

RSAI NEWSLETTER

THE REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

new series 20 - November 2021

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FROM THE EDITORS

The newsletter of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) appears two times a year and contains information about upcoming conferences and meetings, recent events and publications, and short contributions on current themes.



Mina Akhavan (Politecnico di Milano) has joined the editorial team as of this issue. Text contributions for the newsletter are always welcome, and can be submitted directly to Martijn (m.j.smit@uu.nl) or to Mina (mina.akhavan@polimi.it). The deadline for the next issue is 15 April.

In particular, short contributions on your current research are most welcome; for the next issue, we plan to look in particular at **dynamics of peripheral regions**. We also welcome proposals for a piece in the *Center of Excellence* series.

Martijn Smit
Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Mina Akhavan
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

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WELCOME

Dear Members of the RSAI Community,

As the pandemic slowly fades away in different parts of the globe, thanks to the vaccination, we are hopefully close to resuming our activities in a new context still to be understood. I am writing this letter from my hotel room in Denver, where I attend the NARSC annual conference, my first Regional Science conference since the pandemic's start. Last week I took my first flight in 18 months, going to the Azores to participate in my first presential meeting since then. It was an extraordinary feeling to get back to interact with colleagues in conference rooms, coffee breaks, and other social activities.

Despite the resilience of our community during these times of turmoil, when we all never stopped and reinvented ourselves to maintain our teaching and research activities at their best possible in the virtual world, it is hard to be indifferent between online and face-to-face contact.

The regional science community deserves our recognition for its positive engagement during these times of stress. National sections and supra-nationals moved on with their activities, adapting their conferences and taking the lead in many countries on the debates related to coronavirus. Nonetheless, we are, more than anybody else, fully aware of the benefits of face-to-face interactions. Because of that, my view is that the benefits from our forthcoming conferences and workshops will be more intense and last longer.

I am even more optimistic about how I see us moving on now that we are getting back to a "new normal". We have learned to use digital technology constructively, and we should continue using it to our benefit. However, we should be attentive to challenges we will face during this transition, especially those related to our emerging scholars. We are planning new initiatives to engage more and more our members in the Association's activities. One of such initiatives is our project to launch soon the first International Film Festival organized by the RSAI, which will ask all participants to tell creatively their research, discovery, or new ideas related to regional science. We hope to attract students, graduates, researchers, professionals, and regional science enthusiasts



of all ages.

As I have been emphasizing on different occasions, I see people putting more value on the networks, which were fundamental to making life go during the last two years. Everybody I have been meeting in the last two weeks is delighted to return to conferences with different ideas on how to enhance the benefits from this "forced" digital experience to enlarge the menu of options for interactions, aiming at generating stronger connections, longer-lasting collaborations, and long-term multi-institutional research projects. Be assured that there is a vibrant environment waiting for all of us!

I look forward to seeing you all at the different Regional Science events already scheduled for 2022!

Eduardo Haddad

RSAI President

RSAI MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All RSAI members have online access to Papers in Regional Science (PiRS) and Regional Science Policy and Practice (RSPP): journals of the Regional Science Association International. Members will need to log in to access full text articles online.

In addition to the RSAI publications, members are offered an opportunity to purchase other regional science journals at reduced rates and participate in the national and international conferences at reduced rates.

For details on how to become a member, contact the Executive Director, Andrea Caragliu at andrea.caragliu@polimi.it, or visit www.regionalscience.org.



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN REGIONAL SCIENCE: STAVANGER

The Centre for Innovation Research of the University of Stavanger is a contributor to the debate on practice and policy – we'll take a look at how the Centre for Innovation Research in Stavanger has evolved in line with rapidly changing surrounds and shifting views on innovation policy. What has the Centre learnt through the last few years?

THE CENTRE FOR INNOVATION RESEARCH IN STAVANGER

THE CENTRE WILL soon enter its 15th year. In the last few years, SIF has focused on creating a centre that would become world-leading both nationally and internationally within the field of innovation research, strengthening the educational prospects within entrepreneurship and innovation, and stimulating innovation and cooperation between research, industry, and education in the region. The centre's ambition was, and still is, to be a primary contributor to the debate on practice and policy and to be an internationally visible and recognised research environment.

The Centre was established in 2007 by the University of Stavanger (UiS) and IRIS (now NORCE: "The Norwegian Research Centre") and was made possible through basic funding from the Gjedebo family worth NOK 50 million.



*The Elise Ottesen Jensen building,
University of Stavanger*

THE THREE GENERATIONS OF INNOVATION POLICY

Innovation policy has had various roles, directions and mandates. This is particularly evident in the work of Schot and Steinmueller (2018), which suggests that innovation policy has developed over three generations. These three generations have a different understanding of how innovations come about and relate to surrounding structures and frameworks that can act as drivers for and barriers to innovation. The first generation is based on a linear understanding of innovation, which starts with research and development (R&D) and ends with innovations. This idea of innovation emerged around the 1940s and was the dominant philosophy up until 1980. The main essence of it was that R&D was the primary provider of knowledge, and the role of public policy was to correct market failure. This understanding of how innovation occurs no longer has the same prominent position, and Nathan Rosenberg even stated that "everyone knows that the linear model of innovation is dead." If not dead, the Centre's

research has not been inspired by this standpoint.

However, the Centre's research has been considerably anchored in the second generation's innovation policy concerning the innovation system. This is based on an interactive understanding of innovation and emphasises that innovation does not exclusively come from the R&D environment but can emerge based on the needs and/or demands in a larger interactive learning system. This philosophy emerged in the 1990s and emphasised, to a large extent, the need for public support for networks, industrial clusters and regional innovation systems to stimulate innovation by promoting increased interaction, collaboration and learning. Here, the role of public policy was to correct system failures. This can be seen, for example, in the Norwegian Official Report (2014:16)⁵ on the restructuring of the seafood industry, which was led by Ragnar Tveterås and received substantial contributions from collaborators at the Centre. The Centre has focused on cooperation and collaboration across the public and private sectors, where one can observe that functions from tools and effects are put into the system. An example of this is the project Tools for Regional Innovation (VRI), and in 2014, the Centre led one of the so-called "synthesis projects", which was designed to strengthen the research quality of the VRI programme. The leader of the project was professor Bjørn T. Asheim, and it partnered with Bergen University College (now HVL: "The Western Norway University of Applied Sciences"), the University of Agder and NIFU.

The project discovered that, with one exception, Agder, there was no well-functioning regional innovation system (RIS) in Norway. But we found that strong regional industrial clusters primarily collaborated with NNU/SINTEF to develop innovations. One of the project's conclusions was that Trondheim's dominance could easily lead to lock-in tendencies and a lack of capacity for an industrial changeover.

This problem was followed by a one-year project in the Research for research and innovation policy (FORINNPOL) programme in 2017–2018. Here, we looked at what kind of innovation policies were necessary to bring about radical industrial restructuring. One of the conclusions was that this could most effectively be advanced by combinations of non-related knowledge. The Centre has been/is involved in major international projects, such as RUNIN, "The Role of Universities in Innovation and Regional Development" (2016–2021), with Rune Dahl Fitjar as project manager. This project aimed to train future researchers to become experts in how universities can stimulate innovation and development in the regions in which they are located, as part of the universities' third purpose. The Centre is now a partner in a corresponding EU network, POLISS – Policies for Smart Specialisation, coordinated from the University of Utrecht, in the Netherlands, and aims to educate future researchers who can improve the EU's smart specialisation policy.

The third generation of innovation policy aims to find solutions for the major societal challenges through research and innovations that are both responsible and sustainable, and where one also seeks to change the economic system in the same direction. The state's role in this generation's innovation policy goes beyond correcting market and system failures to also, for example, shape and create markets for new durable products and services through public procurement policies.

The Centre has had several major projects connected to innovations in the public sector, with two major research council projects led by Tatiana Iakovleva. She, among other things, investigates how IT solutions can help develop responsible health and welfare services anchored in Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).

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THE ROAD FORWARD AND LEARNINGS ALONG THE WAY

The Centre now plays an active role in the green shift by taking leadership in developing a major industrial innovation project under the government's "Green Platform" programme concerning low emission value chains for mariculture at sea. The project meets the oil-related industry (Moreld, ABB, Aker) and the value chain for mariculture (Salmar, Grieg Seafood, Skretting) as strong participants and financiers. The project aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions at all stages of the value chain, as well as contribute to public regulations that are incentivised to reduce carbon footprints. In September 2021, we received the great news that the Green Platform project was awarded close to 100 million NOK for a three-year period.

The Centre is able to provide new knowledge of high international relevance disseminated in the leading research journals while making active contributions to practical innovation by having a role in innovation projects and through dialogues with governments and businesses. Close cooperation with regional stakeholders in the private and public sectors is a win-win solution: This provides better and more relevant research and contributes most effectively to solve concrete challenges (for example, smart specialisation and development towards a green mariculture industry). This means that the Centre should be both a critical voice, when necessary, but also play ball with other societal agencies in a solution-orientated approach. And finally, research-based knowledge provides the best basis for policy advice.

VIBRANT RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

The Centre is ranked first in Norway within innovation research and regional development and as the best research centre at the University of Stavanger (according to SAMEVAL: "the Evaluation of the Social Sciences in Norway"). The Centre moved forward to the second stage of the prestigious "Centre of Excellence Scheme" in 2021.



Jonathan Muringani

The Centre is very proud of its vibrant student environment. Our very own Jonathan Muringani was recently awarded the Paul Benneworth PhD Student Award 2021 from the Regional Studies Association (RSA) for the best paper in the field authored by a PhD Student. The Paul Benneworth award recognizes excellence amongst the Regional Studies PhD student community. It is a great honour and motivation for our environment that our former PhD student has received this.

Read more here: [Jonathan Muringani receives Paul Benneworth Award 2021](#)

In 2020 the Centre hosted the [5th Geography of Innovation Conference](#), GEOINNO, with over 400 delegates present for a packed event.

Last year, the Centre was presented with the "Institutional Ambassador Award 2020" by the Regional Studies Association (RSA). The RSA highlighted that "the award is a recognition of a leading institution in the field for their promotion of regional issues".

Marte C.W. Solheim, Bjørn Terje Asheim and Ragnar Tveterås



Prof. Tom Broekel with the RSA award

BEN STEVENS FELLOWSHIP

MELISSA HALLER, A Ph.D. candidate in Geography at the University of California, Los Angeles has been selected as the winner of the 21st Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science. The Fellowship will provide a 2021–2022 Academic Year stipend of \$30,000 to support Ms. Haller's dissertation research on *Economic Crises, Knowledge Workers, and the Geography of Economic Recovery*.



Ms. Haller's research investigates economic decline in large firms across the United States and the consequences of that decline for workers and cities. The results of this dissertation will be of wide-ranging interest to regional scientists and policymakers, especially in the context of the resilience of cities and regions to the economic disruptions and restructurings brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. Ms. Haller's doctoral research is supervised by David Rigby, Professor of Geography at UCLA.

In addition to selecting the Fellowship recipient, the Selection Committee identified two applicants as meriting special recognition as finalists in the 21st Annual Competition: Amelia Pludow, University of California, Santa Barbara, advised by Alan Murray; and Hui Shen, University of Illinois at Chicago, advised by Jane Lin. The 21st competition winner and finalists will be recognized at the awards luncheon of the 68th North American Meetings of the RSAI in Denver.

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.

David Plane

Secretary, NARSC's Ben Stevens Fellowship Committee

MASARYK UNIVERSITY BRONZE MEDAL

PROF. MANFRED FISCHER, Professor Emeritus in economic geography at the WU-Vienna University of Economics and Business, and Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, received the Bronze Medal of Masaryk University in Brno (Czech Republic) for his contribution to establish the Regional Economics Ph.D. program and my contribution to the development of the Faculty of Economics and Administration of Masaryk University.

The ceremonial act of presenting the medal in front of the faculty academic community and members of the Scientific Board took place on 11 October 2021 as part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Faculty.



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RSAI WORLD CONGRESS 2021

THE 2021 RSAI World Congress was an amazing meeting, which has sent us a very powerful message: despite the pandemic, the great regional science international community continues its glorious way, continues to nourish its longstanding values – the top quality of the scientific ideas, support for networking, friendship, openness for diversity. If I had to choose just three highlights of the Congress, these would be:

- The initiative of including in the programme special sessions proposed by the national sections as well as special sessions dedicated to countries where national sections are not yet established, which has offered a comprehensive image on the regional scientists' achievements all over the world.
- The assignment of a discussant for each keynote speech, ensuring dynamism and a high level of the corresponding scientific debates.
- The wonderful final surprise of providing us with the Congress proceedings, laying the foundation for further networking between the participants.

The digital infrastructure worked flawlessly, so that all participants could fully enjoy this large-scale online conference – a thoughtfully designed response of

the RSAI to the pandemic challenges. Congratulations and many thanks to the organisers for this unforgettable event!

*Daniela-Luminita Constantin,
President of the Romanian Regional Science Association,
RSAI Councillor-at-Large*



Session at the RSAI conference; on the top row Eduardo Haddad, RSAI president, and next to him prof. Constantin

THE STRANGE TALE OF HOW WE ENDED UP WITH TWO REGIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS

PART TWO OF A SERIES

BY PETER BATEY, RSAI ARCHIVIST

(PWJBATEY@LIV.AC.UK)



ONE OF THE questions most often asked by new participants in regional research is why are there two organizations: the Regional Science Association International and the Regional Studies Association? This article is intended to answer that question.

Our story begins with a conference organized in London in 1955 to discuss regional planning and development; as the first major event of its kind, the conference attracted enormous interest internationally, recommending the setting up of an International Centre, to be based in Brussels. National groups would be set up under the umbrella of the Centre in countries where interest was greatest, including Great Britain.

One of the speakers at the London conference was none other than Walter Isard, then working as a regional economist in the planning school at MIT. Whereas most papers focused on regional physical planning, Isard's contribution set out an argument for rigorous economic analysis at the regional scale.

A British Group, affiliated with the International Centre, was duly formed in 1957. It largely consisted of regional planners and geographers, few of whom had any analytical background. These academics and practitioners were chiefly concerned with the practice of regional planning in both the developed and the developing world. By 1963 the Group was making slow progress and, amid growing impatience with its parent body in Brussels, was on the point of breaking away.

It started to look for a new home, considering several options, among them a proposal for a new, autonomous, British-based body: the Association for Regional Planning and Development. Significantly, however, some members of the Group had attended early European Congresses of the Regional Science Association, in The Hague, Zurich and Ghent, and had begun to consider whether that organization would be a suitable base.

Meanwhile, Isard was working hard to generate interest in regional science throughout the world. In many respects, this was an ideal time to promote regional science and the Regional Science Association: his *Methods in Regional Analysis* textbook had just been published; the Regional Science Association's North American base was by now well established; the Association's constitution now allowed for the formation of sections.

And so it was that in the summer of 1960, Isard famously brought his large family to Europe and toured the continent in a VW microbus, stopping off for conferences along the way. In quick succession, he visited The Hague, Paris, Bellagio, Zagreb, Warsaw, Stockholm and Lund. This proved to be a highly successful way of creating a community of European regional scientists, many of whom had up till now been working in isolation. Isard wasted no time in the founding country- and language-based sections wherever he could.

Arguably, the most important of the many conferences Isard attended was organized by the European Productivity Agency in Bellagio to identify techniques for analysis of less developed areas. The program included a paper from Nobel Laureate Richard Stone on regional social accounting, soon to

become a classic. It clearly made an impression on Isard. A few months after the Bellagio conference, Isard wrote to Stone at Cambridge University inviting him to take the lead in founding a British Section:

'...Great Britain seems to be behind other nations in regional research. It seemed to us that in view of the interest that you and your department have in regional analysis, it would be logical for you and your department to assume the leadership in this matter, provided, of course, you folks are in a position to do so, and feel that such a step is desirable...'

Much to Isard's disappointment, Stone turned him down. He pulled no punches in his response:

'I think a British section of the RSA would be a good idea in principle, but I do not know what the response would be and I do not feel able to take on the initial organising responsibilities. In England especially it is very important to get off on the right foot and I feel that for a proper response the local convener should be someone who is fairly and squarely a regional scientist. Interested as I am in the subject, I cannot claim to be that.'



Sir Richard Stone

Having failed at the first attempt, Isard approached other British academics but without success. Eventually, in 1963, he settled on Gunther Hirsch, an agricultural economist based at Oxford University, as the main collaborator in his efforts to find a 'British Isles Section'. He sent Hirsch a list of RSA members in Britain, and together they made plans to hold an exploratory meeting in London in July 1964.

Writing to Isard in May 1964, Hirsch commented:

'Outside a rather small circle of 'initiated' people few know what regional science is, in any case in this country. As we intend to invite not only the 'initiated' but also those who might or should be interested, we would be grateful if you would choose as your topic 'The International Situation in Regional Science' and would give us an outline of what is being done in this field of study and how it can be applied in practice'

An invitation went out to a meeting at the London School of Economics, with Isard as the main speaker, to discuss the formation of a British Isles Section. It came from Leslie Jay, Nathaniel Lichfield and Hirsch himself, all of whom had been early attendees at European Congresses of the RSA. The response was overwhelming but was largely made up of 'establishment' academics and practitioners who, as Hirsch had suggested, would need to be convinced about the practical use of regional science. For the most part, they lacked the mathematical and statistical background needed to apply regional science techniques. In fairness, Isard did his best to tailor his presentation to his audience by concentrating on the less abstract aspects of his subject, but not enough it seems to satisfy most.

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE

In the aftermath of the 1964 LSE meeting, a steering group considered whether to accept Isard's invitation to form a British Isles section; the steering group was largely made up of those from the British Group of the International Centre based in Brussels. The Regional Science Association constitution, with its emphasis on politically neutral regional research, proved to be an initial stumbling block, but this was soon overcome as Isard was willing to compromise. However, the use

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of the word 'science' in the title met strong resistance from the British side. Here there was no room for compromise. As a result of this impasse, the steering group recommended the formation of a new body: the Regional Studies Association; this went ahead in early 1965.

Negotiations continued with Isard on whether this new body could affiliate with the Regional Science Association; this proved impossible to agree because Isard maintained that the Regional Science Association was a federation of individuals, not organizations. Discussion took place about possible collaboration: around a possible Regional Science European Congress in London in 1967 and a regional science presence at the international conference to launch the Regional Studies Association, in York; despite goodwill on both sides, nothing was to come of this.

John Madge, inaugural chair of the Regional Studies Association, made the gesture of joining the Regional Science Association; he invited Isard to reciprocate; Isard declined but donated instead. Isard was adamant that he wanted to continue his effort to form a British Isles section, arguing that many younger, mathematically-minded academics were dissatisfied with the 'softer' approach of the Regional Studies Association. He confided in Richard Stone that he was '... still hoping we can form a British Isles section composed strictly of 'hard' analysts concerned with basic theoretical and empirical research.'

Isard enlisted the support of Allen Scott, who was shortly to return to Britain after working with Isard at Penn. Based at University College London, Scott



Allen Scott

collaborated with two other mathematically-minded regional scientists, David Harvey (Bristol) and Alan Wilson (Centre for Environmental Studies), to found a British Section very much along the lines Isard had wanted. By 1967, the Section was up and running, and negotiations were underway to create a book series, London Papers in Regional Science, publishing papers from the Section's annual conferences. The Section had thus been formed at the third attempt,

around a nucleus of quantitative geographers, planners, and transport analysts; interestingly, and in contrast to other RSA sections, economists played a relatively minor role: only by the early 1980s was there a more even balance of contributing disciplines.

Meanwhile, the Regional Studies Association has proved to be a very effective organization, expanding from its initial base in Britain to create its own activities in different parts of the world and with a highly successful journal, Regional Studies. Over the years, relations between the Regional Studies Association and the Regional Science Association have been cordial, with each association identifying a distinctive role for itself. There has been a growing recognition that the two organizations have far more in common than dividing them.

YOUNG SCHOLAR INTERVIEW: MARCO DI CATALDO

You are for sure one of the successful young scholars in regional science; how would you advise young PhD students and early career researchers in building a successful career in academia or outside (in the industry?)

WHILE THIS MAY sound obvious, my main advice would be to follow your interests and goals as much as possible, not someone else's. I often meet young researchers getting stuck in job positions they do not like but feel they cannot refuse or are involved in research projects they do not truly appreciate but do only because their supervisor/line manager wants them to. My feeling



is that many early-career scholars perceive a trade-off between independence and career progression. I believe maintaining intellectual independence rather increases, not decreases, the possibility to build a successful career, as employers (as well as supervisors, co-authors, colleagues, etc.) value the capacity to bring forward your own ideas. When writing a PhD Thesis, one should never forget it is their thesis, not their supervisor's. When assigned responsibility for a research project, it is always good to try and give it a personal touch or twist. And most importantly, if a job is not what it was supposed to be, one should never forget that their skills are valuable (even more so if they hold a PhD), and there are many alternative job options out there.

As a young scholar, how do you make a balance between research and teaching? Especially during the pandemics and the shift towards hybrid working?

I enjoy both doing research and teaching. Personally, given how teaching is organised at Ca' Foscari University (each 30hour-course is condensed within 5 weeks), I mainly focus on teaching during teaching periods and dedicate to research, especially when I have less or no teaching commitments. The Covid-19 pandemic has made teaching more challenging, as some students attend lectures online. Making lectures engaging has become more complicated. I believe the shift towards higher accessibility of higher education – not necessarily requiring physical attendance – is for the better. As teachers, we need to find the best formula to facilitate students in class and those attending remotely. However, while working from home has been necessary during the worst moments of the current pandemic, I hope that it will no longer be necessary when we are entirely out of it. I believe in universities as environments nurturing intellectual exchanges and ideas, and face-to-face physical interactions are by far better than meeting remotely online.

Tell us a bit about the importance of receiving awards and prizes, in general, for early career researchers.

Awards and prizes are undoubtedly important to reinforce the profile of early career researchers and boost their employment prospects. Without a doubt, curricula look nicer with a longer list of awards in them. In my case, had I not been awarded the Full Scholarship as a PhD student, I would probably not be an academic today. That said, while awards to a paper or a research project can be seen as a 'certificate of quality', projects do not necessarily need awards to be called successful. The logic according to which prizes are assigned may vary, depending on the organisation awarding them. What matters more than prizes,

in my view, is the reception of research outputs by the academic community and the extent to which its findings are impactful even beyond that. My goal as a social science researcher is for my papers to draw attention at conferences, to appear once published in other well-published works, and ideally also to be covered by media and be included in policy reports to have some (even if minor) influence on policymaking. All these are signs of research excellence that also increase the employability of young scholars. My experience tells me they can happen whether or not a research project was awarded a prize in the first place.

The world switched to digital during the pandemic; conferences are online, some lunch seminars go worldwide. How does this impact the regional science community, you think?

Having participated in many regional science conferences, I could appreciate how these events are always great occasions for social interactions among scholars, networking, learning, and developing fruitful scientific collaborations. The regional science community truly recognises the importance and value of building a positive social environment among academics, which is far from easy to create and that I have not found in the same way in other scientific communities. For this reason, the fact that conferences and seminars have moved fully online (hopefully temporarily) has represented a big challenge for this academic group, given that the quality of exchanges is inevitably lower than in presence. On the other hand, this has possibly broadened the community by allowing more people to attend events. I think the goal for the post-pandemics period should be to recover the 'old habits', with international conferences allowing interactive learning through the physical meeting while making participation in conference sessions and seminars also possible online.

Mina Akhavan

IN MEMORIAM: ANTOINE BAILLY

Tony Bailly, 36th President (1995 – 1996) of the WRSA, and a Fellow of the RSAI, will be deeply missed — and fondly remembered — by RSAI members with whom he interacted and with all those whose lives he touched.

Tony was a pre-eminent scholar whose work spanned a wide range of topics that captured his lively curiosity and attention: human geography, regional science, regional medicometry, viticulture, and enology were among the fields that captured his passionate interest and to which he devoted his keen intellect and highly energetic organizations skills. His *joie de vivre* suffused all that he did; his appetites for skiing, good wine, and living life to the fullest were voracious.

French-born, Tony's doctorate was from the Paris-Sorbonne Université. Tony spent much of his career in Switzerland, where he held the position of Professor of Human Geography at the Université de Genève from 1974 until being awarded Emeritus status in 2004. Prior to assuming his professorial position at the Université de Genève, Tony held a faculty position at the Paris School of Architecture, and he split his years between teaching there and working as one of the early research faculty of the newly established Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique Urbanisation in Montréal.

Tony's initial introduction to regional science came in the mid-1960s when he went to



Philadelphia for an exploratory year. At Penn he studied with Walter Isard and Tom Reiner, and there he met Mario Polèse, then a doctoral student. Later, Mario and Tony would be among those who — along with WRSA Fellow Jean Paelinck, Board Member Denis Maillat, and others — were instrumental in forging joint ventures between WRSA, CRSA, and the Association de Science Régionale de Langue Française. For a number of years WRSA had a vibrant "French Section." WRSA conferences regularly featured special bilingual French-English paper sessions cosponsored with the ASRLF and the CRSA, and a reciprocal membership agreement between CRSA and WRSA, along with the opportunity for a mid-winter break in warmer climes, helped draw large contingents from Quebec and Europe.

Tony's involvement in WRSA traces back to discussions at summer conferences in Europe with the Association's longtime Executive Secretary, Lay Gibson. Observing that he resided in "the West of Switzerland," Tony became a WRSA "regular" after attending his first conference in 1986: our 25th Annual Meeting at the Surf and Sand Hotel in Laguna Beach. WRSA's unique blend of high-quality, seminar-style academic sessions; the applied focus of much of the research presented at our conferences; and the importance given to social events and to the forging interpersonal relationships with scholars from around the world were attributes of WRSA that Tony found attractive. These were also aspects which he would begin promoting and enhancing.

Among Tony's many academic and professional leadership roles, he served as President of the Regional Science Association from 2003 through 2004. During his term as RSAI President he promoted the growth of regional science around the world and advanced the idea of universal membership for all who belong to an affiliated regional science association.

Tony's promotional efforts were not restricted to regional science and the academic world. He took great delight in kindling popular interest in all things geographic, serving for eight years as scientific Director of the International Festival of Geography. In some of the years of his tenure the festival attracted more than 40,000 participants.

In 2008 Tony was honored with regional science's most prestigious scholarly award: The Founder's Medal. He was elected a Fellow of the RSAI in 2009 and was an active member of the Regional Science Academy.

*David Plane
(reproduced from the Fall 2021 issue of the WRSA newsletter)*



IN MEMORIAM: SVEN ERLANDER

Professor Sven Erlander died on June 13 2021 at the age of 87. He was a leading scholar in regional and transportation science. His academic field was optimization with contributions of lasting value in transportation modelling.

Sven Erlander was for twelve years President of Linköping University.

Folke Snickars

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IN MEMORIAM: ÅKE ANDERSSON

Professor Åke E Andersson has deceased in Falkenberg Sweden at the age of 85. Åke earned his Ph D degree in economics at Gothenburg University in 1967. In the 1970s he worked in the Master Planning Department of the City of Stockholm, at the Regional Science Department of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis IIASA in Vienna.



In the years 1979–1988 he was Professor of Regional Economics at the University of Umeå, where he also organised a yearly Chamber Music Festival. During 1988–1999 he was Director of the Institute for Futures Studies in Stockholm and in the 2000s he was first Professor of Infrastructure Economics at KTH and later in Economics at Jönköping University.

Åke's research focused on regional development, especially the importance of economies of scale and interdependencies between firms, households and other actors. He was among the first to address deeply the importance of infrastructure for industrial and regional development. He developed path-breaking theories on the combination of cognition, creativity, communication, and culture, and coined the notion the so-called c-society, which he developed in a large number of scientific articles and books.

These theories came to be of fundamental importance for some of the most important regional development issues of the late 1900th century in Sweden and internationally. In particular, his thoughts played a major role for the establishment of the University of Southern Stockholm, and the International Business School JIBS in Jönköping. Many other regions and cities have developed future images with the help of Åke's paradigm of the c-society. A prime example is the integration in the Öresund region through economies of scale in higher education and research.

Åke was an intellectual giant also internationally and a centre of gravity in regional science in all continents. He collaborated with scientists in areas as medicine, psychology, history, mathematics, and philosophy. He had a friendly and positive charisma, which made people in his vicinity feel happy, inspired, and creative. He combined this, and his enormous memory capabilities, with a wealth of ideas and a positive job spirit rarely seen. He was always generous in sharing his ideas.

During later years, Åke directed his research efforts to binding together theories of regional and institutional economics with theories from other disciplines. This resulted in a final monograph on space, time and capital, which he authored together with his son David.

It was a never-ending joy for us to have him as close friend and colleague.

prof. em. Björn Hårsman (Regional Economic Planning), prof. em. Anders Karlqvist (Systems Analysis), prof. em. Folke Snickars (Regional Planning), Ulf Strömquist, (former CEO, Temaplan Group Stockholm), and Bo Wijkmark (former director, Stockholm Regional Planning Office)

ERSA PRIZE

The ERSA European Prize in Regional Science 2021 has been awarded to Juan R. Cuadrado-Roura, Applied Economics Professor Emeritus, University of Alcalá, Spain; Founder Director of the Institute for Economic and Social Analysis (IAES); Director of the PhD Program on Economics and Legal Sciences, University C. J. Cela, Madrid.

Inspired by social and territorial inequalities in the distribution of income, poverty, unemployment, etc. Juan R. Cuadrado-Roura's scientific career has been very prolific whilst contributing to policy as an analyst or adviser.



The research achievements of Juan R. Cuadrado-Roura are numerous and outstanding. He is the author or co-author of more than 60 books, more than 140 research articles and book chapters. To cite a few recent publications: *Política Económica* (a handbook on Economic Policy), 6th. Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2019; *Service Industries and Regions* and *Regional Problems and Policies in Latin America*, Springer, 2014; *Development, contributions and trends in regional studies in Spain: An overview*, *Papers in Regional Science*, 2020, 99 (2), pp. 327–358

Juan has also acted as an expert and consultant for various international organizations including the European Commission, the OECD and the World Bank.

His contributions to the Regional Science Community are also impressive and include founding editor of the first Spanish regional journal (*Estudios Regionales*), 2nd President of the Spanish Regional Science Association (AECR), President of ERSA (1995–1999) and organizer the 21st ERSA Congress (1981) and the RSAI World Congress (1992), as well as many national and international congresses and workshops on regional problems and policies.

Finally, prof. Cuadrado-Roura has received five Doctorates Honoris Causa. He is a corresponding member of the Royal Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, as well as other scientific institutions. Recognitions within the RSAI-ERSA Community are also numerous, to mention only recent ones: the Hirotada Kohno Award for Outstanding Service to the RSAI (2017), AECR Prize of regional Science (2019), ERSA Winter School Class 2021 labeled “Juan R. Cuadrado-Roura”, RSAI fellow (2020).

HIROTADA KOHNO AWARD

Prof. Kingsley Haines, GMU, has been unanimously acclaimed by the jury, made up of Eduardo Haddad, Serena Erendira, Roberta Capello, and Bob Stimson, winner of 2021 Hirotada Kohno Award.



As you perhaps know, this is the most important prize for thanking people for their outstanding service to the RSAI. The jury defined Prof. Haynes as one of

the unrivaled icons in regional science, with an unprecedented international outreach. He has been a lifetime contributor to regional science, not only in North America but also in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific. Professor Haynes has served RSAI in a wide variety of capacities. In addition to the formal service roles that Professor Haynes has performed, it is also noteworthy that he has been an energetic ambassador for Regional Science both inside and outside of academia. His impressive and effective participation in most regional science activities around the world for many decades deserves recognition and gratitude.

Andrea Caragliu

RSAI NEWSLETTER

THE REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

new series 20 - November 2021

THEME: DIGITAL GEOGRAPHIES

COVID SHOWS THAT BETTER BROADBAND IS NOT ENOUGH TO KEEP LOCAL ECONOMIES AFLOAT

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THE CONVERSATION

WHEN COVID SAW the UK government [tell](#) people to work from home in early 2020, the expectation was that they would use digital technologies to do so. Scientists [worldwide](#) have since highlighted how [the pandemic](#) has [intensified the effect](#) of the digital divide (the gap between those who have access to the latest technology and those who do not).

Amid its COVID recovery plans for England, the UK government is [aiming](#) to expand digital infrastructure, 5G and fibre optic broadband across the country.

As [our research shows](#) however, bridging the digital divide is about more than making sure everyone has access to digital infrastructure and having the skills to use it. Communication scientists speak of the [third level](#) of the digital divide: the capacity to use digital technologies to enhance economic activities.

PATTERNS OF DEMAND

Household demand for bandwidth to download large video files or stream faster from online television services has been growing for a long time. Conversely, until the pandemic hit, relatively few people were using data at a volume that would have affected network performance.

When half the workforce started working from home, however, and the country's schoolchildren and students were sent home too, videoconferencing took off. We expected this extreme demand for telecommuting during working hours to change the pattern of internet use and broadband performance.

To determine how this affected the economic resilience of different places – their capacity to maintain economic activity – during the pandemic, we analysed [data](#) on the upload and download speeds that internet users experienced during the first UK lockdown in 2020.

We [found](#) that patterns of demand changed a lot in most of the UK, both in terms of download and upload speeds. People weren't only using the internet to download data (movies or music, for example) but to upload data, primarily for videoconferencing. Zoom, after all, counted [300 million daily meeting participants](#) worldwide at its April 2020 peak.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CORRELATIONS

Now, only half of the UK's workforce were able to continue working remotely. The other half still had to go into work or were [furloughed](#).

To understand whether existing economic divides and digital divides overlapped or diverged, we first [created clusters](#) of local authorities based on upload internet speeds as experienced by internet users in these places during the lockdown. We then correlated these [clusters](#) with various economic and geographical variables: distances to cities, the north-south economic divide, different occupations, average earnings, number of jobs and businesses, and furlough numbers.

[Our findings](#) indicate that areas, including Bristol and Cambridge, with relatively slow and unreliable internet services were not those with the highest percentages of people on furlough. Increased demand for digital services such as Zoom and the resulting network congestion occurred in these areas where (and perhaps because) occupations were more economically resilient: they were able to continue operating despite the pandemic.

Conversely, some areas with reliably high broadband speeds, suffered economically as reflected in high furlough numbers. These areas are characterised by a lack of jobs in the kind of occupations (technology and business services) that enable workers to be productive at home.

The temporary shift to flexible working models ushered in by the pandemic appears to be lasting. Some [employers](#) want their staff to return to the office, but many more are planning for hybrid or flexible working. A few are considering a permanent shift to remote working.

This means that the demand for fast and reliable upload and download speeds during working hours in residential areas is here to stay. [Ofcom's latest reports](#) already include more data on upload speeds, and internet service providers will no doubt need to focus more on what customers need during working hours. Government ministers, meanwhile, should be thinking not only about 5G and the wider digital infrastructure, but also about the sort of jobs and skills people need in order to make the best use of it.

As our research illustrates, in order for a place to be economically resilient – for the local economy to continue to operate – during a pandemic, government ministers, community leaders and economists alike need to consider not only the digital divides linked to the internet's physical infrastructure, but also the associated economic and social divides.

Broadband policies, although necessary, cannot boost the economic resilience of places on their own, where the industrial structure does not align with occupations that incorporate the digital skills and capabilities to work from home. This complex web of digital and socio-economic divides needs to be incorporated into our thinking of local economies and government priorities.

[Hannah Budnitz](#) and [Emmanouil Tranos](#)

The theme of 'digital geographies' did not resonate as much as the newsletter editors believed. Feel free to contact us with contributions or suggestions for upcoming newsletters! The May 2022 issue will feature contributions on 'dynamics of peripheral regions'.

