

13th WORLD CONGRESS OF THE RSAI

Smart Regions - Opportunities for Sustainable Development in the Digital Era

Virtual Conference
MAY 25-28
2021



RS AI
THE REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

Special Session (SS42) on:

Regional and urban resilience in a turbulent world: perspectives from Aotearoa New Zealand

Organizers:

Prof.em. Philip Morrison, Victoria University of Wellington

Prof.em. Jacques Poot, University of Waikato

Despite its remote location and relatively small population of 5 million, New Zealand has a very high standing globally in many scientific and policy networks. A recent example is New Zealand's response to the Covid-19 pandemic which has been praised around the world. In its Christmas 2020 issue, *The Economist* nominated New Zealand "country of the year" for its exemplary measures to contain the spread of the virus domestically (Taiwan was similarly nominated). It might be argued that, in this context, geography – being an island state, located in the South Pacific and with a relatively low population density – was beneficial. However, without effective public health policies, the outcomes may have been considerably worse.

Broadly, New Zealand's measures included closing the borders to virtually all travel except citizens and residents returning (who are required to isolate 14 days in government-run hotels) and implementing a strict nationwide lockdown immediately after community transmission was first detected in March 2020 through until the country had virtually eliminated the virus by May 2020. Subsequent, but rare, cases of community transmission have similarly triggered immediate, but short and local, lockdowns. While these measures have been very effective in limiting the number of infections, economic disruption could of course not be avoided. Inbound international tourism was dramatically reduced and may not recommence until a large proportion of potential foreign visitors are vaccinated. The inflow of international students is also severely curtailed. Additionally, international trade has been affected by disruption of shipments and supply chains, and by subdued demand in some markets. Nonetheless, the domestic economy recovered relatively quickly after the late March to early May 2020 lockdown as a result of strongly expansionary fiscal and monetary policies, although it remains to be seen how sustainable the present recovery will be.

In this context, the proposed "satellite" sessions aim to provide a blended face-to-face and globally-streamed selection of current research in regional science in New Zealand. Since it will be impossible for regional scientists to travel abroad to attend the World Congress in person, two special sessions to be held in the capital Wellington will be offered on the programme. The objectives of these New Zealand sessions are: (1) to encourage NZ participation in the World Congress; (2) to showcase NZ based research; (3) to add a local social element to an online conference; (4) to increase interest in NZ membership of the Australian and New Zealand section of RSAI (ANZRS AI) as well as to advertise their planned conference in Melbourne in Dec 2021 (which may be by then in-person for those within the Australasian bubble). Our proposed NZ sessions will be streamed live, with the recorded video versions also available on demand to all conference registrants subsequently.

The theme of the New Zealand presentations will be: "Regional and urban resilience in a turbulent world: perspectives from Aotearoa New Zealand". Papers will focus on regional economies, labour markets, housing markets and regional policy with particular emphasis on the impacts of pandemics.

The venue will be a video conferencing room at Victoria University of Wellington's downtown campus in Wellington. The social activities will be in the vicinity of the conference room.

One challenge facing a world congress is that it is impossible to select a time slot that will be during the daytime throughout the world. A particular challenge for New Zealand is that its location is such that the nation is not only geographically remote in space but also in time zone. Global webinars that are aimed at participants in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia tend to start around 2 am New Zealand time. For the RSAI World Congress we have selected times that are suitable for live streaming in Asia and Europe, as well as face-to-face participation in New Zealand. This implies that North-America participants are unlikely to watch the live stream, but they are encouraged to watch the sessions on demand at a later time.

The proposed programme is as follows (**Moroccan times in bold type in brackets for streamed components**):

PROGRAMME

Friday 28th May 2021, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand

4.00-4.30 pm Welcome & afternoon tea

SESSION 1 4:30-6:00 pm (**5:30-7:00 am**)

1. Paul Dalziel, *Geography matters for small advanced economies: the implications for an economic strategy*.

Presenter: Paul Dalziel, AERU, Lincoln University

2. Ryan Greenaway-McGrevy, Gail Pacheco & Kade Sorensen, *The effect of upzoning on house prices and redevelopment premiums in Auckland, New Zealand*.

Presenter: Ryan Greenaway-McGrevy, University of Auckland

3. Graham Squires, Hai Hong Trinh, Don Webber & Arshad Javed, *The connection of rental and house price affordability measures in New Zealand*.

Presenter: Graham Squires, Massey University

4. William Cochrane, Jacques Poot & Matthew Roskrug, *Vulnerable people, local labour market resilience and global shocks: New Zealand evidence from the Covid-19 pandemic and the Global Financial Crisis*.

Presenter: Jacques Poot, University of Waikato

6-6.30 pm Local offline discussion of the Session 1 papers

6.30-8 pm Dinner

SESSION 2 8:00-9:30 pm (**9:00-10:30 am**)

1. Ilan Noy, *How do pandemics affect economic growth? Lessons from the 1968 H3N2 influenza and 2003 SARS*.

Presenter: Ilan Noy, Victoria University of Wellington

2. Philip S. Morrison, Stephanié Rossouw & Talita Greyling, *The impact of exogenous shocks on wellbeing. New Zealanders' reaction to Covid-19*.

Presenter: Philip S. Morrison, Victoria University of Wellington

3. Daniel Exeter, *An examination of the distributional implications of the COVID-19 pandemic*.

Presenter: Daniel Exeter, University of Auckland

4. Arthur Grimes, *Regional patterns of wellbeing through pandemic lockdowns*.

Presenter: Arthur Grimes, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research

9.30-10.00 pm Local offline discussion of the Session 2 papers

10.00-11.00 pm Drinks and snacks

[SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT](#)