

MINUTES

RSAI COUNCIL MEETING LISBON, 2015

RSAI Council 27th 13H00 to 16H00

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose welcomed the current and new members of the RSAI Council. The members and guest members presented themselves around the table. The meeting began with 11 of the 15 members of the RSAI Council (Annex 1)

1. Apologies (JCT) (Annex 1)

Council members present: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (President), Jacques Poot (Elected President), André Torre (ERSA Representative), Yuzuru Miyata (PRSCO Representative), Carlos Azzoni (RSAmericas Representative), Neil Reid (RSAmericas Representative), Daniel A. Griffith (Councillor at Large), Tüzün Baycan (Councillor at Large), Emmanouil Tranos (Councillor at Large), Hans Westlund (Councillor at Large), and Tomaz Dentinho (Councillor at large and Executive Director).

Apologies from Council Members: Isabelle Thomas (ERSA representative), Jichung Yang (PRSCO Representative), Budy Resosudarmo (PRSCO Representative), and Richard Shearmur (RSAmericas Representative).

Long Range Planning Committee Members present: Peter Nijkamp, Roberta Capello, Jean-Claude Thill, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, and Jacques Poot.

Ex-officio members present: Roberta Capello (Editor of PIRS); Francisco Carballo-Cruz (Treasurer) and Alessandra Faggian (Editor of PIRS).

Invited Members present: Jouke Van Dijk (ERSA President), Richard Kelly (ERSA Executive Director), Carlos Azzoni (RSAmericas President), Neil Reid (RSAmericas Executive Director), Raymond Florax (Chair of the Publishing Committee).

M-I. RSAI Council acknowledged the apologies unanimously.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of Washington Council held on November 2014.

M-II. RSAI Council approved unanimously the Minutes of the Washington Council (November 2014)

3. Report and Accounts of 2014 (Annex2)

Tomaz Ponce Dentinho reported that during 2014 contacts with potential new sections have been promoted in Europe (Armenia) and new sections were created in Latin America (Ecuador); the number of enrolled members expanded from 3450 in 2011 to 3888 in 2012, 4081 in 2013 and 4368 in 2014; and that there was a net profit in 2014. The bank balance increased from 200,598.86 € in 2011, to 209,634.10 € in 2012, 231,806.60 € in 2013, and to 259,854.69 € in 2014, assuming an exchange rate of 1.28 €/1 £. Some losses of 781.55 € (low risk investment) and 3,136.20 € linked to the return of public support for the 2nd RSAI Summer Course in 2012 were reported. The cancellation of the Congress in Thailand implied costs of only 8,608.83 €, as not all fees paid were requested to be returned. Those participants whose fees were not returned can nevertheless request a waiver of the fee for the 2016 Congress in Istanbul.

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose asked the Councillors for remarks on the Report and Accounts of 2014. As there were no remarks or questions Andrés Rodríguez-Pose asked for the approval of the Report and Accounts for 2014.

M-III. RSAI Reports and Accounts were approved unanimously by the Council

4. Middle term report of 2015.

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose reported that the two measures approved by the RSAI Council in Washington 2014 – *Nurturing New Talent* and *Building Bridges* – had been implemented successfully. *Nurturing New Talent* aims to promote the development of Regional Science by co-financing workshops and summer institutes, supported three applications: the European Institute in Vienna, one Workshop in Barcelona, and one Summer Course in Romania. An initiative in the US was not supported, due to the fact that the application was done after the event had taken place. *Building Bridges* has the objective to facilitate the participation of researchers from low-income and lower-middle-income economies at the main Regional Science Conferences: ERSA, NARSC and PRSCO. In this case there was one applicant from Kirgizstan whose request to attend the ERSA conference was approved.

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose requested that these measures be extended in order to launch new open new calls in September for actions to be taken after January 2016. Neil Reid seconded the proposal.

M-III. The RSAI Council approved unanimously the extension of the programs *Nurturing New Talent* and *Building Bridges*

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose informed the Council that a new measure will be proposed in the RSAI Council of Portland in November aimed at supporting young researchers pursue high-risk research strategies seed funding, with an aim of developing fully fledged proposals to be presented to research councils across the world. Jouke Van Dijk asked for a larger explanation. Andrés Rodríguez Pose explained that early career seed funding support was common and popular in many other scholarly associations and universities and that small amounts of seed funding could make a real difference for young researchers, and especially for those whose location did not facilitate the availability of research funds. Emmanouil Tranos suggested that the support should be open to researchers in developed and developing countries. Andrés Rodríguez-Pose replied that the support would be available to young researchers (below the age of 33) located anywhere in the world and that, only in case of equal merit, would criteria of level of development of the country of location be taken into consideration. Alexandra Faggian reported the support provided by other institutions such as the Royal Geographical Society. Neil Reid reinforced the proposal that NARSC can supplement these funds. Carlos Azzoni suggested that the applications could be made through the sections that could provide an extra support. Tomaz Ponce Dentinho said that the sections could have a say in the projects that come from their members. Andrés Rodríguez-Pose concluded that, given potential tax constraints, it would be better to channel applications directly through the RSAI. He thanked councillors for the useful comments, welcomed the possibility suggested by Neil Reid of making this a RSAI-NARSC initiative in North America, and said that he will write a formal proposal for the RSAI Council in Portland in November so that the new line of support can be initiated in 2016.

Concerning the relations between RSAI and Wiley Blackwell Andrés Rodríguez-Pose said that RSAI is still making a profit, but there is a major concern on the amount paid in subscription fees. He also reported that there had been limited progress in discussions with Wiley Blackwell (especially concerning dealing with the backlog in Papers in Regional Science) and RSAI should think on creating an open tender for publishing RSAI journals before the current contract expires in 2018.

5. New Councillors at Large 2016-2018 (Annex 3).

(Tomaz Ponce Dentinho left the room because he stood for election as councillor at large)

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose explained that there were four regular candidates for the one position of councillor at large 2016-2018: Amitrajeet Batabyal (NARSC Member), Terry Clower (NARSC Member), Tomaz Ponce Dentinho (Portuguese Section), and Fabio Mazzola (Italian Section). He also indicated that the fact that the executive director was not automatically a member of the Council could create discontinuities in the management of the Association. Therefore, to avoid these contingencies, he proposed that the Executive Director, chosen by the Council every three years, becomes automatically a member of the Council. Following these remarks Andrés Rodríguez-Pose proposed that Amitrajeet Batabyal (NARSC Member), Terry Clower (NARSC Member), and Fabio Mazzola (Italian Section) be accepted by the Council as candidates for Councillors at Large.

M-IV. The RSAI Council approved unanimously Amitrajeet Batabyal (NARSC Member), Terry Clower (NARSC Member), and Fabio Mazzola (Italian Section) are accepted by the Council as candidates for Councillors at Large.

6. Nomination of the Council Representatives in the LRPC

Tomaz Ponce Dentinho informed that, in the RSAI Council of Washington, Jacques Poot (President Elected) and Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (President) were nominated by the Council in Washington as RSAI Council representatives in the Long Range Planning Committee.

7. World Congress in Istanbul.

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose reported that the decision to implement the 11th RSAI World Congress in Istanbul was made in the NARSC Congress in Washington. Tüzin Baycan informed that the Local Organizing Committee secured a large amount of support; the venue is in a Military Museum and Cultural Centre in an area with many hotels; the dates are from the 25th till the 28th of April; a leaflet and a flyer were distributed in this conference (ERSA 2015). She reported her aim of attracting top-notch keynote speakers and the webpage was in preparation and will be ready soon. Roberta Capello remarked that the World Congress looks very promising and suggested that a theme should be included. Andrés Rodríguez-Pose said that the choice was not to have a Congress theme that could restrict the attractiveness of the Congress for presentations that did not fall directly within the chosen theme. Neil Reid reinforced the idea that participants add regional science conferences rarely pay attention to the theme. Andrés Rodríguez-Pose said that as soon as special and plenary sessions are included and announced the content of the Congress will become more attractive. Tuzin Baycan informed that the recently organized Turkish Conference had a theme but no paper presented fell directly within theme. Hans Westland commented that April is very near and an announcement should be made very soon with one or two outstanding key speakers. Roberta Capello asked if the names of the keynote speakers are already fixed. Andrés Rodríguez-Pose answered that there are no confirmations yet welcomed suggestions. He also made a call for volunteers to come forward with special and panel sessions.

M-V. The RSAI Council supported unanimously the efforts of the Local Organizing Committee and RSAI Presidency and Office to promote the 11th RSAI World Congress in Istanbul.

8. Relations with the Supra-nationals.

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose informed he had been surprised by what seemed to be limited channels of communication between the supra-national regional science associations and RSAI that became evident at the RSAI Council meeting in St Petersburg in 2014. He indicated that his strategy since becoming president had been to rebuild the relationships between RSAI and the supra-nationals. Part of this strategy had involved working together, creating frequent informal channels of communication. But he emphasised that more needed to be done and that formal arrangements needed to be put in place. He therefore proposed that the Presidents of the Supra – Nationals and the Executive Director of the RSAI should become automatically and for the period of their tenure voting members of the RSAI Council. This implies new by-laws and an expansion of the Council from 15 to 19 members. André Torre strongly supported the idea.

Carlos Azzoni said that there could be some overlapping because some members of the Council are also Presidents of Supra-nationals. Andrés Rodríguez-Pose said that the Supra-nationals can decide whether to keep the existing representative and president of their Supra-national or to nominate another representative. Neil Reid asked that, in the case of NARSC, what is the Supra-national? Andrés Rodríguez – Pose answered that, following the agreement to promote a Supra National Association for the Sections of Latin America and Caribbean the representation of the Supra nationals in the RSAI Council must also be adapted. Carlos Azzoni said that he is still the President of RSAmericas and that the Caribbean and Latin America Supra National does not exist so far. Andrés Rodríguez Pose said that the Caribbean and Latin America Supra National should be created by the respective RSAI sections and come back to the RSAI Council for approval and redefinition of the RSAI structure and functioning; and complemented that the idea for a Caribbean and Latin America Supra National was already discussed in the PRSCO meeting of Viña del Mar (Chile). Roberta Capello said that if the decision of the Council is to include in the Council the three Presidents of the Supra Nationals it means the Executive Director Tomaz Dentinho does not need to go for elections as Councillor at Large and therefore the decision on the enlargement of the Council should be made now.

Andrés Rodríguez Pose proposed that the principle to expand the Council to the Presidents of the Supra Nationals and the Executive Director should be approved by the Council in Lisbon and the by-laws that will translate those principles would be submitted for approval in the Council in Portland.

M-VI. The RSAI Council approved unanimously the Presidents of the Supra Nationals and the Executive Director should be full members of the RSAI Council for the period of their respective mandates

9. Supra nationals and sections

✚ Latin American-Caribbean Supra Region of the RSAI

Carlos Azzoni informed there was a meeting of the members of the various sections of the Caribbean and Latin America Region (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina and Chile) and a work plan was approved for the creation of the Supra national association for Latin America and the Caribbean.

✚ China

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose reported on developments to create a regional science section in China. He had been to China on two occasions during the year and had had meetings with representatives of the regional science community in China. Progress had been made and it is expected that the Chinese Regional Science Association will become a section in the near future.

10. Relationship with the emerging Regional Science Academy

Hans Westland presented the initiative of the Regional Science Academy. He said that RSAI is a well-functioning organization, but that there is a case for the creation of another body based on volunteer work, inclusive and forward looking; that will take initiatives to promote research on new ideas related to regional science, regional studies, demography, geo sciences, etc. The Regional Science Academy aims to fill some of the voids not currently undertaken by existing regional science associations. These include: i) think tank for new ideas; ii) an academic forum that provides teaching activities such as workshops, courses, summer courses, and accreditation of courses and degrees; iii) a fund raising and allocation institution to support research and teaching; and iv) a promoter of a data base infrastructure.

Peter Nijkamp thanked RSAI for listening to the project of the Regional Science Academy, reinforced that the Academy is not a club of scholars but an organization to provide services related to regional science research and teaching, complementing and reinforcing the services provided by RSAI. He continued by reporting on the set of meetings that took place (Rabat, Amsterdam, Lisbon,) until now and that will occur in the future (Fall of 2015: Stockholm, Portland, Amsterdam and 2016: Istanbul). And continued saying that

if we need to know the definition of regional science, to create a quality control mechanism for textbooks, to store big amounts of data as in other disciplinary fields, such as physics, oncology, biotechnology, we need to know where we want to be 20 years from now,... And finished remarking that regional science academy is an opportunity for the benefit of all.

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose said that RSAI should welcome the initiative and that was the same advice from the Long Range Planning Committee. Tomaz Ponce Dentinho remarked that RSAI should be reinvented to accommodate the Regional Science Academy. Tuzin Baycan pointed out that there is not much information so far to perceive the scope of the Regional Science Academy. Andrés Rodríguez Pose commented that the Regional Science Academy is going to provide services that RSAI does not offer and that complement the services provided by RSAI. Peter Nijkamp added that an Academy is by definition independent. Andrés Rodríguez-Pose proposed the RSAI Council to approve a statement in support of the Regional Science Academy.

M-V. The Council approved unanimously a statement of support of the Regional Science Academy.

11. RSAI Publications

PIRS

Roberta Capello said that the editorial team of Papers in Regional Science (PIRS) is settled down and that until now only papers that were processed by the former editors, three years ago, had been published by the new team. She also reported that, regarding the journal Papers in Regional Science, there is a rise in the number of papers and the time from submission to final decision decreased to 4 months. Finally Roberta Capello indicated a few critical points, mainly related to the huge back log with 95 papers waiting to be printed and a greater competition that has been tackled by inviting known authors and promoting special issues to keep and improve the impact factor.

RSPP

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose said that the editor in chief of the journal Regional Science Policy and Practice (RSPP), Michel Carroll was not in meeting, due to a change in University, and informed the Council that the journal is now registered in Scopus.

Alexandra Faggian suggested regional science conferences should include special sessions associated with RSAI journals. Raymond Florax, from the RSAI publishing committee, informed the RSAI Council that the contract with Wiley Blackwell will finish in 2018 and therefore decisions must be made in 2017. Regarding RSPP Raymond Florax said that there is a need to clarify the niche of the journal, to define the differences with PIRS. He also said that to access the SCI web of knowledge is increasingly difficult even more if the number of citation to the articles in the journal were low.

12. RSAI Awards

Founders Award

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose suggested the Emmanouil Tranos and the Executive Director set up the committee and implement the procedures for the Founders Award.

Stan Czamanski Award

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose informed de Council that a second call for the Stan Czamanski award will be launched in September.

RSAI Fellows

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose informed de Council that so far there are only two active nominations for the Fellows in 2015

RSAI dissertation competition

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose informed de Council that the Committee of the RSAI dissertation award will select the winner the ward for the Portland NARSC Conference.

13. AOB

None other issue was raised by councillors and the meeting was adjourned.

Date of next meeting (Friday, 13th November, 2015, Portland, USA)

Annex 1: RSAI Members

2015 RSAI Members

	Name	Member	Period	Email	Presences
1	Andrés Rodríguez-Pose	Ersa Representative President	2013-2015 2015-2016	a.rodriquez-pose@lse.ac.uk	
2	Jacques Poot	Councilor at large Vice President	2015-2017 2016	jpoot@waikato.ac.nz	
3	Isabelle Thomas	Ersa Representative	2015-2017	isabelle@geog.ucl.ac.be	
4	Andre Torre	Ersa Representative	2014-2016	andre.torre@wanadoo.fr	
5	Jichung Yang	Prsco Representative	2013-2014	icyang@snu.ac.kr ;	
7	Yuzuru Miyata	Prsco Representative	2014-2016	miyata@ace.tut.ac.jp	
8	Budy Resosudarmo	Prsco Representative	2015-2017	budy.resosudarmo@anu.edu.au	
6	Carlos Azzoni	RSA Representative	2015-2017	cazzoni@usp.br	
9	Neil Reid	RSA Representative	2012-2014 2015-2017	neil.reid@utoledo.edu	
10	Richard Shearmur	RSA Representative	2013-2015	Richard.shearmur@mccgill.ca	
11	Daniel A. Griffith	Councilor at large	2015-2017	dagriffith@utdallas.edu	
12	Tüzün Baycan	Councilor at large	2015-2017	tbaycan@itu.edu.tr	
13	Emmanouil Tranos	Councilor at large	2015-2017	e.tranos@bham.ac.uk	
14	Hans Westlund	Councilor at large	2014-2016	hans.westlund@abe.kth.se	
15	Tomaz Dentinho	Executive Director Executive Director Ersa Representative Councilor at large	2011-2013 2014-2016 2010-2012 2013-2015	tomazdentinho@uac.pt	

2015 RSAI Ex-Oficcio Members

	Roberta Capello	Editor of PIRS		roberta.capello@polimi.it	
	Eduardo Haddad	Book Review Editor		ehaddad@usp.br	
	Alessandra Faggian	RSA Editor of PIRS		faggian.1@osu.edu	
	J. Paul Elhorst	ERSA Editor of PIRS		J.P.Elhorst@rug.nl	
	Michaela Trippel	ERSA Editor of PIRS		michaela.trippel@circle.lu.se	
	Takatoshi Tabuchi	PRSCO Editor of PIRS		ttabuchi@e.u-tokyo.ac.jp	
	M.Carroll	Editor, RSPP		mcarrol@bgsu.edu	
	Andrea Caragliu	Newsletter Editor		andrea.caragliu@polimi.it	
	Graham Clarke	Newsletter Editor		G.P.Clarke@leeds.ac.uk	
	David Boyce	Archivist		d-boyce@northwestern.edu	
	Peter W. J. Batey	Archivist		pwibatey@liv.ac.uk	
	Francisco Carballo Cruz	Treasurer		fcaballo@eeg.uminho.pt	
	Elisabete Martins	Finance Director		Elisabete.martins@apdr.pt	

2015 RSAI Invited Members

	Jouke Van Dijk	ERSA President			
	Richard Kelly	ERSA Executive		richard.kelly@ersa.org	
	Carlos Azzoni	RSAmericas President			
	Neil Reid	RSAmericas Executive		neil.reid@utoledo.edu	
	Patricio Aroca	PRSCO President			
	Hiroyuki Shibusawa	PRSCO Executive		hiro-shibu@tut.jp	
	Raymond Florax	Publishing Committee			

LRPC Members

	Peter Nijkamp	President	1991 - 1992	pnijkamp@feweb.vu.nl	
	Lay J. Gibson	President	1993-1994	ljgibson@ag.arizona.edu	
	Kingsley E. Haynes	President	1995-1996	khaynes@gmu.edu	
	Peter W. J. Batey	President	1997-1998	pwibatey@liv.ac.uk	
	H.Khono	President	1999-2000		
	Geoffrey J.D.Hewings	President	2001-2002	hewings@uiuc.edu	
	Antoine Bailly	President	2003-2004	antoine.bailly@unige.ch	
	Robert J. Stimson	President	2005-2006	rstimson@unimelb.edu.au	
	Roger R. Stough	President	2007-2008	rstough@gmu.edu	
	Roberta Capello	President	2009-2010	roberta.capello@polimi.it	
	Yoshiro Higano	President	2011-2012	higano@jsrsai.envr.tsukuba.ac.jp	
	Jean-Claude Thill	President	2013-2014	Jean-Claude.Thill@uncc.edu	
	Andrés Rodríguez-Pose	Council Representative		a.rodriquez-pose@lse.ac.uk	
	Jacques Poot	Council Representative		jpoot@waikato.ac.nz	

