as a new board member of WRSA. Art Getis has endowed an annual lecture in spatial analysis at the WRSA meeting. The 9th Annual Getis-Ord Lecture in Spatial Analysis was virtually delivered by Andrew Gelman from Columbia University. WRSA will hold its 62nd annual meeting in the Big Island of Hawaii, Feb 15–18, 2023. WRSA's 2024 meeting will be held in Monterey, CA, Feb 11-14 (Sunday to Wednesday). WRSA's 2025 meeting place is still undecided. WRSA will decide after a field trip to Lake Las Vegas (Henderson), NV in January 2023.

Upcoming North American Regional Science Meetings

WRSA is planning to hold its 62nd annual meeting in the Big Island of Hawaii February 15–18, 2023. Please visit this link for updates.

SRSA is planning to hold its 62nd annual meeting in Savannah, GA March 30-April 1, 2023. Please visit this link for updates.

MCRSA's 2023 conference is being planned for in-person with a tentative location of Columbus, OH. Please visit this link for updates.

The 70th North American Meetings of RSAI will be held in San Diego, CA November 16-18, 2022. Please visit this link for updates.

NERSA Summer School

The inaugural NERSA/NARSC summer school was held on the Cornell Tech campus on Roosevelt Island during the week of June 26th – July 1st. The event was organized principally by John Carruthers, Kieran Donaghy, and Shriya Rangarajan of the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University with substantial input from Robert Balder, Manas Chatterji, Christa Court, Geoffrey Hewings, Jaewon Lim, Yuri Mansury, Bjorn Markeson, Neil Reid, and John Sporing. The focus of the summer school was on developing an integrated assessment of the Financial District and Seaport Climate Resilience Master Plan (FiDi-Seaport Plan), which addresses multiple threats of sea-level rise to lower Manhattan and the wider New York City (NYC) metropolitan area (https://fidiseaporclimate.nyc/).

The FiDi-Seaport Plan articulates a prospective intervention in a regional 'system-of-systems' that is intended to "transform the NYC waterfront to better serve all New Yorkers for generations to come." The implementation of this plan would affect many different systems in the New York Metropolitan Region—geophysical systems (the natural and built environments), transportation and communication systems, systems of land use and settlement, economic and financial systems, and systems of planning and governance—as well as the relationships between them.

A principal objective of the inaugural NARSC/NERSA summer school was to bring together a diverse group of early career scholars for a 'radical collaboration'—to speculate about the impacts the implementation of the FiDi-Seaport Climate Resilience Master Plan would have and to sketch out an integrated assessment of these impacts with an eye toward being able to resolve conflicts between stakeholders that may arise. Participants included 14 early-career scholars from 10 institutions in 10 countries. Participants were chosen from a pool of 18 applicants by a selection committee representing four regional sections of NARSC to balance gender, nationality, and disciplinary field.

The program of the summer school comprised a) presentations on different aspects of the FiDi-Seaport Plan and different systems its implementation will affect, b) tutorials on, or reviews of, different analytical approaches that the organizers thought participants would find useful in conducting an integrated assessment of the effects of the plan's implementation, and c) break-out sessions for small-group work and plenary sessions to share progress.

The summer school was organized with the idea that involvement by participants would begin before the summer school convened and continue after the event. In keeping with this idea, materials were

disseminated prior to the event and made available via a Box folder. The organizers proposed that participants, with summer school staff, develop a system-of-systems modeling framework to characterize the stylized facts of the plan's implementation and its various impacts over space and time (but not necessarily within the temporal confines of the summer school). They also proposed that participants collaborate on an integrated assessment of plan implementation and produce several more narrowly focused papers which were presented at the North American meetings of the RSAI in Montreal in November.

2022 NERSA/NARSC Summer School Participants

Job Posting: Executive Director of the Climate Jobs Institute

The School of Labor and Employment Relations invites applications for the inaugural Executive Director of the Climate Jobs Institute (CJI). The successful candidate will provide visible and compelling leadership to establish the Institute's reputation as a state, national and global leader in research on workforce, societal and economic impacts of moving toward a cleaner energy future. Newly established and funded by the Illinois Legislature in 2022, the Climate Jobs Institute will produce high-quality, reliable, and accurate quantitative analysis and research on labor, employment, and the broader social and economic impacts of decarbonization. The Climate Jobs Institute's research and educational programming will support the State of Illinois's transition to a strong, equitable

decarbonized economy. As the State has established itself as an early mover within the U.S. on these issues, the research conducted by the CJI also stands to have considerable impact on other federal, state and local policies beyond Illinois, making this a particularly timely and exciting opportunity.

For more details about the position and to apply, please visit this link.