

Agenda

RSAI COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 2024 / MINUTES

John Von Neumann University, Wednesday, Apr. 10, 2024 | 1.00 pm-2.00 pm (CET) | Board meeting room, Room 2.08

1. Apologies (Annex 1)

No member has sent prior warning of her/his absence.

At 1.05 pm local time, the President, Prof. Westlund, opens the meeting. This is attended on site by Carlos Azzoni (LARSA representative), Hiroyuki Shibusawa (RSAI Vice President), Andrea Caragliu (RSAI Executive Director), Hans Westlund (RSAI President), Elisabete Martins (RSAI secretariat and financial officer), Tomaz Dentinho (at-large), Roberta Capello (ERSA President and representative), Camilla Lenzi (at large), Kathy Kopchewska (at-large), André Chagas (at-large), and Daniela Constantin (at-large). The meeting is also attended online by Fernando Perobelli (LARSA representative), Lise Bourdeau-LePage (ERSA representative), Eveline Van Leeuwen (ERSA representative), Rosella Nicolini (PiRS EiC), Sandy dall'Erba (NARSC representative), Hidehiko Kanegae (PRSCO representative), and Haifeng Qian (NARSC representative).

2. Approval of the minutes of the Alicante meeting (Aug. 31, 2023; Annex 2)

Hans Westlund proposes to approve the minutes, as no comment on the draft circulated before the meeting was received. The proposal is unanimously accepted, and the minutes are approved.

3. Updates on the World Congress 2024 (Andrea Caragliu)

Andrea Caragliu reports on the congress. Several abstracts were received, with delegates from 41 Countries and 283 paper abstracts received and accepted. The congress is benefitting from an extraordinary support from the LOC, whom the RSAI Council praises for their effort.

4. Important decisions for 2024:

a. Transition to the new President (Prof. Shibusawa, PRSCO)

Hans Westlund welcomes Hiroyuki Shibusawa, Camilla Lenzi, Kathy, André Chagas, and Roberta Capello, as new members of the council. He also welcomes Prof. Shibusawa specifically for his new role as RSAI Vice President. Prof. Shibusawa says he is honored by his new position, and guarantees the Council an effort to keep the good momentum of the Association.

b. End of first term for PiRS's EiC (report by Rosella Nicolini, Annex 3)

Andrea Caragliu explains that this is the end of the first term for Prof. Nicolini as EiC of Pirs, and he summarizes his personal positive opinion of her work, which Hans Westlund also reports was shared by the LRPC members during the meeting held the day before this council gathered. Prof. Caragliu explains that the EiC can be chosen based on a public call, or a direct appointment. Rosella Nicolini explains what her view the state of the journal is, and draws her attention on the challenge in the transition of both RSAI journals to gold open access. Daniela Constantin (PiRS co-editor) praises Rosella Nicolini for her job.

Roberta Capello suggests to vote now on her re-appointment. Hans Westlund asks if anybody has anything against this decision; the Council agrees to vote immediately for the potential appointment of the EiC of PiRS. Prof. Nicolini is asked to leave the online room for allowing voting. The Council unanimously vote to confirm Prof. Nicolini as PiRS EiC for a second term, running from 2025 through 2027. Andrea Caragliu invites Prof. Nicolini back to the online meeting, and the Council congratulates

Rosella on being reappointed. Prof. Nicolini thanks the council for the trust in her work, and reassures she will strive to keep the journal on the growth path.

c. End of the Executive Director's second term. Opening for a new ED due August 2024.

Andrea Caragliu explains that the Council is seeking for an orderly, hard-working, and, ideally, good with relations candidate. Roberta Capello proposes to nominate a committee, with Hiroyuki Shibusawa, Andrea Caragliu and other members. Daniela Constantin advises to seek somebody with prior experiences. In this view, Carlos Azzoni suggests to include Tomaz Dentinho in the committee. Hans Westlund closes suggesting Hiroyuki Shibusawa, Andrea Caragliu, Tomaz Dentinho, and Eveline Van Leeuwen to join the committee. Carlos Azzoni suggests to be in touch with supranational organizations to include as diverse candidates as possible. The Council approves and the Search committee will be operative right away, with a tentative deadline for applications around late June/early July.

d. Fixing things before the end of the second term: revising By-Laws to update them to changes in supranationals.

Andrea Caragliu refers there is a number of minor changes to be included in by laws, which can by RSAI Constitution be amended with the approval of the majority of the Council. He will suggest fixes to these by-laws before the end of his term as RSAI ED, so that his successor will find everything as in order as possible.

5. Reactivating the committee in charge of restructuring PRSCO

Andrea Caragliu reminds the council that a committee specifically dedicated to restructuring PRSCO due to its now rather large extension, originally included the RSAI president (by then, Prof. Partridge); Prof. Budy Resosudarmo; Prof. Rachel Franklin (by then, PRSCO President); Prof. Yoshiro Higano (JRSAI); Prof. Sumona Bandyopadhyay (representing Indian RSAI); Prof. Paul Snow (for RSAC); Prof. Brian Kim (representing KRSA); and Prof. Kingsley Haynes, representing the LRPC). Following a similar structure, Prof. Caragliu suggests to include Hidehiko Kanegae, Paul Snow, Sumona Bandyopadhyay, Brian Kim, Budy Resosudarmo, and Kingsley Haynes. Prof. Kanegae suggests to include In Kwon Park, as new PRSCO President, and of course Prof. Shibusawa as new RSAI President. The proposal is approved, and the committee in charge of dealing with restructuring PRSCO will be made of Paul Snow (RSAC), Sumona Bandyopadhyay (India), In Kwon Park (KRSA and PRSCO), Budy Resosudarmo and Kingsley Haynes (LRPC), and Hiroyuki Skibusawa (RSAI President).

6. Report on the activities of the Honors, Diversity and Inclusion, and Communications Committees (Hans Westlund)

Hans Westlund summarizes the issues with the committees, whose work has been intermittent and only based on frequent nudging. Kathy Kopchewska asks to summarize the events. Tomaz Dentinho proposes to bring back these mandates. Andrea Caragliu summarizes the sequence of the events as requested. Roberta Capello suggests that as suggested by the LRPC the Council should replace the candidates, and she advises that Hans Westlund and Andrea Caragliu are tasked with the goal of identifying suitable replacements. Eveline Van Leeuwen suggests that marketing of these committees' is started. Tomaz Dentinho advises to set up committees made up of council members. Sandy dall'Erba reminds the Council about his experience with the NARSC Diversity and Inclusion committee. He concludes that we need to find a way so that the D&I committee communicates with all other committees.

7. Call for candidatures for organizing the World Congress 2026

Hans Westlund asks Andrea Caragliu to summarize. André Chagas says that some Countries in LARSA would be interested, mentioning that Carolina Guevara (newly elected president of the Ecuador

section) would be glad to propose one. The Brazilian and Chilean sections would promote this candidature. He also add that a generational transition would be enhanced if the World Congress 2026 would be organized there. Andrea Caragliu concludes letting the Council know that a public call for applications to organize the 2026 world congress of the RSAI will be released at the beginning of May, with deadline around early July.

8. Proposal to anticipate the schedule of the RSPP Special Issue Award from September to August (Tomaz Dentinho)

Prof. Dentinho describes his proposal, which the Council unanimously approves.

9. Report on RSPP (Tomaz Dentinho, Annex 4)

Tomaz Dentinho explains the content of the report. The Council praises Prof. Dentinho for his good work on the journal.

10. RSPP Paper award (Tomaz Dentinho, Annex 5)

Prof. Dentinho explains the contents of the attachment. The Council thanks him for his work.

11. Reshuffling of RSPP editorial board (Tomaz Dentinho, Annex 6)

Christa Court and Soomi Lee (NARSC), and Carolina Guevara (LARSA). He proposes to invite Taiwanese colleagues to promote a special issue on RSPP.

12. AOB

No other business is suggested.

13. Next meeting

With nothing else to discuss, the President closes the meeting at 2.12 pm local time. The next meeting will take place in Terceira during the ERSA Congress.

RSAI Council Members

2024 RSAI Council Members

| | Name | Member | Period | Email address |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|--|
| 1 | Hans Westlund | President | 2023-2024 | hans.westlund@abe.kth.se |
| 2 | In Kwon Park | PRSCO President | 2024-2026 | parkik@snu.ac.kr |
| 3 | Hidehiko Kanegae | PRSCO Representative | 2024-2026 | hkanegae@sps.ritsumeai.ac.jp |
| 4 | Brian Kim | PRSCO Representative | 2019-2024 | briankim66@snu.ac.kr |
| 5 | Elizabeth Mack | NARSC Representative | 2021-2026 | emack@msu.edu |
| 6 | Haifeng Qian | NARSC Representative | 2024-2026 | haifeng-qian@uiowa.edu |
| 7 | Sandy Dall'Erba | NARSC Representative | 2019-2024 | dallerba@illinois.edu |
| 8 | Roberta Capello | ERSA President | 2024-2029 | roberta.capello@polimi.it |
| 9 | Lise Bourdeau-Lepage | ERSA Representative | 2023-2025 | lblepage@gmail.com |
| 10 | Eveline Van Leeuwen | ERSA Representative | 2020-2025 | eveline.vanleeuwen@wur.nl |
| 11 | Fernando Perobelli | LARSA Representative | 2024-2026 | fernando.perobelli@ufif.edu.br |
| 12 | Patricio Aroca | LARSA Representative | 2020-2025 | patricio.aroca@unab.cl |
| 13 | Carlos Azzoni | LARSA Representative | 2020-2025 | cazzoni@usp.br |
| 14 | Camilla Lenzi | Councillor at large | 2024-2026 | camilla.lenzi@polimi.it |
| 15 | Katarzyna Kopczewska | Councillor at large | 2024-2026 | kkopczewska@wne.uw.edu.pl |
| 16 | André Chagas | Councillor at large | 2024-2026 | achagas@usp.br |
| 17 | Tomaz Dentinho | Councillor at large | 2022-2024 | tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt |
| 18 | Daniela Luminita-Constantin | Councillor at large | 2020-2025 | danielaconstantin_2005@yahoo.com |
| 19 | Andrea Caragliu | Executive Director | 2019-2024 | andrea.caragliu@polimi.it |
| 20 | Hiroyuki Shibusawa | President Elect | 2024-2026 | shibusawa.hiroyuki.dc@tut.jp |

LRPC Members

| | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|--|
| 1 | Peter Nijkamp | President | 1991-1992 | pnijkamp@hotmail.com |
| 2 | Lay J. Gibson | President | 1993-1994 | ljgibson@comcast.net |
| 3 | Kingsley E. Haynes | President | 1995-1996 | khaynes@gmu.edu |
| 4 | Peter W. J. Batey | President | 1997-1998 | pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk |
| 5 | H. Khono | President | 1999-2000 | |
| 6 | Geoffrey J.D.Hewings | President | 2001-2002 | hewings@uiuc.edu |
| 7 | Robert J. Stimson | President | 2005-2006 | rstimson@unimelb.edu.au |
| 8 | Roberta Capello | President | 2009-2010 | roberta.capello@polimi.it |
| 9 | Yoshiro Higano | President | 2011-2012 | higano@jsrsai.jp |
| 10 | Jean-Claude Thill | President | 2013-2014 | Jean-Claude.Thill@uncc.edu |
| 11 | Andres Rodriguez Pose | President | 2015-2016 | a.rodriguez-pose@lse.ac.uk |
| 12 | Budy Resosudarmo | President | 2017-2018 | budy.resosudarmo@anu.edu.au |
| 13 | Mark Partridge | President | 2019-2020 | partridge.27@osu.edu |
| 14 | Eduardo Haddad | President | 2021-2022 | ehaddad@usp.br |
| 15 | Eveline Van Leeuwen | Council Representative | 2021-2025 | eveline.vanleeuwen@wur.nl |
| 16 | Sandy Dall'Erba | Council Representative | 2021-2024 | dallerba@illinois.edu |

RSAI Ex-Officio Members

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | Rosella Nicolini | Editor in Chief of PIRS | rosella.nicolini@uab.cat |
| 2 | Tomaz Dentinho | Editor in Chief of RSPP | tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt |
| 3 | Peter W. J. Batey | Archivist | pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk |
| 4 | David Boyce | Archivist | dboyce@uic.edu |
| 5 | Martijn Smit | Newsletter Editor | M.J.Smit@uu.nl |
| 6 | Mina Akhavan | Newsletter Editor | m.a.akhavan@tudelft.nl |
| 7 | Soushi Suzuki | PRSCO Executive Director | soushi-s@lst.hokkai-s-u.ac.jp |
| 8 | Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald | RSAI Treasurer | sesohi@hotmail.com |
| 9 | Elisabete Martins | Finance Director | Elisabete.martins@apdr.pt |

Invited Members

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | Paul Snow | RSAC Vice President | paulsnow@pku.edu.cn |
| 2 | Mónica Navarrete Álvarez | LARSA Executive Director | mnavarre@uta.cl |
| 3 | Sumona Banjeree | President of IRSA | sumona_bm@yahoo.com |

End-of-Term Report

Summary

The current editorial team of *Papers in Regional Science (PiRS)* will end its current term on December 31, 2024. From 2022 to 2024, the most important achievements for the journal have been:

1. **Increasing the number of submissions:** In 2023, the total number of submissions to *PiRS* approached nearly 500.
2. **Improving the quality of selected manuscripts:** The journal's rejection rate is approximately 90%, which signifies the editors' rigor and selectivity in choosing high-quality contributions for publication.
3. **Diversifying topics addressed:** By publishing contributions on topics such as gender and regional science, cultural heritage at the regional level, and climate change, natural disasters, and regional development, *PiRS* has expanded the range of its content.
4. **Strengthening impact:** *PiRS* has increased its 5-year impact factor (JRC) but also maintained a leading position in Scopus.
5. **Embarking on a new editorial challenge:** As of 2024, *PiRS* is now a gold open-access journal published by Elsevier, with open-access archives as well.

1. EDITORIAL CHALLENGES

The current editorial team of *PiRS* was appointed by the RSAI Council in November 2022. The editorial proposal submitted for consideration by the Council developed around the central strategy of consolidating the scientific legacy of the previous editorial team while expanding the journal's range of interests given the shifting environment in regional science.

Consistent with those targets, the editorial team in charge of the journal from 2022 to 2024 has been able to gather valuable submissions that have helped to achieve tangible quantitative results, as detailed in the following.

1.1. Statistics regarding editorial activity

Table 1 presents the number of submissions and rejection rates, together with the number of pending manuscripts (i.e., papers in the online system), at different stages from 2010 to the present.

Table 1. Number of submissions and rejection rates

| Year | Submissions | Acceptance rate | Rejection rate | Pending manuscripts |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 2010 | 163 | 0.33 | 0.67 | |
| 2011 | 182 | 0.28 | 0.72 | |
| 2012 | 197 | 0.32 | 0.68 | |
| 2013 | 221 | 0.21 | 0.79 | |
| 2014 | 231 | 0.22 | 0.78 | |
| 2015 | 224 | 0.24 | 0.76 | |
| 2016 | 222 | 0.21 | 0.79 | |
| 2017 | 265 | 0.24 | 0.76 | |
| 2018 | 288 | 0.21 | 0.79 | |
| 2019 | 354 | 0.20 | 0.80 | |
| 2020 | 408 | 0.15 | 0.85 | |
| 2021 | 484 | 0.11 | 0.89 | |
| 2022 | 493 | 0.10 | 0.90 | |
| 2023 | 482 | 0.07 | 0.93 | 17 |

In 2022 and 2023, *the number of submissions to PiRS approached 500*, with a rejection rate of approximately 90% that included a sizable percentage of desk rejections. In fall 2023, the journal moved to gold open-access format, and whereas the rate of submissions decreased only slightly, the percentage of desk rejections dropped significantly. In the first term of 2024, the journal received approximately 100 submissions, 30 of which are currently under review. From an academic standpoint, the new format of the journal has clearly improved the quality of submissions.

Despite the increase in submissions, the editorial team was able to keep high standards for productivity. *The journal registered good performance in its rendering of decisions regarding manuscripts in the past 7 years in all phases of the publication process* (see Table 2). On average, the first decision has taken place in less than a month. In addition, the speed of publication after the final decision has fallen to less than 3 months compared to twice that much in 2019, such that no backlog exists. *Moreover, those results have been achieved despite major delays in production experienced with the former publisher, Wiley, and exacerbated by the journal's transition to Elsevier's platform.*

Table 2. Manuscript processing in months

| Year | First decision | Second decision | Third decision | Final decision of acceptance for early view | Final decision to publication in issue |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---|--|
| 2013 | 1.8 | 2 | 0.8 | 3.1 | 12.4 |
| 2014 | 1.7 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 15.8 |
| 2015 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.1 | 2.9 | 21.5 |
| 2016 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 18.9 |
| 2017 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 3.2 | 18.0 |
| 2018 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 2.1 | 18.1 |
| 2019 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 9.8 |
| 2020 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 0.8 | 1.8 | 5.8 |
| 2021 | 0.8 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 5.7 |
| 2022 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 4.1 |
| 2023 | 0.6 | 1.9 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 2.4 |

1.2. Salient features of submissions, published articles, and reviewers

Figure 1 presents the geographical distribution of submissions to *PiRS*. *The trends show a drastic increase of authors from the Pacific region, probably due to the high number of papers submitted by authors in China.* Submissions from Europe are no longer dominant, whereas the share of submissions from the Americas has remained stable. The increase in the total number submissions is also likely due to an increase in submissions from PRSCO.

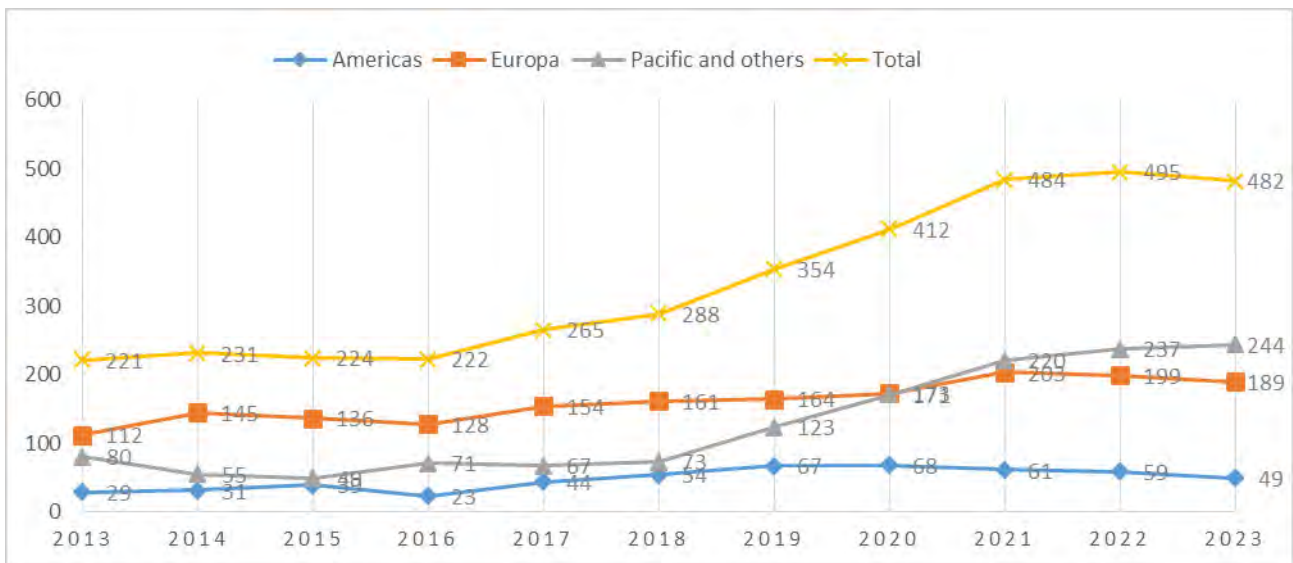


Figure 1. Geographically detailed number of submissions, 2010–2023

In terms of accepted articles, statistics have rebalanced in favor of authors from Europe (see Figure 2).

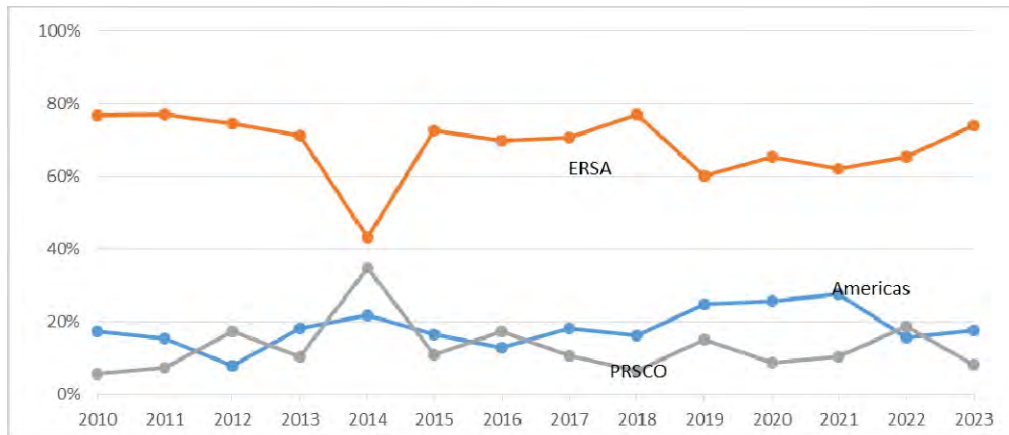


Figure 2. Geographic distribution of authors in pages (% per year and proportion), volumes 89–102, 2010–2023

In the same wake, statistics regarding reviewers confirm previous trends. The number of referees has continued to diminish as the number of desk rejections has increased. Moreover, the geographical distribution of referees has registered an increase in Europe and a decrease in Americas, whereas the rate from PRSCO has remained rather stable.

Table 3. Number of reviewers and proportion of reviewers by supra-region

| Year | Reviewers | ERSA | Americas | PRSCO |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 2013 | 399 | 61% | 26% | 13% |
| 2014 | 325 | 62% | 25% | 13% |
| 2015 | 369 | 61% | 22% | 17% |
| 2016 | 318 | 62% | 26% | 12% |
| 2017 | 375 | 60% | 25% | 15% |
| 2018 | 368 | 49% | 38% | 13% |
| 2019 | 468 | 47% | 45% | 8% |
| 2020 | 403 | 63% | 31% | 6% |
| 2021 | 378 | 50% | 36% | 14% |
| 2022 | 233 | 59% | 33% | 8% |
| 2023 | 211 | 73% | 19% | 8% |

In all, the data confirm that a clear *challenge for PiRS in the coming years will be rebalancing the geographical composition of authors and reviewers*, possibly in connection with the international consolidation and visibility of the RSAI. In that respect, given the relevance of consolidating the RSAI’s reputation as indicated by reviewers, the former publisher did not issue reviewers’ certificates for 2023; however, recognizing the importance of issuing those certificates, *PiRS* overcame the problem by producing and sending them out directly from the Editorial Office. The visibility of published articles on the RSAI’s official webpage and in its newsletter as well as in ERSA’s and NARSC’s social media was also reinforced. *The expected impact of the marketing strategy for PiRS that Elsevier committed to implement (i.e., by including the journal in its major database for scientific dissemination, ScienceDirect) should help to reach that scope.*

In terms of scientific areas, Figure 3 reports the distribution of pages by discipline. Whereas the share for economics has shrunk slightly, the shares for geography, public policy, and engineering have increased.

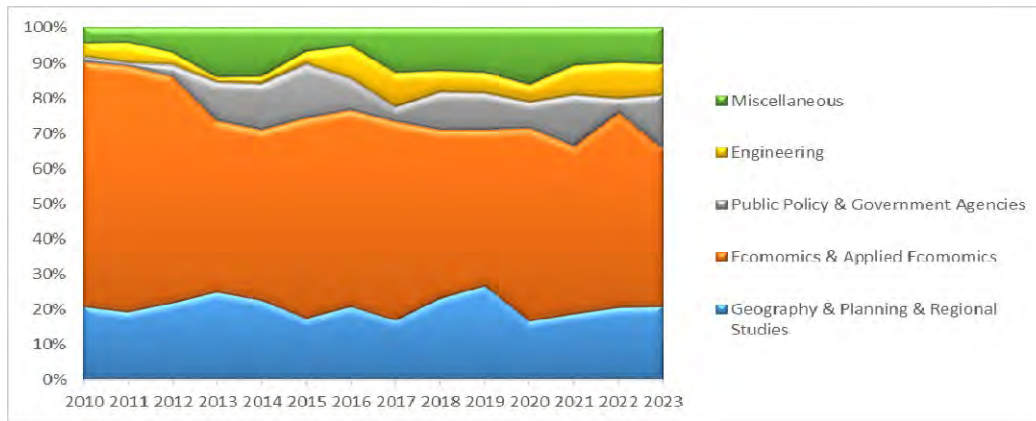


Figure 3. Number of pages by affiliation of the author(s), volumes 89–102, 2010–2023

Even if the general breakdown in scientific areas has remained relatively stable, in each area the last issues *of the journal have published innovative, relevant topics in research from the lens of regional science, including topics such as gender issues, natural disasters, and cultural heritage.* In 2023 and 2024, the Martin Backman Award went to two contributions addressing those new topics.

2. IMPACT FACTOR

PiRS currently awaits the release of statistics from 2023 concerning impact factor (IF). Nevertheless, some early hints from CiteScore Tracker (4.3, in March 2024) suggest that *PiRS* should have consolidated its position in international rankings. The most recent data from Scimago confirm *PiRS*'s position in the first quartile. In addition:

1. The **number of cited documents** has been approximately 190, whereas the number of non-cited ones has dropped from 66 to 63; and
2. Total citations has grown from **742 to 750**, *whereas the per-document citation rate remained stable at approximately 3.* *PiRS* has maintained its position in the first quartile regarding content concerning both environmental science and social science (e.g., geography, planning, and development) with an IF of 0.86.

PiRS's IF in 2022 according to Clarivate was approximately 2.1, the same as the IF for 2021, after experiencing a major drop in the value of the index for 2021 with respect to 2020. In relative terms, the performance of *PIRS*'s direct competitors is relatively stable apart from *RSUE*, a journal currently published by Elsevier that has experienced a remarkable increase in IF.

Since the end of 2022, PiRS has experienced massive delays in the production and release of articles and issues due to poorly clarified problems with the publishers—not only Wiley but also Elsevier, given that the February issue in 2024 was released at the end of March 2024. As editor in chief, I am continually in contact with the officers in charge of the production and have insisted upon accelerating the release of online articles. *The delays are significantly harming the number of citations received because the inaccessibility of articles during the reference period for the computation of the index reduces the visibility of scientific contributions published in PiRS.* That dilemma has been discussed with the production officer at Elsevier and an explicit request made to rectify the situation immediately.

The decision to becoming a gold, open-access journal with all archives freely available online will generate a tangible return for PiRS's IF in 2024 and years to come. Beyond that, the increased relevance of the commitments of the CoARA and DORA agreements toward open

science practices will call *PiRS* to implement initiatives to make research material available in peer-to-peer platforms as in, for instance, a repository of databases linked to published articles for researchers to use to replicate results.

3 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The action and initiatives implemented by *PiRS*'s current editorial team have helped the journal to consolidate its reputation and visibility in academia and to serve the RSAI in its dissemination mission.

The *most visible achievements* have been the increased number of submissions, the shortened delays in managing and publishing contributions, and the opening of new lines of scientific inquiry in new scientific communities.

PiRS's transformation from hybrid to gold open-access format and the changing conditions of the scientific environment amid growing acceptance of an open science model pose important challenges for the journal and call for new initiatives to continue making *PiRS* a point of reference in regional science.

Rosella Nicolini
Editor in Chief, on the behalf of the Editorial Team

Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain

April 4, 2024



RSPP Editorial Report of 2023

April 2024

1. Introduction

This report refers to 2023 when Regional Science Policy and Practice is editing 9 issues (see Annex 2). In Section 2, we analyze the journal metrics, in Section 3 we highlight the aims and actions of the editorial team and in Section 4 we conclude.

2. Editorial statistics

2.1 Pages, Papers and Citations

The number of articles and citations per year increased from 2017 - with 11 published articles and 41 citations to 2023 - with 119 articles and 1319 citations.

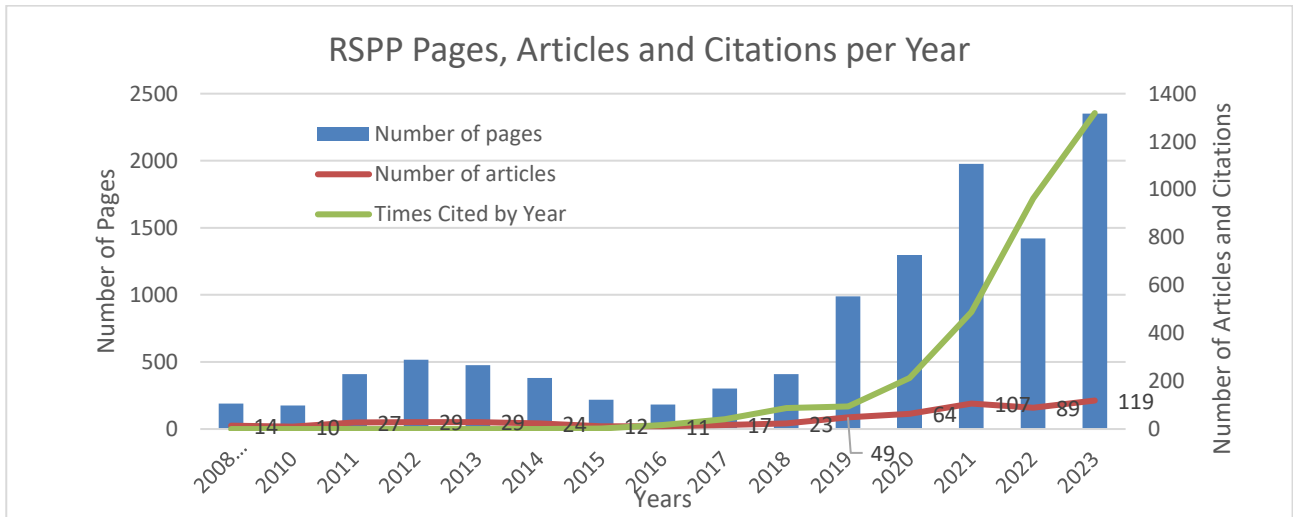


Figure 1: Citations per Year (RSPP Editorial Office)

The geographical distribution of the authors, counted by the number of articles, indicate a good distribution of the authors in all the world with a minor presence in Africa and a major contribution from United States, Italy, Russia, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Morocco, Indonesia, and India.

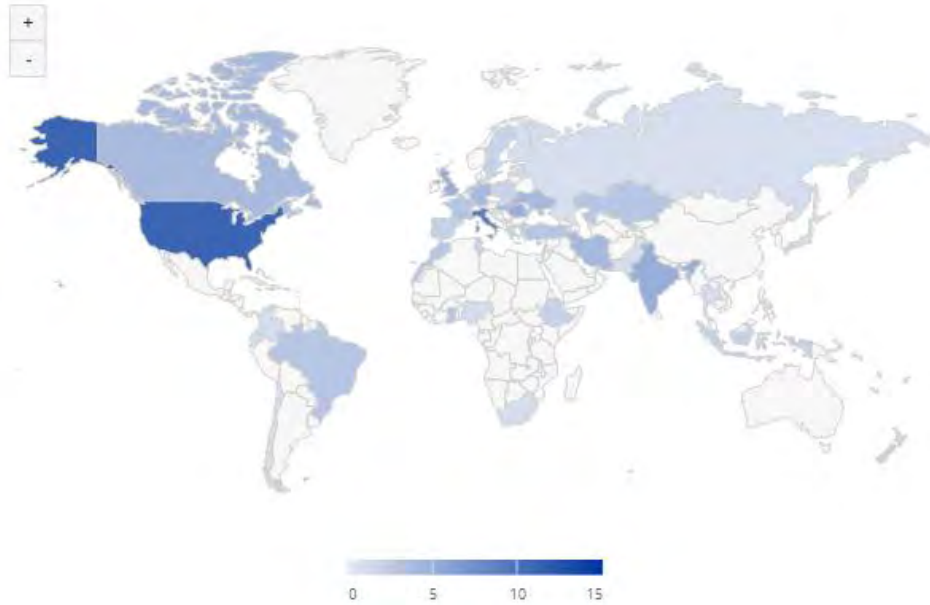


Figure 2: Geographical distribution of authors by articles (Wiley Journal Insights)

The disciplinary distribution of the authors' affiliation measured by the number of pages is mainly concentrated in economics and geography, giving space to interdisciplinary perspectives.

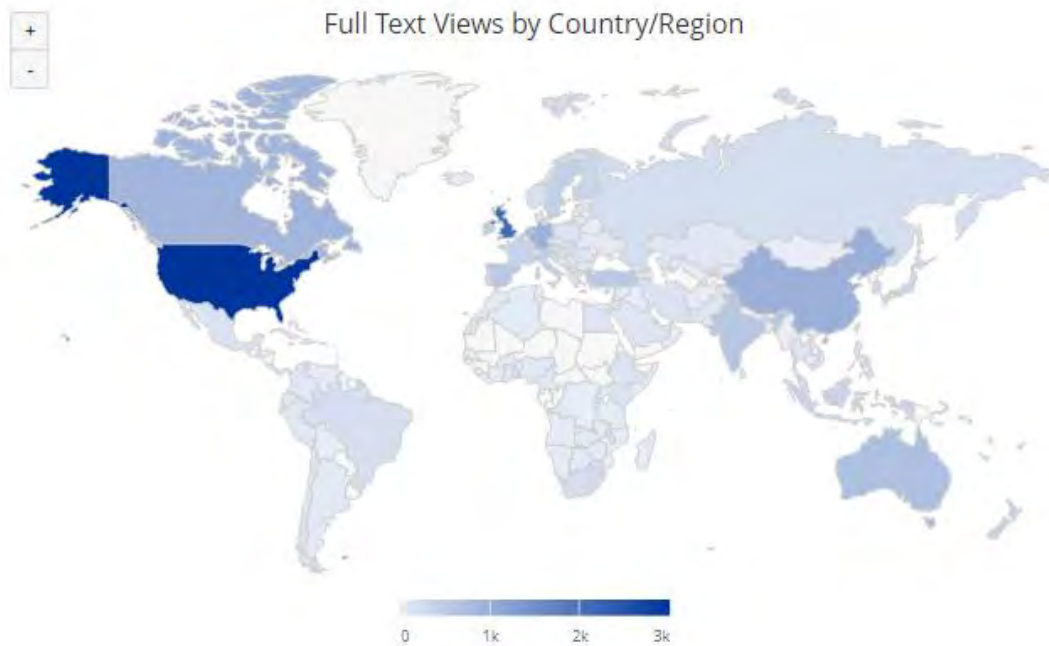


Figure 3: Downloads by Country (Wiley Journal Insights)

On the other hand, the number of downloads is quite spread around the world although more intense in the United States of America, the United Kingdom and China.

2.2 Decision making process

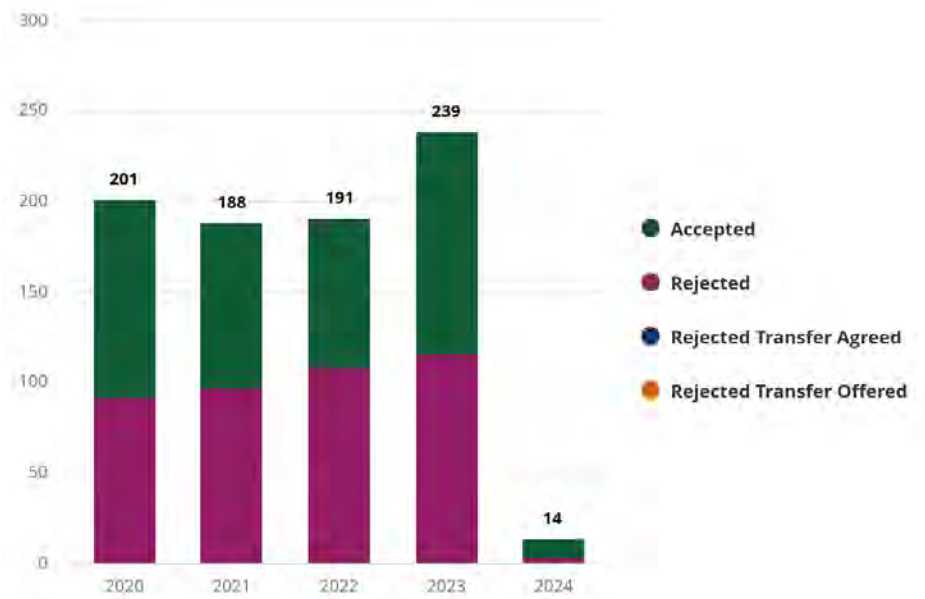


Figure 5: Accepted and rejected articles (decision by decision year)

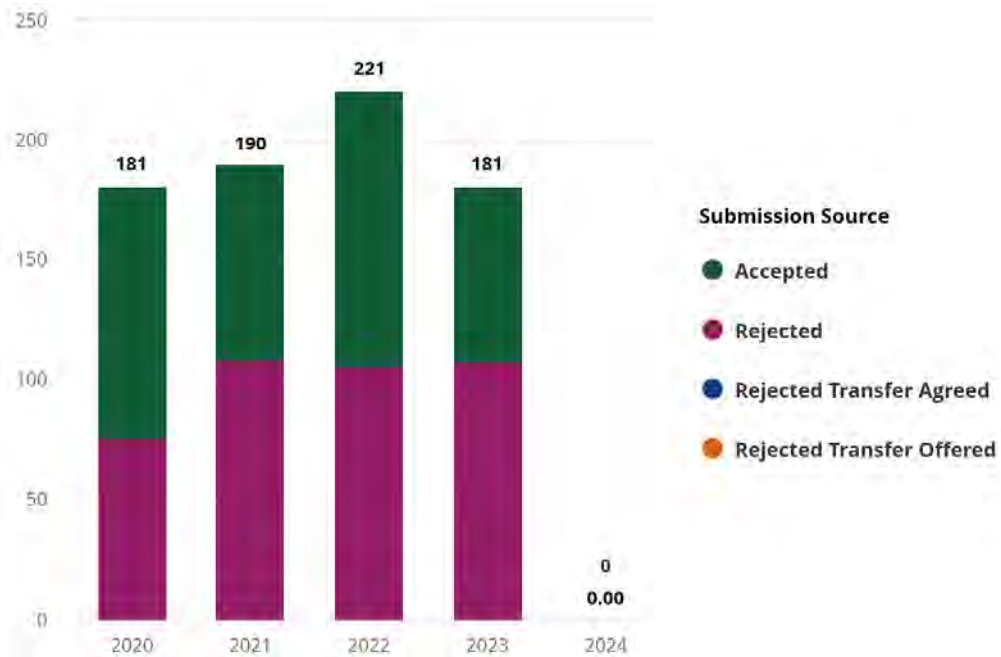


Figure 6: Accepted and rejected articles (decision by submission year)

2.3 Performance Indicators

According to Google Scholar, citations on Regional Science Policy and Practice reached more than 1117 in 2021, 1538 in 2022 and 1777 in 2023.

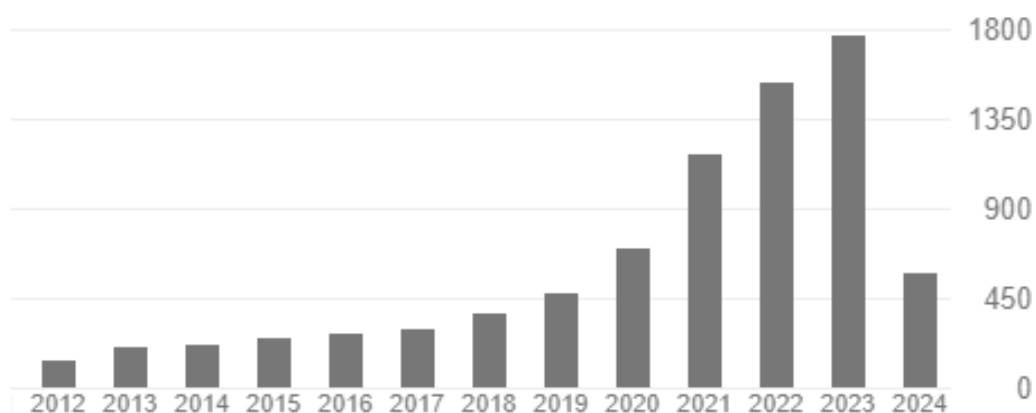


Figure 7: Google Scholar RSPP Citations (statistics from April 2024)

According to Scopus (<https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100435556>) the Cite Score was 0.2 in 2015, 0.7 in 2016, 1.0 in 2017, 1.4 in 2018, 0.9 in 2019, 1.4 in 2020, 2.3 in 2021 and 3.1 in 2022. The drop in 2019 was due to the strong increase in the number of papers from 2018 to 2019. The current CiteScoreTracker for 2023 is 3.6.

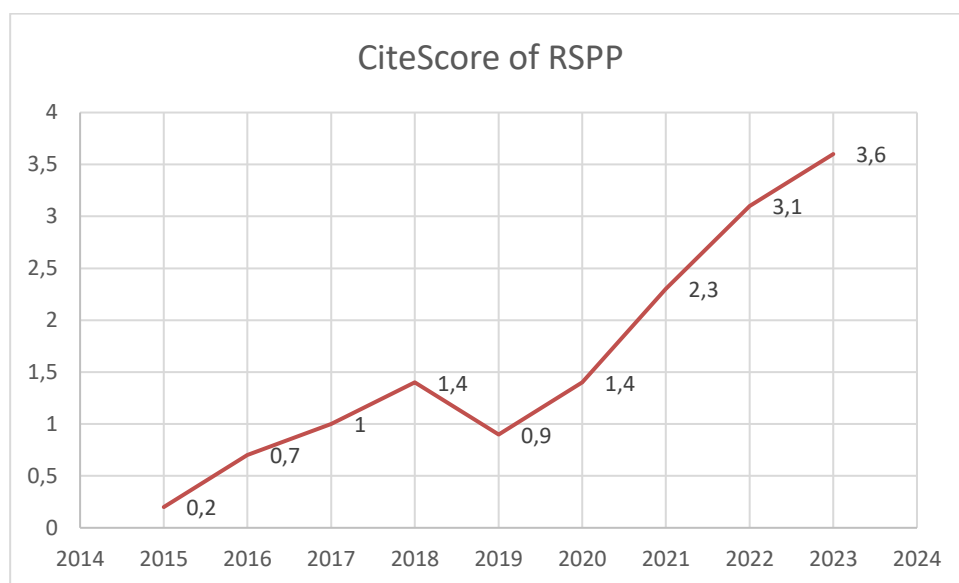


Figure 8: Scopus Cite score of RSPP

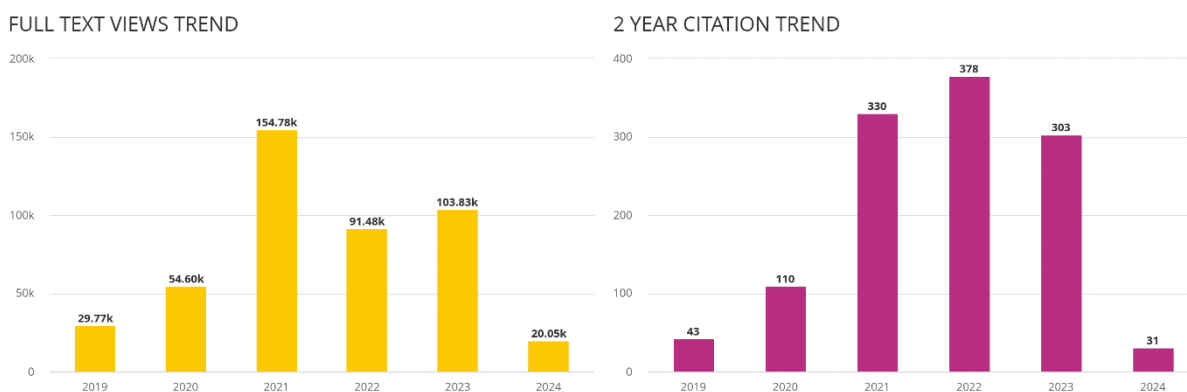


Figure 9: Downloads and Citations (Wiley Journal Insights)

The number of downloads was much higher in 2021 due to fact that RSPP was one of the first social

sciences journal with good papers accepted on the impacts of COVID-19.

3. Editorial Management

3.1 RSP Paper Award

The winners of the 2024 RSP paper award based on papers published in 2023 were:

Winners 2024

X Gao, L Liu, D Ou, H Yuwu (2023), Using mobile phone data to probe the mobility-related well-being of rural residents: A case study of Chengdu, China *Regional Science Policy Practice* 2023 15 (9), 1893-1907. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12604

Focusing on Chengdu Region in China the paper uses mobile phone data to understand rural mobility and the social and orographic factors that influence it. The look into human mobility in remote rural areas, the innovative use of big data and the clear methodological approach allow robust new evidence on rural mobility and justify adequate policy advises.

AND

Ana Maria Bonomi Barufi, Eduardo Amaral Haddad, Peter Nijkamp (2023), Urban agglomeration, city size, and spatial density effects on wage flexibility: New evidence on the wage curve in Brazil. *Regional Science Policy Practice* 2023 15 (9) Pages 1998-2026. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12669

The paper estimates the relation between wages and unemployment considering spatial interaction. Results show the existence of diverse labor markets and concludes that policy makers should be aware of measures to protect formal jobs that, at local level, can increase the wage with informal workers. It is clearly a very good paper able to generate a new common sense on the functioning of labor markets when space is considered.

3.2 RSP Special Issue Award

Winners 2023

Following the rules of the RSP Special Issue Award the recipients of the RSP Special Issue Award in 2023 based on the special published in 2021 and approved by the Jury composed by Hans Westlund, Eduardo Haddad, Gordon Mulligan, David Plane and Phillip McCann are:



1st Place

Neil Reid for the Special Issues on "[Effects and Policies of Covid-19](#)" with 8 papers and 44 Cite Score citations (ratio 5,50) in September 2023.



2nd Place

Eveline S. van Leeuwen and Solmaria Halleck Vega for the Special Issue "[Voting and the rise of populism: Spatial perspectives and applications across Europe](#)" with 10 papers and 50 Cite Score Citations (ratio 5,00) in September

2023.



3rd Place

Paolo Postiglione for the Special Issue "[New directions for regional analysis: Methods and applications](#)" with 11 papers and 49 Cite Scores citations (ratio 4,45) in September 2023.

4. Expected and achieved results

In 2023, RSPP published 119 papers in 9 issues. The target for 2024 is to publish 120 papers in twelve or more special issues. The aim is to achieve an Impact Factor of 1,9 in July 2024 in the top of Quartile 2 on Geography or the lower part of Quartile 1.

5. Accounts

RSAI in 2023 allocates to RSPP, 6000 Euros for the secretariat and 5000 euros for the editorial team. The 5000 Euros for the editorial team in 2023 went to support RSPP workshops in Sarajevo (March 2024), Samarkand (May, 2024); Kayseri (May, 2024); Maputo (June, 2023), and Yerevan (October, 2024).

6. Concluding remarks

In the year 2023 we have succeeded in increasing the number of submissions and issues as well as in reaching recognition by the ISI Web of Knowledge with an Impact Factor of 1,7.

For 2024 we expect to achieve an Impact Factor of 1,9 in July 2024 in the top of Quartile 2 on Geography or the lower part of Quartile 1.

The Open Access creates a major challenge to allow all good papers to be published independently of the capacity of the authors to pay the APCs. It also puts RSPP in the “public eye” reinforcing its role to publish robust and sound scientific evidence to promote the sustainable development of people and places.

Peter Nijkamp, Ana Vinuela, Carlos Azzoni, Katarzyna kkopczewska, Neil Reid, Abdul Shaban, Budy Resosudarmo, Patricio Aroca, Andre Torre, Emmanouil Tranos, Eveline Van Leeuwen, Gabriela Pascariu, Sumana Banerjee, Isabelle Nilsson, Jiang Wang, Karima Kourtit, Karina Sass, Louafi Bouzouina, Maria Abreu, Patricia Melo, Paul Snow, Samuel Odej, Laura Atuesta, Esteban Fernández, Alfredo Cartone, Vinicius Almeida, Tomaz Ponce Dentinho.

Annex 1

RSPP Accounts of 2023



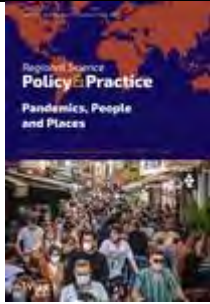


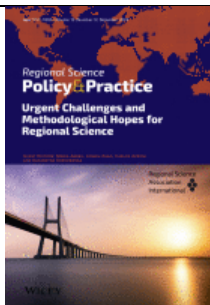
| RSPP Accounts 2023 | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Date | Description | Revenues | Expenses |
| 01/01/2023 | Balance brought forward from 2022 | - 5,24 € | |
| 12/01/2023 | RSPP SUPPORT - NARXOZ - Almaty KZ | - € | 1 500,00 € |
| 12/01/2023 | TRANSF CREDITO SEPA - bank charges | - € | 0,99 € |
| 08/03/2023 | RSPP EDITORIAL AND TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR 2023 (from RSAI) | 5 000,00 € | - € |
| 04/04/2023 | DINNER in TIRANA | - € | 450,00 € |
| 04/04/2023 | TRANSF CREDITO SEPA - bank charges | - € | 0,99 € |
| 04/04/2023 | Lunchs in Tirana | - € | 377,79 € |
| 06/04/2023 | DINNER in TIRANA | - € | 35,00 € |
| 06/04/2023 | TRANSF CREDITO SEPA - bank charges | - € | 0,99 € |
| 18/04/2023 | COMPRA IFTHENPAY - Flyers | - € | 63,64 € |
| 11/09/2023 | RSPP Special Issue Award 1st prize - Neil Reid | - € | 375,00 € |
| 11/09/2023 | TRF CRED NAO SEPA+ DE Award RSPP 1st prize - bank charges | - € | 15,60 € |
| 11/09/2023 | DESPEZA DE COMUNICACA Award RSPP 1st prize - bank charges | - € | 14,50 € |
| 12/09/2023 | Dinner RSPP meeting Valencia | - € | 88,40 € |
| 22/09/2023 | RSPP Special Issue Award 2nd prize Eveline S. van Leeuwen | - € | 125,00 € |
| 22/09/2023 | RSPP Special Issue Award 2nd prize Solmaria Halleck Vega | - € | 125,00 € |
| 22/09/2023 | TRANSF CREDITO SEPA - bank charges | - € | 0,99 € |
| 22/09/2023 | TRANSF CREDITO SEPA - bank charges | - € | 0,99 € |
| 26/09/2023 | Support Pristina Workshop | - € | 750,00 € |
| 03/10/2023 | Refund Support Pristina Workshop | 250,00 € | - € |
| 05/10/2023 | RSPP Support ERSA2023 Philip McCann | - € | 449,26 € |
| 05/10/2023 | TRANSF CREDITO SEPA - bank charges | - € | 0,99 € |
| 09/11/2023 | TRF MBWAY 964xxx988 DINNER IN NARSC | - € | 450,00 € |
| | TOTAL | 5 244,76 € | 4 825,13 € |
| | | Balance | 419,63 € |
| | Retained for maintenance of expenses ACDA (5% of the Revenues) | | 250,00 € |
| | Closing Balance for 2023 | | 169,63 € |

RSAI payment to RSPP is transferred to the ACDA (Associação para a Ciência e Desenvolvimento dos Açores) that hires Eng. Elisabete Martins and takes and overheads of 5%.

| RSPP Accounts 2024 | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Date | Description | Revenues | Expenses |
| 01/01/2024 | Balance brought forward from 2023 | 169,63 € | |
| 20/02/2024 | COMPRA PAYPAL PATRICio Aroca - speaker in ERSA 2024 | - € | 1 004,00 € |
| 06/03/2024 | RSPP EDITORIAL AND TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR 2023 (from RSAI) | 5 000,00 € | - € |
| 15/03/2024 | COMPRA KIWI.COM - Travel Maputo Taz | - € | 354,00 € |
| 05/04/2024 | RSPP Support - Conference in Samarkanda | - € | 1 000,00 € |
| 05/04/2024 | TRF CR SEPA+ PONTUAL - bank charges | - € | 0,99 € |
| | | | |
| | RSPP Special Issue Award 2024 - retained | - € | 750,00 € |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | TOTAL | 5 169,63 € | 3 108,99 € |
| | | Balance | 2 060,64 € |
| | Retained for maintenance of expenses ACDA (5% of the Revenues) | | 250,00 € |
| | Closing Balance for 2024 | | 1 810,64 € |

Annex 2

Issues of 2023

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  <p>Volume 15, Issue 1 Special Issue: Ukraine: Geopolitical Realities and Regional Development Perspectives Pages: 1-235 February 2023</p> |  <p>Volume 15, Issue 2 Pages: 237-449 April 2023</p> |  <p>Volume 15, Issue 3 Special Issue: Pandemics, People, and Places Pages: 451-710 April 2023</p> |
|  <p>Volume 15, Issue 4 Special Issue: Population Imbalances in Europe. Urban concentration versus rural depopulation Pages: 711-930 May 2023</p> |  <p>Volume 15, Issue 5 Special Issue: Regional Economic Growth and Development in the Global South Pages: 931-1125 June 2023</p> |  <p>Volume 15, Issue 6 Special Issue: Sustainable Regional Development in Sub-Saharan Africa Pages: 1127-1397 August 2023</p> |
|  <p>Volume 15, Issue 7 Special Issue: Pathbreaking trajectories: Socio-economic and Institutional de-peripheralization of marginal Areas Pages: 1399-1665 September 2023</p> |  <p>Volume 15, Issue 8 Special Issue: COVID-19, Cities and Regions: Is it merely short-term or has it changed our cities and regions forever? Pages: 1667-1887 October 2023</p> |  <p>Volume 15, Issue 9 Special Issue: Urgent Challenges and Methodological Hopes for Regional Science Pages: 1888-2352 December 2023</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
|  <p>January 2024 <u>Volume 16, Issue 1</u> Special Issue: Regional Resilience João Leitão, Bartłomiej Rokicki, João-Pedro Ferreira, Luís Cruz</p> |  <p>February 2024 <u>Volume 16, Issue 2</u> Special Issue: Sustainable Development in Western Asia and Afghanistan Abdul Shaban</p> |  <p>March 2024 <u>Volume 16, Issue 3</u> Special Issue: Regional Development in Central Asia and Africa Makhabbat Ramazanova, Andrey Shenin, Farhod Ahrorov, Louafi Bouzouina</p> |
|  <p>April 2024 <u>Volume 16, Issue 4</u> Special Issue: Western Balkans; Climate Economics Jolta Kacani, Katarzyna Kopczewska</p> | | |

RSPP Paper Award 2024

Following the nomination of the 10 best papers by the Editors of 10 Special Issues/Topics published in 2023, the Jury composed by David Plane, Philip McCann, Bruce Newbold, Neil Reid and Tomaz Dentinho agreed that the winners of the 2024 RSPP paper award based on papers published in 2023 were:

X Gao, L Liu, D Ou, H Yuwu (2023), Using mobile phone data to probe the mobility-related well-being of rural residents: A case study of Chengdu, China *Regional Science Policy Practice* 2023 15 (9), 1893-1907. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12604

Focusing on Chengdu Region in China the paper uses mobile phone data to understand rural mobility and the social and orographic factors that influence it. The look into human mobility in remote rural areas, the innovative use of big data and the clear methodological approach allow robust new evidence on rural mobility and justify adequate policy advises.

AND

Ana Maria Bonomi Barufi, Eduardo Amaral Haddad, Peter Nijkamp (2023), Urban agglomeration, city size, and spatial density effects on wage flexibility: New evidence on the wage curve in Brazil. *Regional Science Policy Practice* 2023 15 (9) Pages 1998-2026. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12669

The paper estimates the relation between wages and unemployment considering spatial interaction. Results show the existence of diverse labor markets and concludes that policy makers should be aware of measures to protect formal jobs that, at local level, can increase the wage with informal workers. It is clearly a very good paper able to generate a new common sense on the functioning of labor markets when space is considered.

David Plane, Philip McCann, Bruce Newbold, Neil Reid and Tomaz Dentinho

6th April 2024

Adjustment of the RSPP Editorial Team (1-2024)

Isabelle Nilsson, Emmanouil Tranos, Patricia Melo and Laura Atuesta indicated that they would like to finish their contribution to RSPP increasingly oriented to the design, mobilization, and implementation of special issues, with the complementary work of edition, revision and eventually authoring of papers. The editorial team of RSPP thanks very much their important contribution to the success of the journal namely with their excellent work in regional science, policy, and practice; in the mobilization, edition of good RSPP papers; and in their committed, sharp, and opportune advice and gestures.

Considering that the NARSC area has a comparatively reduced representation in RSPP Editorial Team, we propose the Council the invitation of two new associate editors for the Editorial Team:

Christa D. Court, (ccourt@ufl.edu)



Assistant Professor of Regional Economics and Director, Economic Impact Analysis Program. Christa Court's research and extension program focus on regional economic modelling and integrated modelling of human and natural systems. She serves as Director of the Economic Impact Analysis Program, which conducts regional economic analyses for funded research projects, industry organizations, and government agencies, analysing a wide range of activities and industries including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, education, and health care. Her work appeared in Papers in regional science, Regional Studies, Environment and Planning, and Regional Science Policy & Practice.

Soomi Lee, slee4@laverne.edu



Soomi Lee is a Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the University of La Verne. She teaches research design and quantitative methods, public economics, public policy analysis, and urban studies. Her research interests include state and local public finance, fiscal institutions, tax policy, redistributive policies, and urban economic resilience. Her work appeared in Urban Studies, Urban Affairs Review, Regional Studies, Journal of Socioeconomics, State Politics and Policy Quarterly, Public Finance Review, Basic Income Studies, and other outlets. She is a recipient of several grants and best paper awards.

Neil Reid (Editor for NARC) and Tomaz Dentinho (Eic)

6th April 2024