

# ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(1)***

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## ***Contents***

Foreword	1
Vale Graeme Hugo	4
From The Conversation	6
Pascal International Observatory	6
Australian Intergenerational Report: Regions and Cities	7
Developing Northern Australia Conference	7
Regional Science Association International - Andrés Rodríguez-Pose	8
New Postgraduate study Opportunity – Regional Innovation	12
Invitation for Proposals from Rowman and Littlefield Publishers	13
Regional Studies Association	
Inaugural Australasian Conference	13
Early Career Grants	14
Regional Australia Institute	15
<b>CURRENT RESEARCH</b>	
Regional Science Policy and Practice 7(1) 2015	16
Regional development in the global economy: A dynamic perspective...	16
Rationale and design of EU cohesion policies in a period of crisis	16
Standardizing the selection of countries for benchmarking	17
Regional Science Policy and Practice 3(3) 2011	
Governance for sustainable regions: can government meet ...challenge?	17
<b>ABOUT ANZRSAI</b>	
ANZRSAI Annual Conference 2014	17
ANZRSAI Council Changes	18
ANZRSAI Council 2015	19

## ***Foreword***

The 2015 Annual Conference of ANZRSAI will be held early in December in Sydney. A call for papers is in preparation. Plan to attend and present.

The future policy and tax settings in Australia are discussed in the recent Intergeneration Report and the current Future Tax Discussion Paper.

The key document remains *Australia's Future Tax System, Report to the Treasurer*, December 2009, available at [www.taxreview.treasury.gov.au](http://www.taxreview.treasury.gov.au) and otherwise known as the Henry Tax Review. It provides

“...a systemic approach, encompassing the legal, economic and administrative structure of both transfers and taxes at all levels of government.”

“The Review looks forward over the next 40 years to mid-century. Through these decades we expect:

- a new world economic order based on ever-deepening international integration, with new centres of competition and opportunity increasingly located in close proximity to us;
- the transformation of business, commerce and personal lives by technological advances, especially in digital electronics and communications;

## *SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(1)*

---

- ageing of the population, reducing some tax bases and raising the costs of health, aged care and dependency;
- strong growth and cultural diversification of our population, with high demands for economic infrastructure, education and social infrastructure spending;
- deepening stresses between human activities and wider ecosystems, globally and locally; and
- further stresses on housing affordability and pressure on urban amenity.

“Unfortunately, we must also assume that the world will continue to present high risks of conflict imposing high security costs.

“Our task is to define a tax and transfer system that anticipates and responds to those expectations. We find that much of the key architecture of the existing tax and transfer system, built last century, reflects sound policy frameworks and Australian social values and will still serve us well.

“But not all of it will — a range of key reforms would even better equip us for the changing era ahead.” (Australia’s Future Tax System, 2009: xv)

The *Tax Discussion Paper* (Australian Government, 2015, Re:think, Tax Discussion Paper) notes that:

“Over the next few decades, the challenge for Australia is to maintain and improve standards of living through economic growth. The recent Intergenerational Report shows that continuing steps to boost productivity and encourage higher workforce participation will be critical to driving future economic growth...

“Last year, the Government abolished the carbon and mining taxes, which were a drag on growth. We also announced changes to the taxation arrangements for employee share schemes to provide generous incentives for new start-ups.

“This year, we will deliver a package for small business to expand opportunities for Australian businesses and workers.

“The Government is committed to ensuring that everyone is paying their fair share of tax. This year, we are continuing to work with the G20 on the modernisation of international tax rules to address tax avoidance by multinational companies.

“But that is just the start. We want to have an open and constructive conversation with the community on how we can create *a better tax system that delivers taxes that are lower, simpler, fairer.*” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: iii)

This seems to your editor to be a debate in which ANZRSAI and our members should take part.

“A tax system that encourages productive endeavour.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 1)

“Changes to our tax system could foster new opportunities for businesses and workers and promote economic growth. Indeed, some argue that comprehensive tax reform could promote economic growth more than any other area of government policy.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 1)

Labour productivity has been, and will continue to be, the principal contributor to the growth of incomes in Australia, having contributed between 3% and 1% to the annual growth in real national income per person in every decade since the 1960's, (Chart 1.2, Tax discussion paper, 2015: 10)

“Financial deregulation, the growth of multinational companies using global supply chains and the increasing digitisation of global commerce have been overwhelmingly positive developments for Australia, but do pose substantial challenges to the tax system, including by driving global tax avoidance activities. Likewise, bracket creep, which pushes people on to higher tax rates with rising incomes over time, is a growing problem that impacts on workforce participation. The tax system needs to adapt to these challenges.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 1)

“The Government's review of roles and responsibilities across the Federation provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to examine the whole of the tax system.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 2)

“There is evidence that the economic costs of revenue-raising in Australia are higher than they need to be.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 2) Particular reference is given to income tax, company tax which reduces investment and living standards, and State stamp duties.

“There are opportunities to simplify the tax system.” A complex tax system increases tax payer expenditures on “...compliance and tax management.” Complexity arises from the use of “...tax concessions aimed at assisting particular groups, ...regular 'patching' of the [tax] law, ...overly risk averse ...policy advisers and administrators, [and] complex legislative drafting.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 2)

“...interactions between the tax system and the transfer system can discourage workforce participation for some people. In addition, our relatively high top marginal tax rate and the gap between the top marginal tax rate and the company tax rate results in tax planning and avoidance. Tax concessions need to be well justified to ensure the fairness of the tax system.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 2)

“The tax treatment of savings is very complex and distorts savings choices.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 3) Savings accounts are taxed but superannuation is not.

Tax reform offers one of the largest opportunities to improve investment and productivity and help maintain and improve growth in standards of living.

“Transitional arrangements are important.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 3)

Many of the questions provided in the Tax discussion paper are relevant to regions. For example:

- “As the zone tax offset is administered based on geographic boundaries that were last updated in 1981, some people question whether the areas within the zone are truly those with the highest living costs or remoteness. Further, in a recent report tabled by the House Standing Committee on Regional Australia in February 2013, some of the submissions raised the concern that ‘fly-in, fly-out’ workers should not receive the zone tax offset. This was on the grounds that fly-in, fly-out workers tend to spend and invest their money where their families reside, and do not necessarily incur the higher costs of living in the zone.” (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 54)
- “New Zealand ‘cashed out’ work-related expense (WRE) deductions in the late 1980s by providing income tax cuts in exchange for disallowing WRE deductions. This has been a major

## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAL, 5(1)***

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driver of compliance savings by reducing the number of people needing to file a tax return — in the 2012 tax year around 1.25 million individual tax returns were filed in New Zealand out of an estimated 3.3 million individual tax payers. (Tax discussion paper, 2015: 54)

- How effective is the current range of tax concessions (such as CGT and industry specific concessions) at supporting small business engagement with the tax system? To what extent do the benefits they provide outweigh the compliance, complexity and revenue costs they introduce?
- What other mechanisms (such as a single lower tax rate, improved technology deployment or other non-tax mechanisms) could assist small businesses to engage with the tax system while decreasing compliance and complexity costs?
- What are the relative priorities for state and local tax reform and why? In considering reform opportunities for particular state taxes, what are the broader considerations that need to be taken into account to balance equity, efficiency and transitional costs?
- Does each level of government have access to tax revenue bases to finance new spending decisions? If not, should arrangements change to achieve this? How should they change? How important is it that the national government levies taxes on mobile bases? Could some taxes be shared?
- Would there be benefits in integrating the administration of taxes across the Federation?
- If so, what would be required to realise these benefits?

To join the conversation, go to the ‘better tax’ website [www.bettertax.gov.au](http://www.bettertax.gov.au). The formal submissions process for this discussion paper starts now. You have until Monday 1 June 2015 to lodge your formal submission at the website.

If you have any questions or comments, you are welcome to contact the Tax White Paper Task Force at [bettertax@treasury.gov.au](mailto:bettertax@treasury.gov.au)

### ***Vale Graeme Hugo***

On 20 January 2015 the ABC reported the death of Graeme Hugo with the attached photo.

“Graeme Hugo, distinguished demographer and academic, dies aged 68”



**Photo:** University of Adelaide's Professor Graeme Hugo will be remembered as a giant in the field of demography. (Supplied: Graeme Hugo)

## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSI, 5(1)***

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One of Australia's most distinguished demographers, Professor Graeme Hugo, has died at the age of 68 after a short illness.”

Professor Hugo was well known and highly respected within ANZRSI and across the geography and demography communities. He was generous with his knowledge and time, and thoughtful and penetrating in his analysis. The following is an extract from the Executive Summary of *Economic, social and civic contributions of first and second generation humanitarian entrants*, a report prepared for the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship in 2011 by Professor Hugo and a team from the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems, University of Adelaide. This report can be accessed at:

[http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/\\_pdf/economic-social-civic-contributions-about-the-research2011.pdf](http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/_pdf/economic-social-civic-contributions-about-the-research2011.pdf)

“Since the Refugee and Humanitarian visa category was given a separate identity in 1978, some 438,000 refugee-humanitarian settlers have arrived in Australia. At the 2006 Census, over a million Australians were either born in a country which has sent significant numbers of refugees to Australia or were Australia-born with an ancestry in one of those countries. However, the study shows that there are a number of distinctive aspects to the ‘population’ contribution of humanitarian settlement in Australia:

- Refugee-humanitarian settlers are younger than other migrant groups and a high proportion is made up of children who will spend all of their working lives in Australia offsetting the effects of an ageing workforce and delivering a ‘demographic dividend’.
- Fertility levels vary between different groups but on average they have higher levels of childbearing than Australia-born women.
- Refugee-humanitarian settlers have substantially lower ‘settler loss’ rates than other migrant groups. They are more likely than other groups to spend their entire life and raise their families in Australia.
- There are some indications that refugee-humanitarian settlers are increasingly settling in regional Australia in areas where development is being impeded by a lack of labour and service provision is threatened by declining resident populations.” xxii

And in conclusion:

“Australia’s contribution to the important global task of resettling refugees in third countries during the last half century has been greater in relation to our national population than any other OECD country. This has been, and continues to be, an important element in Australia’s role as a responsible, caring global citizen. However, it is important also to recognise that Australia has experienced a substantial gain from this policy which has rightly been driven by ethical and humanitarian concerns. This study has sought to bring together the extant empirical evidence which indicates the scale and nature of the contribution which humanitarian settlers have made to Australia’s economy and society over the last few decades. Despite problems of lack of comprehensive, representative and relevant data sources, it is apparent that the contribution of humanitarian settlers has been substantial. There are difficulties which most humanitarian settlers experience in the early years of settlement but most are able to adjust effectively and converge

toward the Australian average levels of economic and social contribution. Indeed many pass these levels and this is especially the case for the second generation. This study has demonstrated that the economic, social and civic contribution of humanitarian settlers to Australia has not only been a major one but it includes distinctive elements which are specific to their contribution. They will be an important part of the Australian response to the challenges posed by an ageing population. While it is important to recognise this major contribution of humanitarian settlers, it is crucial that the dominant motivation of Australia's policy of including a strong refugee-humanitarian stream in its migration program should remain the national humanitarian concern for people who have been forcibly displaced from their homeland. This is important not only to Australia's global role but it is part of an Australian culture of concern for people in distress and for giving people a 'fair go'." 263-264

Graeme Hugo taught Australians about themselves. In the time frame of The Australian Intergenerational Report, your editor likes to think, he may have been suggesting that humanitarian refugees may be a source of renewal as the next generation emerges.

## **THE CONVERSATION**

Here we provide links to some interesting articles published in The Conversation. Enjoy.

<http://theconversation.com/moving-from-resources-to-tourism-is-a-bigger-leap-than-we-think-37836>

<http://theconversation.com/regional-australia-can-be-a-carrot-or-stick-in-the-new-refugee-policy-32210>

<https://theconversation.com/perth-could-become-a-model-for-21st-century-urban-planning-36350>

### ***PASCAL International Observatory***

PASCAL International Observatory is a research and policy alliance dedicated to bringing cutting edge ideas to local and regional policy-making. It is focused on the development of place through learning and social cohesion. PASCAL emphasises the importance of international comparisons and of the exchange of good practice to assess and improve local performance.

PASCAL has centres in Europe, the US, Australia and South Africa, and retains a strong cadre of international experts drawn from senior positions in academia and national and international policy organisations, including several connected with the original OECD Learning Cities and Regions study. This programme is directed from the PASCAL centre based in Glasgow University.

See: [pascalobservatory.org](http://pascalobservatory.org)

For a recent and interesting review of adult learning and regional development see:

<http://pascalobservatory.org/pascalnow/pascal-activities/news/adult-education-and-place-vital-link-learning-cities-policy-briefin>



## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAL, 5(1)***

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The leader of the Australian PASCAL International Centre is Professor Bruce Wilson at RMIT University.

### ***Australian Intergenerational Report, Regions and Cities***

<http://www.treasury.gov.au/PublicationsAndMedia/Publications/2015/2015-Intergenerational-Report>

The 2015 Australian Intergenerational Report mentions regions under topics such as:

- the Murray Darling Basin and the Great Barrier Reef (page 36) under the heading of managing water resources,
- Antarctica and the Australia Antarctic Strategic Plan (page 39),
- warming or wetter regions under research needed and the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) (page 42).
- Cities are mentioned in the context of landfill (page 40), urbanization and clean air (page 39).
- Transport arises in conjunction with climate and transport infrastructure arises as a competitiveness factor in Preparing for the Future (page 93) and under future budgetary expenditures (page 135).

The word 'enterprise' arises twice and entrepreneurship arises once (page 92), while 'employment' arises 56 times (on a rough count); it would appear that a role for enterprise is not seriously contemplated as a source of employment. Business is mentioned 51 times.

### ***Developing Northern Australia Conference***

The Developing Northern Australia Conference takes place from 20-22 July 2015 at Rydges, Southbank in Townsville.

The program will cover the critical issues facing the area from north of the Tropic of Capricorn, spanning Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland; an area of approximately three million square kilometres with a population of around one million people.

It will engage with the drivers of growth including agriculture, mining, energy, tourism and other emerging sectors. The strategic importance of the North with its geographic proximity to Asian markets also presents both challenges and opportunities to engage and formulate new partnerships.

The Conference will bring together industry leaders, government department heads with researchers, academics and interested parties to discuss the opportunities, needs and concerns regarding the development of the Northern Australia Region.

The program features 9 keynote speakers, over 45 presenters, study tours and poster presentations addressing issues ranging from infrastructure, land and water management, defence growth, indigenous participation, sustainable development and community building.

Conference Secretariat | Developing Northern Australia Conference  
P: +61 7 5502 2068 | W: [northaust.org.au](http://northaust.org.au)

### *Regional Science Association International - Andrés Rodríguez-Pose*

A message from our in-coming President

Dear friends and colleagues,

As every two years, 2015 brings a change at the helm of the RSAI. Following the established system of rotation among the supra-regions of the organisation, I have taken over from Jean-Claude Thill as president of the RSAI on January 1st.

2015 is a good year to take over. With close to 4500 members worldwide, the RSAI is stronger than ever. Regional Science congresses are buzzing events which attract regional scientists from all over the world and where cutting edge research is unveiled and discussed. Multiple workshops, seminars and other events are also being conducted by national and linguistic sections and the growing number of summer schools is making sure that young talent is emerging and finding adequate fora to develop their research interests and capabilities. Many Regional Science schools are well established, while others are appearing the world over. The standing of journals has clearly increased in recent years and, last but not least, our say in the conception, design, implementation, and monitoring of public policies in our areas of interest has certainly grown.

This is a far cry from where Regional Science was 20 years ago. The perception of organisation which, when I joined, was extremely homogenous – dominated by spectacled middle-aged men dealing with extremely complicated formula – is now long-gone. Regional Science and the RSAI are far more vibrant and diverse than they has ever been.

That we have reached this point is mainly thanks to all of you – the Regional Science community. The relentless hard work of individual regional scientists, editors, national and linguistic sections, and the supra-regional organisations over the years has contributed to take our community to new heights and to make it much more visible than hitherto. This has undoubtedly been a collective effort, meaning that naming individuals may be unfair to countless others who have contributed to this feat. I, however, cannot resist showing my gratitude to the outgoing President of the RSAI, Jean-Claude Thill. Jean-Claude has steered the organisation through what have been challenging times and has come out of it on top. With the invaluable support of the Executive Director, Tomaz Ponce Dentinho, and his team, he has further extended the reach of Regional Science and overseen the expansion of the organisation. The RSAI, in general, and me, in particular, are indebted to him and to the extremely able executive team based in the Azores for their achievements. I am also glad that that the RSAI will be able to count on Jean-Claude's advice, not just as Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee, but also informally, making the most of his knowledge, generosity, and devotion to Regional Science.

However, despite the health of Regional Science, a number of important challenges remain. In my opinion, there are three challenges which need to be tackled head on during my two years of tenure as president: a) forging tighter relations within the Regional Science community; b) continuing the expansion of Regional Science to areas of the world where our presence remains limited; and c) nurturing new talent in order to ensure the future vitality of Regional Science.



Regarding the first challenge, I am really proud that Regional Science is not really an organisation, but a community of scholars. This sense of community has made it thrive and helps attract new scholars to our conferences, congresses and workshops. I am also proud that, in contrast to many other academic disciplines, there is no strict hierarchy in the way we are governed. The different organisations in which the Regional Science community is structured – from the national and linguistic sections, through the supra-regional organisations, to the RSAI – share the same aims and objectives and have a long history of fruitful collaboration. My intention is to make, with the help of all of you, the links that bind us even stronger, building bridges that will reinforce our sense of purpose and our goal of promoting the presence and visibility of Regional Science across the world.

Regional Science is also well-established in many parts of the world. Although there is always room for improvement, the prominence of Regional Science in Europe and North America is beyond doubt. There is also a long and fruitful Regional Science tradition in many parts of East Asia. The regular conferences organised by the supra-regions are a perfect testimony of this vitality. I am also extremely glad about the rapid developments which have taken place in Latin America and the Caribbean. Existing sections in the region have been developing new and exciting activities, while new sections have been created. It is extremely likely that we be in the next two years welcoming a new Latin American-Caribbean supra-region. Yet, our presence in other areas of the world – and, especially, in Africa, the Middle East, and many parts of Asia – remains limited. In particular, there is enormous intellectual energy bubbling in places like China and Southeast Asia. There is already a rapprochement under way, but we need to go further. My intention is to continue to promote Regional Science in those parts of the world where we are already established, but also to enlarge the regional science community in areas of the world where our presence is still limited. This would imply, working together with local regional scientists and helping them to reach out to our global community.

Finally, the vitality of any scientific discipline is ultimately measured by its capacity to attract young and diverse talent. Talented young regional scientists – many of them women – have become much more visible in recent years. Some of them are already playing an important role within our organisations. But more needs to be done. We cannot expect that this will continue on its own. Young talent needs to be groomed and nurtured and the RSAI can and should do more about it. The good thing is that we are not starting from scratch. Our partner organisations already hold a number of workshops and institutes aimed at channelling the ideas and energy of young regional scientists. These are extremely valuable endeavours and it is my intention to encourage and support these activities from the RSAI.

I am delighted to say that in pursuing these three goals I have encountered nothing but support from the RSAI Council, which in its meeting in Washington DC in November 2014 gave its approval to three agendas which reflect the challenges mentioned above and which will be shaping my presidency.

First, I am happy to announce that the RSAI, with the support of ERSA, has reached an agreement with the Turkish Regional Science Association in order to organise the 11th World Congress, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, between 17-20 April 2016. This congress will represent a unique opportunity to continue enhance the presence Regional Science in a country which has recently shown considerable enthusiasm towards our field, but also to contribute to expand the discipline in a broader region of the world where there is considerable room for expansion.

## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(1)***

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The Council also approved two additional programmes aimed at building bridges and nurturing new talent. In terms of building bridges, resources have been made available to facilitate the presence of researchers from those areas of the world where Regional Science lacks strong organisational structures at established Regional Science congresses. In terms of nurturing new talent, the granting of support for the promotion of institutes and workshops aimed at bringing together and training young researchers has been generously endorsed by Council. These initiatives will be soon advertised in the RSAI's website.

These are small but qualitatively important steps aimed at addressing the challenges which I mentioned earlier. They will certainly be followed by other actions in the same direction.

As I wrote in the beginning, much has changed in Regional Science and most of this change has been for the better. Nevertheless, we cannot rest on our laurels and we must strive to make sure that Regional Science continues to grow and to have a greater say, through public policy and planning, on improving the lives of individuals wherever they live. I am counting on your help to make sure that Regional Science continues to move forward in the right direction.

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose

### ***Nurturing new talent***

The RSAI aims to promote the development of Regional Science by nurturing new talent. The council has therefore pledged resources to co-finance workshops and summer institutes intended to provide substantive training to pre-doctoral researchers, including the presentation of their work and receiving feedback from senior scholars and their peers. It is expected that the selected workshops and institutes will have considerable geographical coverage.

Organisers of workshops and summer schools fulfilling the above aims are invited to submit a two-page case for support by April 30th 2015 to RSAI (rsai@apdr.pt).

All applications will be reviewed by the RSAI Executive, who will make a decision on the candidates to fund. Their decision will be final.

### ***Building bridges***

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=1360:building-bridges&Itemid=646](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1360:building-bridges&Itemid=646)

The RSAI will facilitate the participation of researchers from low-income and lower-middle-income economies (as defined by the World Bank: [http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups#Low\\_income](http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups#Low_income)) at the main Regional Science Conferences: ERSA, NARSC and PRSCO.

The RSAI will pay the fees of the congress for those researchers selected. Alternative means of financing will have to be sought for travel and accommodation.

Interested researchers should upload a two-page CV plus a one-page motivation including, if available, alternative means of support, by the following deadlines:

## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(1)***

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ERSA - 8 May 2015 (55th ERSAs Congress, August 25-29, 2015, Lisbon, Portugal - <http://www.ersalisbon2015.org/>)

NARSC - 31 July 2015 (62nd NARSC Congress, November 11-14, 2015, Portland, OR - <http://www.narsc.org/newsite/conference/>)

PRSCO - 8 May 2015 (24th Pacific Conference of the RSAI, 5-8 August, 2015, Vina del Mar, Chile - [www.prSCO.info/](http://www.prSCO.info/))

Applications can be uploaded using the following link.

<http://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/2v7b3z7X005q762u5E5aoB3cS>

Applicants should have had a paper accepted for presentation at the conference.

All applications will be reviewed by the RSAI Executive, who will make a decision on the candidates to fund. Their decision will be final.

### ***Competitions & Awards***

The Hirotada Kohno Award for Outstanding Service to the RSAI. Read more...

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=361:the-hirotada-kohno-award&Itemid=599](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=361:the-hirotada-kohno-award&Itemid=599)

The Martin Beckmann RSAI Annual Award for the Best Paper in Papers in Regional Science. Read more...

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=363&Itemid=600](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=363&Itemid=600)

The Peter Nijkamp Research Encouragement Award for an Early Career Scholar from a Developing Country. Read more...

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=364&Itemid=601](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=364&Itemid=601)

The Jean Paelinck RSAI Award honoring Jean Paelinck, one of the four founding Fellows of RSAI. The Jean Paelinck RSAI Award for Distinguished Sustained Scholarship in Regional Science Methods.

Read more...

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1238&Itemid=857](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1238&Itemid=857)

The Stan Czamanski Prize awarded by the Regional Science Association International in memory of Professor Stan Czamanski. Read more...

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1262&Itemid=858](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1262&Itemid=858)

**RSAI Dissertation Award** Call for submissions 2014 RSAI Best Dissertation in Regional Science. The Regional Science Association International (RSAI) invites submissions for the best doctoral dissertation in regional science. Regional science is an interdisciplinary field concerned with theory, method, and application of regional, urban and rural, geographic and spatial investigations and analyses.

Read more...

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=365&Itemid=602](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=365&Itemid=602)

## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(1)***

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**RSAI Founder's Medal** The Founder's Medal was established to recognize lifetime contributions to the field of Regional Science and to the Association. The Founder's Medal was first awarded to Walter Isard in 1978. Read more...

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=375&Itemid=603](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=375&Itemid=603)

**RSAI Fellows** RSAI fellows are distinguished scholars with a proven and recognized research record in the field of regional science during a considerable part of their scientific career. The RSAI fellowship is a world-wide sign of scientific recognition that is bestowed on a regional scientist with outstanding research credentials in his/her field. The RSAI fellowship does not imply any obligation to the Association, although it is expected that fellows on a voluntary basis will serve the scientific objectives of the RSAI whenever possible or appropriate. Read more...

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=366&Itemid=604](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=366&Itemid=604)

### **Other Awards**

Details of other awards can be found on the individual regional websites. Read more...

[http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=368&Itemid=690](http://regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=368&Itemid=690)

### ***New Postgraduate study Opportunity – Regional Innovation***

The Graduate Certificate in Regional Innovation is designed for leaders and managers in regional organisations across all sectors who are seeking to develop practical, innovative solutions to on-the-ground challenges and leverage emerging opportunities.

This new course is offered by the Institute for Regional Development at the University of Tasmania in partnership with the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics.

Strongly focused on applied learning, this course links theory with practice to provide the knowledge and skills for leading innovative change processes that create opportunities for firms, institutions and regions.

Units include 'Learning through Practice', 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Regions' and 'Regional Development Theory and Practice' and are available online and via intensive 3-day workshops on the beautiful North West Coast of Tasmania.

New students can enrol in June and start with 'Regional Development Theory and Practice' offered over 7 weeks in July/August 2015.

For further details, contact : Dr Clayton J Hawkins, Coursework Coordinator, Institute for Regional Development, Phone: +61 3 6430 4982, Email: Clayton.Hawkins@utas.edu.au

### ***Invitation for Proposals from Rowman & Littlefield Publishers***

Paul Dalziel has been approached by a representative of a new publishing house in the United Kingdom. Alison Howson is a publisher for Rowman & Littlefield International and there are two initiatives to bring to the attention of our members.

The first is that Rowman and Littlefield Publishers are pursuing the idea of launching a series on spatial economics / urban economics. This is just an idea at this stage, which may not fly, but if any members are

## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAL, 5(1)***

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interested in writing or editing a book suitable for an international audience under that heading, Alison would be pleased to hear from you.

The second is a series recently launched under the heading of RLI Policy Impacts. This is looking for short books (25,000-45,000 words) designed to relay research findings that are relevant to a policy audience. I have recently co-authored a similar book in New Zealand (Wellbeing Economics: Future Directions for New Zealand) and so appreciate that this is no simple task. But again, if any members are interested in writing such a book, Alison would be pleased to hear from you.

For further information, visit [www.rowmaninternational.com](http://www.rowmaninternational.com) or please contact Alison Howson, Publisher for Economics, at [ahowson@rowman.com](mailto:ahowson@rowman.com)

### ***Regional Studies Association Inaugural Australasian Conference 2015***

RMIT University, Melbourne - 31st August - 2nd September. Call for papers can be viewed at <http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rethinking-the-region-regionalism-in-australasia-challenges-opportunities-f>

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW! UNTIL 11 May

Cities and regions in Australia and New Zealand have experienced more than 30 years of social and demographic dynamism as a consequence of micro economic reform, greater engagement with the global networks of production, new patterns of migration, rising national prosperity and the shift towards a service based economy. In many respects, the antipodean nations have led the world in the process of economic liberalisation, stripping away regulations to move from being some of the most protected economies in the OECD in the 1960s to amongst the most open economies in the 21st Century. For some regions, cities and towns change has resulted in growth, while for others the last three decades have been marked by fluctuating fortunes and even decline. Public sector reform at the national, provincial/state and local levels have contributed to these processes of change, calling into question both previous paradigms and policy settings. These changes have had immense impacts for academics and other researchers involved in the study of regions, resulting in the development of new theoretical positions and the need to engage with a much broader set of intellectual arguments. This, the first Regional Studies Association, event in Australasia seeks to contribute to the growth in academic dialogue at the local and global scales.

Rethinking the Region and Regionalism in Australasia seeks contributions from researchers, policy makers and practitioners working in all areas of regional analysis, especially those focussed on Australasia. Themes of interest to the conference include:

- Regions at the end of the mining boom;
- Governance and the regions;
- The institutional determinants of growth and development;
- Population processes in the regions;
- First nations – Maori and Indigenous Australians – and the regions;
- Housing, social services and infrastructure;

## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAL, 5(1)***

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- Measuring wellbeing, happiness and progress at the regional scale;
- Ecological Sustainability;
- Climate Change and the Future of Regional Systems;
- Smart Specialisation;
- Regions and the Global Financial Crisis;
- City Regions in Australasia and other parts of the globe; and,
- Achieving local economic growth.

One aspect of these themes that could be considered and will be welcomed is the ‘cultural’ dimension of change, as reflected in emerging approaches to addressing change by local governments across the world.

### *Submission of papers*

Please submit proposals for papers in the form of a 400-500 word abstract (text only, no pictures, graphs or tables) through the Regional Studies Association online portal by 11th May 2015. Registration and abstract submission is open now!

Please note that this conference has limited places; successful candidates will be notified within two weeks of the closing date. Proposals will be considered by the Conference Programming Committee against the criteria of originality, interest and subject balance.

### Conference Fees

Regular Conference Fee £350.00 (\$690) \*Student and \*\*Early Career Conference Fee £285.00 (\$563.00)

\* Full time student

\*\* Early career is defined as 5 years post PhD

Please note that there are only a limited number of student and early career places for this event. Reduced option will be removed once limit is reached, so early booking is advised.

### ***RSA Early Career Grants***

Members who are completing, or who have recently completed, their PhD may be interested to read about the Early Career Grants offered by the Regional Studies Association.

The RSA Early Career Grant is provided to support a discrete piece of regional studies and/or regional science related research. The value of the grant is up to £10,000 and has a maximum time span of 18 months.

There is a two-stage application process; the submission deadline for the next selection round is 31st May 2015. Further details and the necessary paperwork can be accessed at [www.regionalstudies.org/funding/page/early-career-grant-scheme](http://www.regionalstudies.org/funding/page/early-career-grant-scheme) .

### ***Regional Australia Institute***

The Regional Australia Institute has announced the expansion of [In]Form: Australia’s online library of regional research. Check it out here: <http://inform.regionalaustralia.org.au/>



## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(1)***

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The Regional Australia Institute has embarked on a project entitled ‘The Foundations of Regional Australia’ in which it seeks to define Australian regions using three dimensions:

- “how many people live there,
- the kind of work that these people do and
- the distance to major cities from these places.

“The Regional Australia Institute identifies four groups of regional communities that capture both the diversity and the common challenges faced by regional Australians – the Foundations of Regional Australia.

“These Foundations include four types of regional community – Regional Cities, Connected Lifestyle Areas, Industry and Service Hubs and Heartland Regions.”

Source: <http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Foundations-of-regional-Australia-FINAL-.pdf>

*Editor’s note:* This foundation, in the view of your editor, is remarkably shaky. The relevant population is the number of people who live and work in the region and the relevant regions are not the administrative accidents of history which are the ‘Foundations’ of this work, but the functional regions which contain both residential and work locations. The use of functional region would remove the confusion between ‘Service hubs’ and ‘Heartland regions’, and between ‘Regional Cities’ and their ‘Connected Lifestyle Areas’ which is the subject of critical bloggers on the RAI website.

The geography and boundaries of the 140 functional economic regions of Australia have been defined and are available at [http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/functional\\_regions/](http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/functional_regions/). To quote this website:

“The Centre of Full Employment and Equity has developed a new geography for Australia which we call the CofFEE Functional Economic Regions (CofFEE FER). The genesis of the CofFEE FER began with our concern that the administrative geographical demarcations currently used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) – the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) to collect and disseminate their labour force and Census data - is unsuited to the task of providing a systematic understanding of level of economic interaction within and between neighbouring regions.”

See also Mitchell, William and Stimson, Robert. 2010. Creating a new geography of functional economic regions to analyse aspects of labour market performance in Australia. In P. Dalziel (Ed.), *Innovation and regions: Theory, practice and policy*, Refereed Proceedings of the 34th Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Regional Science Association International, Melbourne 7-10 December: 178-220. AERU Research Unit, Lincoln University, Lincoln, New Zealand, available at <http://www.anzrsai.org>.

It is to be hoped that the Regional Australia Institute will consider using a functional rather an administrative definition of regions.

**CURRENT RESEARCH**

***Regional Science Policy & Practice***

ABSTRACTS Vol 7(1) March 2015

p.p. 1-23

Henry Wai-chung Yeung

*Regional development in the global economy: A dynamic perspective of strategic coupling in global production networks*

Abstract: This paper rethinks the trajectories of regional development in an era of economic globalization. It argues for a more dynamic perspective on regional development that must incorporate both endogenous regional assets and strategic imperatives in global industries. Premised on theoretical advances in research into global production networks (GPNs) and global value chains (GVCs), a dynamic perspective of strategic coupling is further developed and reconstructed in this paper to demonstrate how regional development can result from the interaction effects of these regional assets and GPN logics. This perspective also points to different modes of strategic coupling for understanding the changing pathways of regional development. Several key issues for regional policy and practice are outlined to substantiate this call for a shift towards a dynamic and multi-scalar view of regional development in today's global economy.

p.p. 25-47

Roberto Camagni and Roberta Capello

*Rationale and design of EU cohesion policies in a period of crisis*

Abstract: The paper reflects on justifications for, and the proper design of, cohesion policies in a period of deep economic recession. In particular,

the paper tackles two important topics. The first concerns the justification for EU regional policies in a period of economic downturn, since they may seem less urgent and appropriate than short term demand policies. Instead, as the paper argues, the crisis exerts considerable pressure on several EU countries, and may even, in the worst case, jeopardize two decades of efforts towards EU enlargement and cohesion. In this circumstance, regional policies are required to rebalance the spatial effects that the ongoing crisis is determining on interregional convergence trends, in strict relationship with some new monetary and fiscal policy tools agreed at the EU level lifting the pressure that present austerity measures are exerting on many, mainly Southern, European countries. The second topic relates to the most appropriate design that cohesion policies should follow, building in a critical way on the results of the robust policy debate of the last decade. The message that the paper conveys from a conceptual point of view is that the winning strategy is neither to focus on champion places and regions, in search of the highest efficiency, nor on lagging areas only, in search of equity, but on the development potential of all places, represented by its territorial capital – material, human, cognitive, social and relational. Policies should be tailored on each region's specificities, competitive advantage and needs, engaging all possible assets and enlarging existing excellences. This pathway simultaneously avoids the social and economic costs of a concentrated development and is able to guarantee the highest returns in terms of both competitiveness and cohesion. The paper concludes by proposing suggestions on how to respond to the specific and particular challenges that the New Member countries of the EU are

now facing, on the basis of the previous conceptual and empirical evidence.

p.p. 49-60

Scott Jackson

### *Standardizing the selection of countries for benchmarking*

**Abstract:** This paper explores the use of a k-means cluster analysis for the selection of comparator countries in a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) growth diagnostic which is an important development planning tool. The approach's advantages include its ability to handle a large number of variables simultaneously, its relative speed and ease of use. The technique assigns clusters based on the Euclidean distance between observations. It permits the use of a wider set of selection criteria and thereby is more indicative of development status than those based solely on income or geographic proximity.

And from Volume 3(3) August 2011

p.p. 219-230

Brian W. Head

### *Governance for sustainable regions: can government meet the innovation policy challenge?*

**Abstract:** Governments have long attempted to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in many policy spheres, including economic development at national and regional levels. Neo-liberal market-based approaches to regional economic policy have been developed as an alternative to government subsidization and regulation. However the role of the state remains very significant in shaping regional strategies and in funding the physical and social infrastructure essential for economic growth. Neo-liberal approaches have focused on economic development through entrepreneurship, but regional innovation policy has been broadened to include economic, social

and environmental objectives, summed up as 'innovation for sustainable regions'. Regional policy consists of a series of intersecting goals and programmes that are often in tension. Governments operate in complex institutional contexts and multi-level arrangements which constrain their responsiveness and their capacity to innovate. In the face of complex or 'wicked' issues, there are serious challenges for the government sector to develop capabilities for promoting successful innovation at the regional level. It is argued that governments need to play a leadership role, and that they require new approaches based on partnerships and networks.

## **ABOUT ANZRSAI**

### *ANZRSAI Annual Conference 2014*

This quirky arm chair in Christchurch, NZ, is made up of fragments retrieved from earthquake debris, and expresses the resilience of this community.



The ANZRSAI 38<sup>th</sup> annual conference took place in Christchurch, New Zealand, 1-4 December 2014.



The central business district of Christchurch was devastated by a series of earthquakes in 2010 to 2012, but is now well on the path to recovery (see the short video by Future Christchurch at <http://vimeo.com/105076491>).

The conference began with a cocktail reception hosted in the Mayor's Lounge of the Christchurch City Council.

Four keynote addresses were given during the conference, all focused on regions in recovery. The first was by the Mayor of Christchurch, Lianne Dalziel; the second by Professor Andrew Beer, currently President of the Regional Studies Association in the United Kingdom; the third by Tom Hooper, the CEO of the city's agency for economic development; and the fourth by the Regional Australia Institute based on their major report *From Disaster to Renewal*.



Three awards sponsored by the **Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics** were awarded at the conference dinner.

The John Dickinson Memorial Award for best article in the Australasian Journal of Regional Science 2014 was awarded to Bernice Kotey (University of New England) for her article "Small Business Innovation in the Hostile Environment of Australia's Drought-Stricken Rural Communities" published in volume 20(2), pp. 325-350.

The ANZRSAL Award for Best Conference Paper 2014 was awarded to Delwar Akbar, John Rolfe, Garrick Small and Rahat Hossain for their paper "Flood in Blood: Assessing Housing Market Vulnerability within the Fitzroy Basin Region, Australia". This paper is the first paper presented in the conference proceedings.

The ANZRSAL Award for Best Conference Paper by a Current or Recent Student 2014 was awarded to Ashkan Masouman for his paper "Application of a Dynamic Inter-Sectoral Framework to Estimate Regional Employment". The committee highly commended one other entrant for this Award: Greg Jones and Graham Bowrey for their paper "Local Government Internal Audit Compliance". Both of these papers are also presented in the proceedings.





## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(1)***

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### ***ANZRSAI Council Changes***

Following the 2014 Conference in Christchurch there have been changes in the ANZRSAI Council with new members, a change of President and new editors for Australasian Journal of Regional Studies. Paul Dalziel returns as President, having been Vice President New Zealand during 2014. Paul Collits is now Immediate Past President and has become a member of the editorial team of Australasian Journal of Regional Studies, together with Mike Hefferan (USC Queensland) who joins Council, Bruce Wilson (RMIT Victoria) who remains on Council, and Wayne Graham (USC) who has stepped down from Council. Robyn Eversole (Tasmania) remains as Australian Vice President and James Rowe remains on Council, now as Vice President New Zealand having moved from Northern Territory. Delwar Akbar (CQU) has taken up the position of Secretary replacing Greg Kerr, who has stepped off Council, and Yogi Vidyamatta (ACT) continues. Greg Jones (Queensland) remains Treasurer, Tony Sorensen (New South Wales) remains Public Officer, and Rolf Gerritsen (Northern Territory) remains the Council member in Northern Territory. John Martin (Victoria and/or Italy) rejoins Council, Mike Hefferan (USC, Queensland) joins Council, and Bruce Wilson (RMIT, Victoria) remains on Council. Laurence Lester joins Council as our member in South Australia, and your editor, Tony O'Malley, remains on Council having moved to Victoria. This Council membership now includes persons from New Zealand and all states and territories of Australia but Western Australia.

### **ANZRSAI Council 2015**

#### **President**

Paul Dalziel  
Lincoln University, NZ

#### **Vice President (Australia)**

Robyn Eversole

University of Tasmania

#### **Vice President (New Zealand)**

James Rowe  
Napier Town Council

#### **Secretary**

Delwar Akbar  
Central Queensland University

#### **Treasurer**

Greg Jones  
University of Southern Queensland

#### **Council Member**

Rolf Gerritsen  
Charles Darwin University

#### **Council Member**

Mike Hefferan  
USC Queensland

#### **Council Member**

Laurence Lester  
University of Adelaide

#### **Council Member**

John Martin  
Latrobe University

#### **Council Member**

Tony O'Malley  
University of South Australia, Melbourne

#### **Council Member**

Yogi Vidyattama  
NATSEM, Canberra

#### **Council Member**

Bruce Wilson  
RMIT University

#### **Ex-officio**

Bob Stimson  
Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network  
University of Melbourne

#### **Public Officer**

Tony Sorensen  
University of New England

#### **Editors: Australasian Journal of Regional Studies**

Paul Collits, NSW  
Wayne Graham, University of Sunshine Coast  
Mike Hefferan, University of Sunshine Coast  
Bruce Wilson, RMIT University

## ***SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRSAI, 5(1)***

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Paul Collits  
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