

Note from the Editors

Australian Regional Science is a broad church, and this issue of the *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies* is testimony to that. Indeed, its contents display a breathtaking diversity from which it is difficult to draw coherent themes, other than perhaps diversity itself. For example, the subject matter of our articles includes Hu's contribution on non-institutional factors shaping China's urbanisation, while Morrison *et al* examine the need for household segmentation in campaigns to manage demand for electricity. Rolfe and his colleagues analyse the regional economic impact of the 2011 Queensland floods through their effect on transport corridors, which contrasts profoundly with Wijerathna and her colleague's focus on the use of Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs) to assess the impact of irrigation works on regional and village development in Sri Lanka. At least these two items link the importance of water for regional development. In the final two articles, Pickernell and his team assess the link between access to Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) the construction of social capital on which so much regional economic and community development depends, while Jain and Courvisanos focus on the contribution of home-based businesses to local development in Melbourne's outer suburb of Casey. Perhaps all of these contributions do have another thing in common: their relevance to public policy for the shaping of urban and regional economic and social development.

This said, the articles span a huge range of: subject matters, data sources, analytical approaches, geographical scales and locations, forms of capital (human, social, finance, natural, etc.), and both individual and collective attitudes or behaviours. For me, this is bonus. It suggests a discipline and an Association (the Australian and New Zealand Regional Science Association) that is wide-ranging, vibrant, and committed to investigating the wide array of, and mutual interactions between, processes shaping economic and social space. We inhabit a complex field of inquiry, but one that is crucially important to the well-being of most citizens in most countries. And the thing for me about this collection of articles is how their diversity helps in drawing out often subtle links between seemingly disparate lines of inquiry, which in reality are building blocks for a more complete understanding of regional conditions and processes. From this understanding is likely to come more subtle, efficient and effective action to improve regional well-being, whether in the laps of various tiers of government, local institutions and businesses, or even committed individuals. Development of space is probably a

whole of society affair. In short, AJRS and its contributors are committed to broadening readers' experiences, and from experience comes more effective action as recommended by Montaigne (1533-1592) in his *Essais* and his many disciples including Taleb (1960-) and myself.

Tony Sorensen
Sonya Glavac