



NARSC NEWS



Welcome from the Executive Director



Hello everyone,

The Call for Papers for the November Conference is about to be released. Start thinking about what papers you would like to submit or perhaps put together a special session or two. We are also working to modernize the registration process for everyone. Watch for the upcoming announcement.

The 72nd Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International meetings will be held in Denver, Colorado, from November 12 to 15, 2025. The host hotel is The Grand Hyatt Denver. **Remember, that you help NARSC continue to conduct these meetings by staying at the host hotel. By staying off-site, NARSC does have to pay a penalty to the hotel.**

As a reminder, we have two Student Paper Competitions – the Graduate-Student Author Paper Competition and the Graduate-Student-Led Paper Competition. If you are a graduate student, please consider submitting a paper to one of these two competitions. More details will be posted on the website shortly.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the Mile High city of Denver!

John Sporing
NARSC Executive Director

MARCH 2025

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Words from the Editors



Welcome to the first issue of the NARSC Newsletter for 2025! This issue is a little shorter, but I hope you still find some interesting information inside. We start with news from the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC), specifically a short recap of NARSC's activities at the Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA) meeting in San Francisco, California.

Next, we have calls for suggestions of NARSC members to spotlight and information on the accomplishments of NARSC members. This is a great opportunity to promote your accomplishments and those of your colleagues! Then, we have information on the inaugural issue of NARSC's new journal, *Reaching Regions*, as well as a featured article from the *Review of Regional Studies*. Finally, there is information on upcoming conferences a job opening that may be of interest to the regional science community.

As always, if you have content, comments, or suggestions for the newsletter, contact us at newsletter@narsc.org.

[Liz Dobis](#) and [Bonnie Bounds](#)
Newsletter Co-Editors

NARSC News

NARSC @ ASSA

Since 2022, NARSC has hosted a special session on Regional Science topics and methodologies at each of the annual meetings of the American Economic Association (also known as the Allied Social Science Associations meeting). Held in the first week of January, this event is the world's largest gathering of economists from various sub-disciplines.

The 2025 session was organized by Dr. Sandy Dall'erba (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Dr. Dawn Thilmanny (Colorado State University), both long-standing members of the Regional Science community. The session's theme, "*Preparing Today's Agrifood Supply Chain for the Challenges of Tomorrow*," was chosen to highlight the increasing vulnerabilities of the food supply chain due to climate-induced disruptions and global population growth. The session attracted numerous submissions from international scholars, requiring a selection of the top four contributions. With around two dozen attendees, the session led to an engaging and productive discussion.

The theme for the 2026 NARSC session at AEA has yet to be determined. If you have suggestions or are interested in contributing to its organization, please reach out to Dr. Dall'erba at dallerba@illinois.edu.



NERSA nominates new council members

In January, two new members were elected to the Northeastern Regional Science Association's executive council: Andrew Van Leuven (University of Vermont) and Keith Waters (George Mason University). They join Eli Knaap (San Diego State University), John Carruthers (Cornell University), and Ting Zhang (University of Baltimore). Additionally, Bruce Newbold (McMaster University) agreed to join Kieran Donaghy (Cornell University) as a special advisor to the NERSA executive council.

Member Spotlights and Accomplishments

Call for Member Spotlight Recommendations

In each issue of the NARSC Newsletter, we "spotlight" the research and contributions of NARSC members to the field of regional science. These spotlights are short features that consist of questions regarding the member's relationship to NARSC, their research and how it contributes to regional science, and important future research directions by regional scientists in their subfield.

We aim to spotlight a broad representation of NARSC members. This includes members in all career stages, any research specialty, and a variety of different backgrounds. To ensure an inclusive process, we invite you to nominate yourself or someone you know, especially those belonging to an underrepresented group, to be featured in the next issue of the NARSC Newsletter.

To nominate yourself or someone you know, please send the individual's *name, affiliation, and email address* to the new NARSC Newsletter email (newsletter@narsc.org) by **June 6, 2025**. Nominees need to be members of NARSC or one of its regional associations.

Call for Member Accomplishments

We would like to feature member accomplishments in future issues of the NARSC Newsletter. In past issues we have featured **funded work** and **books published**, but we are open to **other types of accomplishments** as well. Please submit any accomplishments you would like to share to the new NARSC Newsletter email account: newsletter@narsc.org. We will be accepting contributions for the September issue of the newsletter until **June 6, 2025**.

- If you received a grant of \$200,000 or more in 2024 or 2025 and would like to share the information, please send the following information: *funding agency, amount, names of project participants, and a brief (200 words) description of the project*.
 - If you published a book in 2024 or 2025, please send the following information: *title, authors/editors, publisher, and a brief (200 words) description of the book*. If you have a picture of the book cover, we would be happy to include that as well.
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Publishing in Regional Science



Reaching Regions Publishes Inaugural Papers

We are happy to report that the initial collection of papers for Reaching Regions was published in March 2025.

Reaching Regions was conceived as a forum for helping translate the important research conducted by regional scientists for a public audience. Reaching Regions is an open access, peer-reviewed, outreach journal for social science research relevant to North American regions.

The inaugural collection includes the following four papers:

Bemrose, R., Brown, M., & Macdonald, R. (2025). "Mapping production activity in Yukon: Experimental estimates of grid square-based gross domestic product." *Reaching Regions* 1: 18381. <https://doi.org/10.31274/rreg.18381>

Bower, C. (2025). "Novel innovation measures for regional development: A review of digital-only approaches." *Reaching Regions* 1: 18341. <https://doi.org/10.31274/rreg.18341>

Hicks, M., Weinstein, A., & Wornell, E. (2025). "Why have local economic development policies been so disappointing, and where do we go from here?" *Reaching Regions* 1: 18245. <https://doi.org/10.31274/rreg.18245>

Rickman, D., & Wang, H. (2025). "The long-standing push to eliminate state personal income taxes in Oklahoma: Is there an economic growth case to be made?" *Reaching Regions* 1: 18270. <https://doi.org/10.31274/rreg.18270>

We are grateful to the authors, reviewers, editorial staff, publishers, and NARSC officers for helping make this happen. Additional information including submission instructions is available via the journal's website <https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/rreg/>.

John Winters and Heather Stephens
Reaching Regions Editors



Review of Regional Studies

Article Feature: Review of Regional Studies

The *Review of Regional Studies* (RRS) is the journal of the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA). RRS publishes papers of interest to a wide array of social science disciplines in which the spatial dimension plays a fundamental role. Robust, rigorous policy analysis at all geographic scales including analysis of regional policies and very local programs as well as papers in which multiple disciplines overlap and contribute to our understanding of the spatial dimension are also of interest. RRS is an open access journal, with no fees for subscription, submission, or publication, that is published online three times a year.

In this issue of the NARSC Newsletter, I would like to share a *RRS* article from the past year that I found interesting. "[The Effects of Disaster Relief Insurance on Drought Impacts: A Case Study of Southwest Oklahoma](#)" by Katherine L. Welch, Dayton M. Lambert, Lixia H. Lambert, and Amy Hagerman discusses the impacts of drought, not just on rural farmers, but also on surrounding rural communities. They find that both diversity of agricultural production and enrollment in crop insurance positively contribute to the resilience of rural agricultural communities to drought. I think this is an excellent example of the local, regionally-specific articles that can be published in *RRS*.

I encourage you to take a look at these or other articles from the *Review of Regional Studies*.

Liz Dobis
NARSC Newsletter Co-Editor

Upcoming Meetings

Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA 2025)



The 55th Annual Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA) Conference and the 17th IMPLAN National Users Conference scheduled for **June 4-6, 2025** at the University of Missouri, Kansas City's Bloch School of Management. It will be a joint conference with the Midwest Public Affairs Conference (MPAC). An IMPLAN training session is scheduled for June 2-4 prior to the conference.

The program committee welcomes papers on a wide range of topics relating to applied economics, economic development, planning, geography, business, public administration, sociology, and political science. To submit a presentation title and **abstract** for consideration by the extended deadline, **April 15, 2025**, please click [here](#).

Several honors will also be awarded at MCRSA. Please submit nominations for the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA) Awards: Distinguished Service Award, Early Career Award, and Distinguished Fellow. Nominations are due **April 15, 2025** and should be submitted to MCRSA Past President, Dr. Candi Clouse, at candi.clouse@implan.com. Students interested in entering the M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition should submit an electronic copy of the paper, a copy of their student ID, and a faculty support letter (if co-authored with a faculty advisor) to Dr. Merissa Piazza at merissa.piazza@gmail.com by **April 15, 2025**. The winner will receive a \$500 prize and the runner up and honorable mention will each receive a \$200 prize.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER 2025)



The Association for University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) 2025 conference will be held **October 4-7, 2025** in Missoula, Montana. The conference's theme explores the dynamic shifts shaping economic development, population trends, and business opportunities across the country. Information from white papers, policy briefs, scholarly work, applied research projects, survey findings, data dashboards, industry analysis, forecasting, regional economics, quality of life, and much more will be presented.

Expected speakers for the 2025 conference include: David E. Altig, the executive vice president and chief economic adviser of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta; Edward Glaeser, the Fred and Eleanor Glimp professor of economics and chair of the Department of Economics at Harvard University; and Abigail Wozniak, a labor economist and vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. For more information on registration and attending the conference, check out the [AUBER website](#).

North American Regional Science Council (NARSC 2024)



Join us **November 12-15, 2025** in Denver, Colorado for the 72nd North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) sponsored by the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC). NARSC is an international scholarly organization that focuses on regional analysis, ranging from urban and spatial theory to applied problems in regional development, sustainability, environmental management, and rural land use. This is the premier regional science meeting in North America and attracts scholars and practitioners from around the world.

Conference organizers welcome individual papers and organized sessions relating to a wide variety of topics that are included within the diverse realm of regional science. As usual, there will be several organized sessions. These sessions are being organized around research topics such as rural/regional development, the geography of crime, and the impact of natural disasters. Details about these and other special sessions can be found [here](#) on the NARSC website. The list of special sessions is updated on a regular basis, so check regularly for the most recent list.

To submit an abstract or a complete session, please use our online submission system. The **submission deadline is July 11, 2025**. Decisions regarding the acceptance of papers and sessions will be announced in late August. All presenters, including members of panel discussions, discussants, and session chairs, must register for the conference and pay the registration fee in order to attend and present.

The conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt Denver. A special conference room rate of \$219 (plus taxes) has been negotiated with the hotel. **Please consider staying at the host hotel and booking through the NARSC website. Staying at the Hyatt helps NARSC continue to hold these meetings, as NARSC is penalized when attendees do not stay at the hotel.**

Western Regional Science Association (WRSAs 2025)



The 65th Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association (WRSAs) will be held **February 11-14, 2026** at the Eldorado Hotel & Spa in Santa Fe, New Mexico. WRSAs' meeting is unique among the regional science conferences, as only full papers (including draft papers) will be accepted for review

by the program committee. **Full paper submissions are due by October 15, 2025.** Participants are also encouraged to share plans to organize special sessions. Come join us in beautiful Sante Fe next year!

Job Postings

For the most up-to-date list, check out the [position openings](#) section of NARSC webpage!

Assistant/Associate Professor in Agricultural and Regional Economics, Penn State University

The Pennsylvania State University is hiring a nine-month, tenure-track position in agricultural economics at the assistant or associate professor level. The position has a 60% research responsibility and a 40% teaching responsibility. The successful applicant will be expected to develop a nationally and internationally recognized research program focused on regional economics and rural economic development. Pertinent topics, among others, include regional food systems, rural-urban disparities, firm location decisions, issues and opportunities along the rural-urban interface, regional labor markets, and land use changes and policies. The successful candidate will also be expected to secure external funding and to advise and mentor graduate and undergraduate students.

The successful applicant will have the opportunity to join the Center for Economic and Community Development (CECD), Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (NERCRD), and Institute for Sustainable Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences (SAFES) as a faculty affiliate. Applicants should demonstrate excellent quantitative and communication skills and the ability to work in multi-disciplinary teams. The ability to engage professionally with a diverse population of faculty, staff, and students is required, and the successful candidate will actively strive to provide an inclusive learning environment for all. Documented teaching experience is preferred.

Review of applications will begin on March 17, 2025. More details can be found [here](#).