

WEBINAR

Regional Science Policy & Practice

Friday, January 29, 2021

14:00 (CET) [13:00 (GMT) | 13:00 (UTC) | 08:00 (EST)]

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Design, Implementation and Evaluation of Territorial Inequalities Policies

RSPP-EUREAL initiative coordinated by Ana Viñuela

14:00-14:15 | Welcome, by Eduardo Haddad, RSAI President

14:15-14:30 | Introduction, by Ana Viñuela and Tomaz Ponce Dentinho

14:30-15:00 | *Understanding the experiences of indigenous minorities through the lens of spatial justice: the case of Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia*, by Masni Mat Dong and Maria Plotnikova

15:00-15:30 | *Policy design to address territorial inequalities in multi-sectoral political systems*, by Paul Cairney, Sean Kippin and Emily St Denny

15:30-16:00 | *Regional inequality, spatial dependence and proximity structures*, by Domenica Panzera, Alfredo Cartone and Paolo Postiglione

16:00-16:30 | *Au revoir Paris! Spanish regions closer to the EU average and further away from the leaders*, by Alicia Gómez-Tello, María José Murgui-García and María Teresa Sanchis-Llopis

16:30-17:00 | *Productivity and agglomeration economies in manufacturing of the metropolitan areas of Mexico, 1998-2013*, by Jaime A. Prudencio Vázquez, Fernando Rubiera Morollón and Esteban Fernández Vázquez

17:00-17:30 | *Inequality as a determinant of migration decisions*, by Magdalena Ulceluse, Bettina Bock and Tialda Haartsen

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14:00-14:15

Welcome

By Eduardo Haddad

RSAI President and Department of Economics, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

14:15-14:30

Introduction

By Ana Viñuela¹ and Tomaz Ponce Dentinho²

¹EU-REAL and Applied Economics Department, Oviedo University, Spain

²RSPP Editor-in-Chief and University of Azores, Portugal

14:30-15:00

Understanding the experiences of indigenous minorities through the lens of spatial justice: the case of Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia

By Masni Mat Dong¹ and Maria Plotnikova¹

¹ Aberystwyth University, UK

Abstract. Indigenous people account for approximately 15% of the world's poorest (UNDP, 2019). They often have below-average levels of education, health and living standards. The indigenous population of Peninsular Malaysia, the *Orang Asli*, account for 76.9% of the population that lives below the country's poverty line (Kari et al, 2016). Furthermore, the Orang Asli account for 20% of those in absolute poverty at the national level. Orang Asli communities in peninsular Malaysia are located in remote rural areas. Their customary reliance on forests' natural resources and assets to support their livelihood is threatened by modernization and conversion of land for commercial crops (Bebbington, 1993; Germond-Duret, 2016). The main challenge facing the Orang Asli communities has been maintaining their livelihood against the encroaching land conversion projects given the conditions of insecure land rights (Dentan et al, 1997). Bockstael and Watene (2016) argue that it is important for development policy to take into account the life experiences of indigenous peoples to establish a better framework for understanding the indigenous communities and their trajectories. The study uses the participatory approach to gauge the multiple dimensions of deprivation of Orang Asli – those in income, education, health, nutrition, housing and others. Because remoteness and limited access to public services and economic opportunities are the main drivers of deprivation, the perspective of spatial justice provides an important conceptual tool to further our understanding of the issues facing the Orang Asli. The study uses mixed method analysis with data collected using a household survey as well as focus groups and participant observation in selected villages in Pahang state of Malaysia. The results of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) underscore the importance Orang Asli place on education for their individual and community future. It is hoped that the results will be useful for policymakers in formulating welfare solutions for indigenous peoples that are consistent with preserving their identities and ways of life.

Keywords: Indigenous Welfare, Capabilities, Spatial Justice, Life Experience

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Discussants: Emily St Denny, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

15:00-15:30

Policy design to address territorial inequalities in multi-sectoral political systems

By **Paul Cairney**¹, Sean Kippin¹ and Emily St Denny²

¹ University of Stirling, UK

² University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Abstract. Policies to address territorial inequalities focus on the ambiguous idea of 'spatially even' access to public services, opportunities, or policy outcomes (Weckroth et al, 2018). Coherent policy requires effective multilevel government collaboration to make sense of spatial justice and address a tension between decentralization to reflect local needs and preferences and centralization to ensure some uniformity in services. It also requires effective intersectoral action to make sense of spatial justice in relation to different types of public services. How do all of these needs fit together in studies of policy design? We draw on two qualitative systematic reviews to identify contrasting ideas regarding how to reduce inequalities. While studies of education equity focus on early investment and the reform of public services, studies of 'health in all policies' prioritize intersectoral action to address the 'social determinants' of equity that are not in the gift of health services. The comparison highlights very different models of multilevel policymaking to support social and spatial justice.

Discussant: Maria Plotnikova, Aberystwyth University, UK

15:30-16:00

Au revoir Paris! Spanish regions closer to the EU average and further away from the leaders

By Alicia Gómez-Tello¹, María José Murgui-García² and **María Teresa Sanchis-Llopis**³

¹ Universitat de València and Ivie, Spain

² Universitat de València, Spain

³ Universitat de València and Instituto Figuerola, Spain

Abstract. This paper settles on (positions) the Spanish regions with regard the European ones in terms of per capita income and labour productivity in the recent wave of European disparities. The main data source used is the BD.EURS (NACE Rev.2) regional dataset. It comprises 156 regions covering the EU-13 countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Greece, Spain, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and the regions are defined as NUTS-2. Spanish regions are in 2015 closer to the European average than in 2000, but further away from the European top regions. Even the Spanish richest regions (Madrid, Catalonia and the Basque Country) have increased their distances with the leaders in Europe (London, Île de France, Brussels, Stockholm and Hovedstad). A dynamic shift-share analysis is carried out at a 10-industry level of disaggregation to decompose the sources driving such disparities. The three components underlying the productivity disparities are changes in the industry mix, and within- and between-industry productivity gaps. Our results reveal that convergence with the European average relies mainly in the within industry technological catch-up with the EU average and the between industry convergence. Disparities with the richest regions (especially with the leading region, Île de France) denote an incapacity to cope with the technological advances of the European leaders and their pattern of specialization in the most dynamic industries and services. Finally, the net

effect of structural change is still making a positive, but negligible, contribution to convergence with the leading regions.

Discussant: Esteban Fernandez Vazquez, University of Oviedo, Spain

16:00-16:30

Regional inequality, spatial dependence and proximity structures

By **Domenica Panzera¹**, **Alfredo Cartone¹** and Paolo Postiglione¹

¹ “G. d’Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

Abstract. Since some decades, inequality is attracting a growing interest within the political debate as well as in theoretical and empirical studies. Considering inequality at regional level offers useful insights in policies terms, facilitating the assessment of the effectiveness of policies aimed at reducing regional disparities and helping in developing place-based actions. The study of regional inequality poses some relevant issues related to the spatial nature of data. In fact, dealing with georeferenced data implies the opportunity of considering the spatial interactions among regional units that are likely to play a role in shaping the inequality dynamics. Some studies highlighted the importance of incorporating spatial effects in a traditional measure of inequality such as the Gini index (Rey and Smith, 2013; Panzera and Postiglione, 2020). These studies rely on the definition of a proximity structure that allows one to discriminate between the spatial and the non-spatial component of inequality. Different definitions of the proximity structure are likely to influence the spatial component of inequality. This aspect is analysed in the present paper to offer a comparison and a more detailed analysis of the aforementioned measures. The measures and their decomposition are applied to assess the evolution of economic inequality among NUTS 3 EU regions.

Keywords. Economic disparities, spatial effects, neighbour regions, EU NUTS 3 regions

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Discussant: Alicia Gomez Tello, Universitat de València and Instituto Figuerola, Spain

16:30-17:00

Productivity and agglomeration economies in manufacturing of the metropolitan areas of Mexico, 1998-2013¹

By **Jaime A. Prudencio Vázquez¹**, Fernando Rubiera Morollón² and Esteban Fernández Vázquez²

¹ National Autonomous University of Mexico, Faculty of Higher Studies Acatlán, Mexico

² Department of Applied Economics of the University of Oviedo, Spain

Abstract. The heterogeneity between the productivity of the manufacturing of the Metropolitan Areas of Mexico is high. Although the basic determinant of labor productivity is capital deepening, at the regional level agglomeration economies play an unavoidable role in the economic performance of manufacturing companies. Through a panel model with fixed effects we studied the role of three agglomeration economies played on the performance of the manufacturing industry in the municipalities of the 76 metropolitan areas of Mexico: localization economies, economies of unrelated variety and economies of urbanization. The evidence indicates that the specialization and the economies of non-related variety contribute to explain the productivity levels among the metropolitan municipalities, but the latter one not at the expected sense, while the urbanization economies do not seem to contribute to explaining the performance of manufactures among the metropolitan municipalities.

Keywords. Manufacturing productivity, agglomeration economies, metropolitan areas

Discussant: Alfredo Cartone, “G. d’Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

¹ This work is the result of the research visit carried out in the fall of 2018 in the REGIOlab of the University of Oviedo in Spain. The coordinators, Fernando Rubiera and Esteban Fernández, are also co-authors of this paper; however, the errors and faults are completely my responsibility.

17:00-17:30

Inequality as a determinant of migration decisions

By Magdalena Ulceluse¹, Bettina Bock¹ and Tialda Haartsen¹
¹Department of Cultural Geography, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen, the Netherlands

Abstract. In this article, we investigate whether perceived inequality between sending and receiving areas constitutes a determinant of internal and international migration decisions.

Migration is considered to be one of the most powerful symbols of inequality (Black, Natali, and Skinner 2006), and the spatially uneven distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges is assumed to be one of the key drivers of migration (see King 2012). There is an extensive body of research that investigates the role of intra-country inequality, understood as relative deprivation, relative poverty or wage differentials on migration decisions (see, for instance, Czaika 2013; Czaika and de Haas 2012; Hyll and Schneider 2014; Liebig and Sousa-Poza 2004; Quinn 2006; Stark 2006; Stark, Micevska, and Mycielski 2009; Stark, Byra, and Kosiorowski 2020). Yet, few studies have considered the role of inter-country inequality, and even fewer the role of inter-regional inequality on the decision to migrate. Moreover, all these studies are of a quantitative nature, using large datasets of country-level data. While they are very useful for determining causal connections, they do not provide insights into which aspects of socio-spatial inequality matter more for migration decisions, or how do migrants choose a better-off destination over another. This matter is particularly relevant in the context of the European Union (EU), where free mobility enables individuals to choose between 27 countries, many of which compete for both low and high skilled migrants². This article intends to fill this gap in our knowledge. Our research is based on multi-sited qualitative research and comparative cross-case analysis. We draw on semi-structured interviews with internal and international migrants, to illustrate the role of perceived inequalities between sending and receiving areas in the decision to migrate, and the multidimensional nature of these inequalities. Specifically, we interview Romanian immigrants (n=15), Polish immigrants (n=15) and Dutch internal migrants (n=15) in three locations in the Netherlands. We complement these insights with results from a survey data conducted within the H2020 IMAJINE project, carried out in fall 2020. We structure our article as follows. Section one appraises the literature on the role of inequality on both internal and international migration decisions. Section two introduces the methodology employed in our analysis, including a discussion on the selection of case studies. Section three presents the results of our analysis. We conclude the article with a discussion on the implications that local government policies have on mediating the effects of migration on the receiving and sending areas, and on the quality of life of individuals, both residents and immigrants.

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Discussant: Fernando Rubiera Morollon, University of Oviedo, Spain

² See, for instance: <https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2018/06/the-netherlands-must-remain-welcoming-to-migrant-workers-employers/>