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Foreword

Where the Corona Virus has spread

At 1 October 2020, 213 Countries and Territories around the world have reported a total of 34,167,124 confirmed cases of the coronavirus COVID-19 ...and a death toll of 1,018,880 deaths. Some of these countries are listed below because they are neighbours of Australia and New Zealand or are our trading partners. The countries included are arranged by the number of cases.

Country	Cases	Deaths	Region
United States	7,447,693	211,752	North America
India	6,312,584	98,708	Asia
South Africa	674,339	16,734	Africa
United Kingdom	453,219	42,143	United Kingdom
Pakistan	312,806	6,484	Asia
Philippines	311,694	5,504	Asia
Indonesia	287,008	10,740	Asia
Israel	248,133	1,571	Asia
Canada	158,758	9,297	North America
China	85,414	4,634	Asia
Japan (+Diamond Princess)	83,722	1,577	Asia
Singapore	57,765	27	Asia
Australia	27,096	288	Australia/Oceania
Malaysia	11,224	136	Asia
New Zealand	1,848	25	Australia/Oceania
Papua New Guinea	534	7	Australia/Oceania
Fiji	32	2	Australia/Oceania

For more look here:

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/countries-where-coronavirus-has-spread/>

ANZRSAI 44th Annual Conference 2020

The 2020 ANZRSAI Conference had been planned to be held in Melbourne in the first week of December. The ongoing travel restrictions and concerns to avoid exposing participants to the Coronavirus mean that the decision has been made to postpone the conference until 2021. Further details will be provided later this year or early next year.

Knock knock, who's there? The Nobel Prize for Economics 2020

The image is a blue banner for the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2020. At the top left is the Nobel Prize medal. The text reads "EKONOMIPRISET 2020" and "THE PRIZE IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES 2020". On the right is the logo of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, "KUNGL. VETENSKAPS-AKADEMIEN". Below the text are two portraits: Paul R. Milgrom on the left and Robert B. Wilson on the right. At the bottom, it says "Läs mer om årets ekonomipris: www.kva.se" and "Read more about this year's Prize in Economic Sciences: www.kva.se/en".

“The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2020 (commonly known as the Nobel Prize for Economics) has been awarded to Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson for their advanced work on auction theory, which is a branch of game theory and designs of mathematical models that promote ‘improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats’. Through the award, the Nobel committee recognised both the significance of development mathematical models in game theory that could introduce incentives and information into the auction bidding process to maintain a fair market and prevent collusion among the bidders for the local and global economics.”

The Academy said the auction theory developed by Milgrom and Wilson had helped design new formats that are now used to sell such diverse goods and services as fishing quotas, airport landing slots and electricity allowances.

There was a funny part though that Bob Wilson needs to inform Paul Milgrom about his win at the midnight by knocking his doorbell without entering. The news with an interesting video can be explored here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/13/knock-knock-whos-there-the-nobel-prize-for-economics>

Commentary

From the Regional Australia Institute

The Big Movers: Understanding Population mobility in regional Australia

This paper can be referenced as: Bourne, K., Houghton, K., How, G., Achurch, H. and Beaton, R. (2020) *The Big Movers: Understanding Population Mobility in Regional Australia*, Regional Australia Institute, Canberra.

Executive Summary

“This report, *The Big Movers: Understanding Population Mobility in Regional Australia*, looks at the way that people have moved around the country between the last two national Census in 2011 and 2016, where they chose to move to or move from, and the communities in which they decided to stay. It sets out a complex picture of population mobility in which people move to and from capital cities and regional areas and between regional areas themselves.

Our analysis showed that contrary to popular perceptions, more people were moving from capital cities to regional areas than there were moving the other way. This report confirms that regional Australia had a net inflow of 65,204 people, meaning that in the five years to 2016, regional Australia attracted more people than it lost to capital cities.

Current population debates are considering how to balance population growth across Australia better, and what mechanisms might work to encourage people to live in regional Australia. But Australia’s population is already highly mobile; we move more often than 80 per cent of other OECD countries. More than 39 per cent of Australians change their address every five years, compared to an international average of 21 per cent.

This report shows that people are already ‘voting with their feet’, and many are already choosing to live in regional Australia. Between 2011 and 2016 more than 1.2 million people either moved to regional Australia or moved around regional Australia from one location to another. So the policy questions are more about how can we understand and amplify the drivers of these movements towards regional Australia, rather than how to make people move.

These mobility movements are similar by scale and direction of trend over time. For both the most recent (2011 to 2016) and earlier (2006 to 2011) Census periods, the data show more people are moving to regions from capital cities than the other way. Over the period 2011-16 65,204 people moved to regions, and in the period 2006-11 this number was 70,493 people.

As well as analysing the flow of people of all ages to and from regional Australia, this report takes a closer look at the way that millennials (20-35-year-olds) moved to and between regional communities.

The focus on this age group is of particular interest to policymakers, as it consists of families as well as early-to-mid career professionals and tradespersons, all of whom can boost the human and social capital of regional communities. People in this age group are highly desired regional residents and have the potential to become long-term community members.

This report shows that more millennials moved into capital cities from regions than vice versa – with a net outflow from regions to cities of 31,999. However, this report also shows that 207,510 millennials moved between communities around regional Australia. These people moved from one place in regional Australia to live in another part of regional Australia rather than in a capital city.

While city-based millennials were attracted to Local Government Areas (LGAs) associated with the mining boom, regional millennials showed more of a diverse pattern. Although moves to mining boom LGAs were still evident, this group also moved to communities with high amenity and within a two-hour drive to a larger centre such as Newcastle or Geelong. Regionally-based millennials were also much more inclined than city-based millennials to move to more isolated or remote places in general.

This report helps to understand whether and to what extent this ‘millennial drift’ is occurring, and it shows us the kinds of places that are attracting and losing this cohort of potential residents.

Looking at the population as a whole, most people who moved from a regional area to a capital city stayed in their ‘home state’. Brisbane and Melbourne received the highest absolute numbers of people moving from regional Australia.

Similarly, when people moved from one regional area to another, they more often stayed within the state or territory in which they already resided. Regional New South Wales, regional Queensland and regional Victoria all drew the largest number of people from cross-jurisdictional regional areas. The majority of population movement into regional communities was a result of people moving from one regional community to another. This is an important finding and one that can help regions better direct population attraction efforts by focussing more strongly on other regional communities.

The impact of the mining boom is evidenced not only in the patterns of millennial movement but also in the analysis of the outflow of residents from regional communities. Between 2011 and 2016, the communities that experienced the greatest proportion of their residents leaving were associated with mining or mining construction. This presents an ongoing challenge for these communities in sustaining their populations and helping their residents to thrive post-boom.

Regional Australia is changing, and with this transformation come boundless opportunities to rethink what is regional Australia, what it will look like in the future and how we can shape our country as a whole.

Understanding the way that the population moves around regional Australia is an important first step in identifying the reasons that people are attracted to some places instead of others. This understanding can help to shape population policy in regional communities.”

Further information can be found at www.regionalaustralia.org.au

Opportunities & Challenges for Regions

From Liz Ritchie, CEO, Regional Australia Institute

The world as we know it continues to shift and the complexity for businesses, communities, governments and leaders alike is real. The economic and social impacts continue to be divergent across the nation which offers both opportunities and challenges.

One of these opportunities is the ‘Regionalisation of our nation’ which is our strategy to ensure more Australians live, work and invest in Regional Australia. As such, I am delighted to host Deputy Prime Minister the Hon Michael McCormack for his pre-Budget address next week. If you would like to join us, please register here and submit any questions you would like addressed.

It’s also pleasing to see a positive shift in our latest Quarterly Regional Jobs Update from our Chief Economist, Dr Kim Houghton. With current employment vacancies sitting at 45,600, this is a return to the trend we reported in 2019, which is a further sign of optimism for Regional Australia.

Here at the Institute, we’ve been engaging with all levels of government to ensure regions are a priority, and place-based policies are being enacted. We are actively building the national awareness campaign which will enable not only a vision for Regional Australia to emerge but the opportunity to create history. Thank you to the many organisations who have joined our Regional Activators Alliance. We look forward to meeting with you all in coming weeks.

As with every month, we love to share our knowledge at conferences across the country and the Daily Telegraph’s Bush Summit in Cooma was indeed one to remember. I was humbled to be on a panel with the Deputy Prime Minister. I reiterated our key message that the regions are ready and waiting for people to make a move and embrace the good life.

Our Regions Rising webinars continue to receive great feedback, with one attendee saying “the sessions have become a must-watch for me”. Our most recent webinar focussed on whether the domestic tourism industry could fill the gap left by the absent international visitors. You can read a recap here.

Finally, at the RAI we are regularly engaged to undertake consulting research projects. One current project is about building a better understanding of how regional people use financial services. If you’d like to be interviewed, or want more information, please check out our website.

Until next month, you can stay up to date on all things regional via our socials, @RegionalAus, #RegionalAus #RegionsRising

From Brookings

Restoring Regional Public Universities for Recovery in the Great Lakes

Robert Maxim and Mark Muro (June 2020)

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20200617_BrookingsMetro_Great-Lakes-RPUs_ES-final.pdf.

“While the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have been ubiquitous, they have affected certain places and people disproportionately. Many communities had yet to fully recover from the last recession before the onset of the current downturn. Likewise, the explosion of recent protests around the country has highlighted the many dire disparities of access for Black Americans and other nonwhite citizens, including access to quality higher education.

These recent events have put the nation’s often-overlooked regional public universities (RPUs) in the spotlight, both as unique sites of opportunity to address these challenges as well as institutions in an increasingly precarious position to do so. RPUs are public, four-year, community oriented universities. They are more numerous than nationally known state flagship and public research 1 (R1) universities, and, unlike community colleges, offer a full array of four-year degrees.

This paper assesses the economic and educational effects and overall well-being of regional public universities within the Great Lakes region, which consists of six Midwestern states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. While these states have been important sources of natural resources and centers of economic activity, over the past two decades, economic trends such as globalization and automation have hollowed out their labor markets. A healthy cadre of regional public universities could help close enrollment and attainment gaps and bolster economic growth in communities across the region.”

The findings are:

- The Great Lakes region has a strong concentration of regional public universities, which are important assets for fostering economic recovery.
- Great Lakes regional public universities educate more in-state and transfer students than public flagships and R1s, but enrollment is in decline.
- Great Lakes regional public universities help close university attainment and completion gaps for underrepresented students.
- Business, health professions, and education are the most common fields of study at Great Lakes regional public universities.
- Even before COVID-19, stagnant revenue had created fiscal challenges for Great Lakes regional public universities, leaving them vulnerable to the current downturn.”

These findings have implications for regional universities in Australia. ANZRSAI may be able to develop policy for regional universities in Australia. Ed.

Can the United States and China reboot their climate cooperation?

Tod Stern, Nonresident Senior Fellow - Foreign Policy, Energy Security and Climate Initiative

“During the Obama administration, the U.S.-China climate relationship was central to the global progress that culminated in the Paris climate agreement. The administration started developing that relationship right away: from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s first trip to China in February 2009;

to my first meeting in March 2009 with my Chinese counterpart, Minister Xie Zhenhua, where I proposed trying to make climate a positive pillar in an often-fraught relationship; to Secretary of State John Kerry's establishment of a new U.S.-China Climate Change Working Group; to the historic joint announcement by Presidents Barack Obama and Xi Jinping in Beijing in November 2014; and the Paris Agreement itself a year later. The nature of our cooperation was never easy; Xie and I were still battling down to the last two days of negotiations in Paris in 2015. But the two sides came to understand, over time, that at the end of the day we would find a way to agree."

Read the whole article here:

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/can-the-united-states-and-china-reboot-their-climate-cooperation/>.

Climate change is a global regional threat in which regional science will play a very large role. (Ed)

From University of Sydney, the Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering

How to make copper mines emission free

24 June 2020

[Will copper spur the sustainable energy transition?](#)

A world first study by the University of Sydney's Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering, Zero Emission Copper Mine of the Future, lays out how Australian copper mining can be cleaner and smarter using emerging technologies.

The *Zero Emission Copper Mine of the Future* report by the University of Sydney's Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering sets out how Australian copper mining can become emission free over the next 30 years through the use of emerging technologies.

This 'world first' roadmap, commissioned by the International Copper Association Australia (ICAA), identifies five key target areas for technological innovation to reduce and ultimately eliminate mining emissions: exploration, movement of materials, ventilation, processing, and water use.

The range of technologies copper supports is vast: autonomous drones and robot machinery, next generation sensors, Mixed Reality (immersive technology), wearable tech, in-situ ore recovery, novel leaching processes and on demand ventilation are just some examples.

Achieving cutting edge innovation will also depend on collaboration across five strategic levers: policy and programs, industry networks, capital enablers, future knowledge and an open mindset.

"A zero-emission copper mine of the future will be significantly different from the current copper mining system, and will require fundamental changes in how the mine sources, consumes and abates energy," Director of the Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering, Ashley Brinson, said.

"To achieve a zero-emissions future, 'moonshot' type thinking is needed and will require a joint commitment from research bodies, the public and private sectors."

To achieve a zero-emissions future, 'moonshot' type thinking is needed.

Mr Ashley Brinson, The Warren Centre

The resources sector, and copper mining in particular, faces big challenges – falling ore quality, fewer new deposits and much tougher licence to operate rules”, John Fennell, ICAA CEO, said. “But we need to do things differently going forward.”

Mr Fennell said this is the first of three blueprints or horizon reports over three years, designed to clarify the vision, establish viable technologies, create an innovation culture, and bring the industry together.

Copper to power sustainability?

Copper is widely used in green innovation, used by industries seeking to reduce their environmental impact.

“Hybrid and electric vehicles rely on copper, as do renewable energy sources such as solar photovoltaic, wind farms, hydroelectricity and associated grid infrastructure. Constructing a renewable energy system demands significantly more copper than traditional systems,” said Mr Brinson.

“Copper plays an important role in the transition of society to a zero-carbon future.”

DISCLOSURE:

The report was researched and compiled by The Warren Centre and was funded by the International Copper Association Australia. It includes insights on how to achieve direct emissions reduction at mining and smelting sites from leading industry experts with first-hand experience of the practical challenges faced by industry.

From CEDA

By Melinda Cilento, CEO

“Immigration has long been an important foundation for Australia’s economic development and prosperity, but the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a dramatic slowing of overseas arrivals.

...“The COVID-19 recession has sharpened the focus on the role of training to help prevent labour market scarring for a generation of young Australians. We need an equal focus on improving our immigration systems to ensure migration plays its part in our economic recovery.

“In the meantime, we hope the government will take the long view on migration, recognising its role in building past prosperity, and the potential for similar benefits in a world where the competition for skills and talent will only intensify.

Access this paper here: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/migration-must-play-a-role-in-australia-s-post-covid-economic-recovery-20200925-p55zbz.html>.

From the Productivity Commission

Centering Indigenous people in policy evaluation is a key to better outcomes

The Productivity Commission has outlined a plan to improve the evaluation of policies and programs affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“It is a stark reality that despite decades of new policies and programs aimed at improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, we know very little about their impact,” Productivity Commission Chair Michael Brennan said.

“Evaluation is too often an afterthought. We need to lift the bar on evaluation quality, embed it at the outset of policy design and make sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are closely involved throughout.”

The draft Indigenous Evaluation Strategy puts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at its centre. It recognises that to achieve better outcomes, what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people value, their expertise, and lived experiences need to be reflected in what is evaluated, how evaluation is undertaken and the outcomes policies and programs seek to achieve.

“The Strategy is about Australian Government agencies engaging effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to better design and evaluate policies and programs. The Strategy must improve evaluations to improve policies and the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,” Commissioner Romlie Mokak said.

The draft Strategy includes detailed guidance material, outlining the strengths of different evaluation approaches and how to ensure evaluation is part of every stage of policy making and program delivery.

The Commission also proposes new governance arrangements to monitor Australian Government agencies’ performance against the Strategy, provide evaluation leadership, and identify potential cross-agency and topic evaluations. The Strategy also sets out a government-wide approach to setting evaluation priorities.

The Commission consulted widely when developing the draft Strategy, including with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations. The Commission is again seeking feedback on the proposed approach.

The draft Strategy, guidance material and background paper are available at www.pc.gov.au.

Media, Publications and Web | Productivity Commission | 03 9653 2244 | mpw@pc.gov.au | www.pc.gov.au

From the Cockatoo Network

By courtesy of Rod Brown, Cockatoo Network, Canberra ACT Australia. Rod Brown is a former senior government official in the industry, regional development and construction fields. He now runs the Cockatoo Network and is a federally-registered lobbyist. WE CONNECT THE DOTS, 02 – 62317261 or 0412 922559, apdcockatoo@iprimus.com.au.

‘One Million Jobs’ – a fascinating input from BZE a think tank

In late June, the Energy Change think tank, Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE), released a very cogent and timely document called the Million Jobs Plan. Every local council should make itself aware of it.

The Plan aims to invigorate the economy through investment in zero emissions industries. When I first heard of it, I thought ‘here we go again’. But the Plan is sensible (though not without some big dollars) and was released by serious players like Mike Cannon-Brookes (Atlassian), Kevin McCann (ex-chair Macquarie Bank; now chair Origin Energy) and Deanne Stewart (CEO of First State Super). The inference is that the corporate sector could open its wallet on the Plan.

The rationale is that Australia needs the best solutions to unlock productivity and growth, and BZE is thus bringing together leaders in investment, business and industry to get those ideas scoped and built. There is an emphasis on nation-building, transformative projects. The key elements are:

- New energy transmission and storage projects.
- National housing retrofit program to cut emissions and power bills.
- 150,000 zero-energy social housing dwellings.
- Electrifying transportation systems based on Australian manufacturing.
- Electrifying and expanding our manufacturing sector.
- Restoration of land.
- Upgrading the aluminium industry to utilise renewables I’m fence-sitting on this).

Example - Revegetation

One project of particular interest to local government is the plan to revegetate 55 million hectares of land (equivalent to 30% of our existing native forests) - 38,000 jobs over 10 years, with a cut in emissions of 10%.

The project would also require the training and employment of 5,000 Indigenous Rangers. This struck a chord because we’ve been kicking ideas around in Canberra about ways of creating sustainable indigenous jobs – in the context of bushfire remediation and the Black Lives Matter agenda. The indigenous population has a competitive advantage and an empathy with land management. Contacts have said that ‘we’re already doing this’, but this would be a boost to current efforts. And a Cairns-based Cockatoo member says we should also be think about employing not just individuals but families, since that is the indigenous mindset.

Example – Social Housing

Australian super funds invest in affordable housing overseas, but not in Australia! So the Plan is pushing the envelope with a proposal for 150,000 zero-energy social housing dwellings. That

is a lot of housing, probably \$50 billion of private/public funding over say a decade. This is peanuts compared with new Defence spending currently being touted.

Remember it all gets back to priorities. Are we comfortable seeing large numbers of disadvantaged citizens sleeping on the street; or women being trapped in relationships that lead to domestic violence? Social housing in Scandinavia specifically addresses these problems. Or do we prefer a Defence system armed to the teeth to repel unforeseen invaders? The BZE Plan could be an indirect way of addressing the current imbalance in policy settings.

[Related angles](#)

All in all, we should applaud the BZE. There is a sense of frustration that government aren't taking the lead on nation-building projects, 'so let us have a go'. And the really interesting angle is that if the institutional investors, which include the cash-rich super funds, get behind this Plan, then whole new funding scenarios open up. Could there be an end to submissions to laborious and highly-competitive federal/state grant programs? The BZE approach might involve institutional investors scoping the projects on their own behalf. Where there are public good elements, I presume federal/state funding would be sought for that share. The scoping studies would determine that share.

Former PM Turnbull's name is on the Plan which is nice, although it could cause a bit of blow-back. But if the institutional investors can really drive the Plan, we can hope that governments plural will be dragged along for the ride.

Homebuilder scheme

The recently-announced Homebuilder scheme provides for \$688m to provide \$25k mainly towards home extensions. Recipients need to spend \$150k to be eligible. The scheme requires the agreement of the states and there are numerous conditions attached. An army of bureaucrats will be needed to keep this on track.

But let's step back here. The primary aim is to sustain the employment of tradies during the economic impact of COVID. OK the theory is right, but the tradies in Canberra and Sydney are telling me that they're absolutely flat-out. And why spend public funds on inherently private sector assets? Surely the smarter option would be to spend public funds on public housing (as above) and restrict it to regions where tradies are under-employed.

I rang the office of the federal Housing Minister, Michael Sukkar, and the sweet lady suggested I speak to Treasury or the Department of Social Services (social housing). I racked the cue at this juncture because I remembered there's no longer a housing 'industry' function with real expertise. Master Builders and the Housing Industry Association are consummate lobbyists and must be having a field day.

Liveris

Andrew Liveris, the former Dow Chemical chief, who helped write manufacturing policy for Obama and Trump is now doing likewise for PM Morrison. 'Australia drank the free-trade juice and decided that off-shoring was OK. Well, that era is gone' he said. He is keen to really look at on-shoring key capabilities. More next month.

THE CONVERSATION

Regional Universities

Why regional universities and communities need targeted help to ride out the coronavirus storm

August 10, 2020 6.12am AEST

“Australian universities are expected to lose billions of dollars in revenue due to the impacts of COVID-19. The estimated lost revenue from international students alone is A\$18 billion by 2024. While all universities are affected, regional universities and communities are the most vulnerable. Regional communities have limited resources, so their universities play a pivotal role in their economies.”

<https://theconversation.com/why-regional-universities-and-communities-need-targeted-help-to-ride-out-the-coronavirus-storm-143355>.

CONFERENCES and STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

ANZRSAI 2020 Conference

The ANZRSAI 44th Annual Conference was to be held in Melbourne, 1-4 December 2020. As noted above, it has been postponed until 2021.

Regional Studies Blog

Professor Paul Dalziel, Executive Officer, ANZRSAI has recommended the Regional Studies Association Blog, which has been running since 2010. Each post is an easy-to-read piece between 500 and 750 words on a topical issue in regional studies.

The link is https://www.regionalstudies.org/category_news/rsa-blog/. A recent contribution that is relevant to ANZRSAI as we plan for the new post-CoVID normal is the following item: [Moving towards a new conference model? The rocky road to virtual conferencing](#), by Daniela Carl and Alex Holmes. Ashleigh Weeden talks about the ‘right to be rural’ during the CoVID epidemic in a contribution entitled [COVID-19 and Cottage Country: Exploring place, power, and policy in the ‘right to be rural’](#).

CURRENT RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

ANZRSAI Abstract Alerts

To contribute to ANZRSAI Abstract Alerts email the editors a title, abstract, and citation.

Yogi.Vidyattama

Yogi.Vidyattama@canberra.edu.au

Strengthen governability rather than deepen democracy: why local governments introduce participatory governance

Daniel Kübler, Philippe E. Rochat, Su Yun Woo, Nico van der Heiden

Abstract: Innovations in participatory governance have been widely discussed but their introduction as such is rarely examined. This article seeks to understand why, in a context of established democracy, local authorities engage in participatory governance. Using a data set on the implementation of mini-publics in 1505 Swiss municipalities in the period 2000 to 2012, we test five hypotheses about the introduction of participatory governance. We find that mini-publics in Swiss municipalities are policy-oriented procedures that involve only a small proportion of the citizenry. Municipalities who implement mini-publics are those that do not have a municipal assembly tradition, whose public services are under growth pressure, who feature many different political groups as well as strong party and community ties, and who have a strongly professionalized public administration. We conclude that the expansion of participatory governance is driven by an agenda to increase governability in an adversarial context with strong and fragmented group interests.

To Cite: *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, Volume: 86, Number: 3 (September 2020).

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0020852318801508>

COVID-19: Beyond Biological Dynamics

Abstract: In the absence of specific drugs and vaccines, precautions at the personal level (hygiene, maintaining physical distancing and so on), people's participation in population-level interventions (such as sharing scientific information, case-tracking and strategic area-specific lockdowns) and health service system preparedness are the three key available measures against the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the necessary ingredients for these three measures are missing—induced by poverty and structural inequality; a lack of people's trust and a crippled public sector in health with a low resource base; shrinking, fragmented and weakened infrastructure that has lost on inter-institutional referral links and monitoring and surveillance systems. Not only has an ill-planned lockdown crippled an already struggling economy and depleted health systems and overshadowed containment efforts but the time has not been utilised to strengthen primary healthcare (PHC) services and secondary and tertiary public sector healthcare infrastructure. A phased relaxation of the lockdown with a comprehensive fiscal stimulus to jump-start the economy, coupled with the strengthening of health systems that put the needs of the poor at the forefront, is suggested.

To Cite: Qadeer, I., and Ghosh, S.M. (2020). COVID-19: Beyond Biological Dynamics. *Social Change*, 50(3): 359-384.

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0049085720936076>

Developing an explanatory risk management model to comprehend the employees' intention to leave public sector organisation

Abstract: This paper reviews research and theory on the important topic of labour

turnover resulting from issues related to job performance and/or job satisfaction which have, in turn, been initiated by changes in work motivation. We focus on labour turnover in the public sector – a neglected area of public administration research – and propose an explanatory model of the development of the intention to leave an organisation. The model first describes the relationships between work motivation and job performance and/or job satisfaction. It then explains how changes in performance and/or satisfaction result in the formation of an intention to leave public service employment. The paper concludes by identifying key areas for future research.

To Cite: Prihandinisari, C., Rahman, A., and Hicks, J. (2020). Developing an explanatory risk management model to comprehend the employees' intention to leave public sector organisation. *Journal of Risk and Financial Management*, 13(9), 1-18.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/jrfm13090200>

What Indigenous employees value in a business training programme: implications for training design and government policies

Abstract: Indigenous people tend to pursue education in their mature age. Indigenous employees thus, may need additional training opportunities in the workplace. As their preferred way of learning are different from other employees, training programmes for Indigenous employees should be designed and delivered with their preferred ways of learning in mind. In this article, we analyse what Indigenous employees working in health services in rural and regional Australia value in a business training provided by a private vocational education and training (VET) provider. The training programme attended by Indigenous employees was offered to Indigenous employees only. Analysis of the semi-structured interviews with the graduates of the programme identifies key aspects of the

training that graduates value. This has important implications for engaging Indigenous employees in training programmes through their workplace, and improving design of business training programmes in the Indigenous context. Finally, our findings have implications for government policies and practices in supporting Indigenous training programmes.

To Cite: Ceric, A., Small, F., and Morrison, M. (2020). What Indigenous employees value in a business training programme: implications for training design and government policies. *Journal of Vocational Education and Training*, (published online).

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13636820.2020.1754886>

Evaluating the Role of Parental Education and Adolescent Health Problems in Educational Attainment

Abstract: This article reconsiders the role of social origin in health selection by examining whether parental education moderates the association between early health and educational attainment and whether health problems mediate the intergenerational transmission of education. We used longitudinal register data on Finns born in 1986–1991 (n = 352,899). We measured the completion of secondary and tertiary education until age 27 and used data on hospital care and medication reimbursements to assess chronic somatic conditions, frequent infections, and mental disorders at ages 10–16. We employed linear probability models to estimate the associations between different types of health problems and educational outcomes and to examine moderation by parental education, both overall in the population and comparing siblings with and without health problems. Finally, we performed a mediation analysis with g-computation to simulate whether a hypothetical eradication of health problems

would weaken the association between parental and offspring education. All types of health problems reduced the likelihood of secondary education, but mental disorders were associated with the largest reductions. Among those with secondary education, there was further evidence of selection to tertiary education. High parental education buffered against the negative impact of mental disorders on completing secondary education but exacerbated it in the case of tertiary education. The simulated eradication of health problems slightly reduced disparities by parental education in secondary education (up to 10%) but increased disparities in tertiary education (up to 2%). Adolescent health problems and parental education are strong but chiefly independent predictors of educational attainment.

To Cite: Mikkonen, J., Remes, H., Moustgaard, H. et al. Evaluating the Role of Parental Education and Adolescent Health Problems in Educational Attainment. *Demography* (2020).

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-020-00919-y>

Quantile regression approach to estimating prevalence and determinants of child malnutrition

Abstract: Child malnutrition is also associated with higher morbidity and mortality incidence. Therefore, it is imperative to have knowledge of its correlates and determinants. The objective of this paper is to examine the association between demographic and socioeconomic factors and child nutritional status in Bangladesh. **Subject and Methods:** A secondary data analysis was conducted using the 2014 Bangladesh demographic and health survey data. The surveys used a stratified two-stage cluster sampling. In the first stage, 600 enumeration areas (EAs) were selected with probability proportional to the EA size. In the

second stage of selection, a fixed number of 30 households per cluster will be selected with an equal probability systematic selection from the household listing. The sample constitutes 17886 ever-married women age 15-49 and 34.38 and 65.62 percent from urban and rural areas respectively. The anthropometric indicators Height-for-Age, Weight-for-Age and Weight-for-Height z-scores were used as the primary and secondary outcome measures. **Results:** Results show that age and birth order of child is negatively associated with Height-for-Age, Weight-for-Age and Weight-for-Height z-scores. However, the size of the child at birth is positively allied with the three anthropometric indicators. Mothers' BMI and educational level are positively connected with the nutrition z-scores but these factors differential effects at different points of the conditional distribution of the anthropometric z-scores. Moreover, the economic status of a family is an essential factor in determining the Z score of Height-for-Age, Weight-for-Age and Weight-for-Height of a child. **Conclusion:** The age, size of child at birth, mother's BMI and educational status, wealth index are very important determinants of the Z score of the anthropometric indicators of a child. In order to improve the nutritional status of children in Bangladesh, the authors suggest that a joint effort by the government, non-governmental organizations and the community is absolutely essential.

To Cite: Rahman, A., and Hossain, M. (2020). Quantile regression approach to estimating prevalence and determinants of child malnutrition. *Journal of Public Health: From Theory to Practice*, 28(3), 1-28.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10389-020-01277-0>

Regional Studies

Vol. 54, Issue 10, 2020, pp. 1328-1340.

Shaping smart specialization: the role of place-specific factors in advanced, intermediate and less-developed European regions

Michaela Trippel, Elena Zukauskaitė & Adrian Healy

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2019.1582763>

Abstract: This paper examines the ways by which organizational and institutional features of regional innovation systems shape smart specialization practices in less-developed, intermediate and advanced regions. Drawing on research from 15 European regions, it shows that the implantation of smart specialization creates challenges in all three types of regions. At the same time, there is evidence that smart specialization supports policy-learning and system-building efforts in less-developed regions and facilitates policy reorientation and system transformation in more advanced regions.

The Review of Regional Studies

Vol. 50, Issue 2, 2020, pp. 230-259

Regional Level Social Capital and Business Survival Rates

Tessa Conroy and Steven C. Deller

Departments of Agricultural and Applied Economics and Extension, University of Wisconsin - Madison, USA

We explore how community structure influences the five-year survival rates of businesses started in 2000.

Abstract: Using two alternative metrics of social capital, we explore how community structure influences the five-year survival rates of businesses started in 2000. Employing a

family of spatial estimators to derive a set of global estimates and Geographically Weighted Regression (GWR), we find strong evidence that community-level social capital has a positive influence on business survival rates. Results suggest that while social capital is important in understanding business survival rates, relationships vary significantly across space. From a policy perspective, it would be a mistake to treat social capital as a uniform asset where one approach fits all communities.

Regional Science Policy and Practice

Volume 12, Issue 4 (August 2020)

New technologies, potential unemployment and 'nescience economy' during and after the 2020 economic crisis

Stepan Zemtsov

Pages: 723-743 First Published: 25 April 2020

Abstract: The coronavirus pandemic and the economic crisis in 2020 are accelerating digital transformation. During and after the crisis, there are opportunities and needs for remote work facilities, online services, delivery drones, etc. We discuss how unmanned technologies can cause a long-term employment decrease, and why compensation mechanisms may not work.

Using the internationally comparable Frey–Osborne methodology, we estimated that less than a third of employees in Russia work in professions with a high automation probability. Some of these professions can suffer the most during quarantine measures; employment in traditional services can be significantly reduced. By 2030, about half of the jobs in the world and a little less in Russia will need to adapt during the fourth industrial revolution because they are engaged in routine, potentially automated activities. In the regions, specializing in manufacturing, this value is higher; the lowest risk is in the largest agglomerations with a high share of digital economy, greater and diverse labour markets.

Accelerating technological change can lead to a long-term mismatch between the exponential increase in automation rate and compensating effects of retraining, new jobs creation and other labour market adaptation mechanisms. Some people will not be ready for a life-long learning and competition with robots, and accordingly there is a possibility of their technological exclusion. The term “nescience economy” and corresponding assessment method were proposed. Using an econometric model, we identified factors that reduce these risks: human capital concentration, favourable business climate, high quality of life and ICT development. Based on these factors, some recommendations for authorities were proposed in the conclusion.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12286>

Papers in Regional Science

Volume 99, Issue 5

Collaboration Networks, Geography and Innovation: Local and National Embeddedness

Pablo Galaso, Jaromir Kovarik

First Published: 30 September 2020

Abstract: The relationship between collaboration, geography and innovation has been analysed in economic geography. However, little is known from a social-network perspective about whether different geographical levels of embeddedness may determine the way networks affect innovation. To address this issue, we compare the effects of regional vs. country-level Spanish networks on future patenting. If we consider the country-wide network, our statistical analysis reproduces the findings of the previous literature. However, negative effects prevail at the regional level, while the influence seems to be rather positive at the country level. We thus conclude that the embeddedness at different geographical scales exerts differing influence on innovation.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12578>

The natural resource curse: evidence from the Colombian municipalities

Jhorland Ayala-García, Sandy Dall’erba

First published: 29 September 2020

Abstract: This paper evaluates the effect of natural resource revenue on expenditure efficiency. Using a panel of Colombian municipalities over 2003-2011, we use a two-step procedure to estimate the effect of natural resource revenue on municipal efficiency. First, the technical efficiency of local governments is calculated through a robust non-parametric method. These estimates are then used in a second step to evaluate how the local government’s efficiency varies with exogenous variation in royalties. Our findings indicate that royalties reduce efficiency in the provision of education and health care services, providing evidence of one of the mechanisms explaining the natural resource curse. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12577>

Infant Mortality in Turkey: Causes and Effects in a Regional Context

Firat Bilgel

First Published: 19 September 2020

Abstract: This study attempts to identify the causal and/or direct effects of sociocultural determinants of infant mortality in Turkey within a regional context using causal graph analysis and global and local spatial models. The conceptual framework, combined with the data, shows that fertility and consanguinity have direct effects on infant mortality rates and that female illiteracy, as a proxy for maternal education, is a key cause of rising infant mortality even in the presence of latent confounding. The surface of estimates further show that the local effects of female illiteracy and consanguinity are non-stationary across space, calling for location-specific policies.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12576>

Spatial shift-share analysis: some new developments

Claudia V. Montanía, Miguel A. Márquez, Teresa Fernández-Núñez, Geoffrey J.D. Hewings

First published: 15 September 2020

Abstract: The traditional shift-share analysis and its existing spatial versions fail to detect the simple effects related to the underlying spillovers derived from the neighborhood and regional contexts. This paper presents a formulation of the spatial shift-share that incorporates novel effects and classifies the regions in a multi-contextual framework (national, neighborhood and regional). The use of different benchmarks is valuable since the performance of some regional sectors can be diagnosed with a national focus, while for others, it may be necessary to resort to neighborhood and regional characteristics. Thus, the technique facilitates the formulation of strategies to improve the regional economic planning. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12575>

Does EU regional policy promote local TFP growth? Evidence from the Italian Mezzogiorno

Giuseppe Albanese, Guido de Blasio, Andrea Locatelli

First Published: 2 September 2020

Abstract: Total factor productivity (TFP) explains the bulk of the differences in income level across territories. A major policy issue refers to the ability of place-based policy to promote TFP growth in backward areas. We investigate the effect of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) on local TFP growth in Southern Italy between 2007 and 2015. By using different empirical models (least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO) cross-section, panel fixed-effect regressions and a spatial regression discontinuity design), we show that, on average, local TFP seems to be rather

unresponsive to EU programmes. Some suggestive evidence of a positive effect is found for ERDF infrastructure investments and for the areas characterized by higher institutional quality and population density.

Australasian Journal of Regional Studies
Vol. 26, No. 2, 2020 (11 August)

Airport social responsibility and regional community relations: noisy elephant in the sky?

Subas Prasad Dhakal, Muhammad Nateque Mahmood, Kerry Brown and Robyn Keast

Abstract: Although the aviation industry is an integral component of regional economic development, aircraft noise complaints have become an increasingly contentious issue. This raises the significant question of how airports can better position themselves as socially responsible drivers of regional economic development. This study examines airport-regional community relations in one of the fastest growing airports in Australia—the Gold Coast Airport. The contributions of this paper are two-fold. First, it demonstrates the analysis of social barometers such as media reports and community attributes that can generate useful insights for airport management. Second, it highlights the need for proactive airport social responsibility measures to address the issue of aircraft-noise in a regional setting.

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail: How industrial policy can prepare regional Queensland for a global energy transition

Lynette Molyneux
Research fellow, Centre for Policy Futures, University of Queensland.

John Foster
Emeritus Professor, School of Economics, University of Queensland.

ABSTRACT: The economy of Queensland, Australia is dependent on coal exports for economic growth, the buoyancy of the state budget and employment in regional areas with

limited alternative economic opportunities. Queensland policy-makers need to address the risks associated with dependence on a commodity which has an uncertain future. This article considers the history of Australia's vulnerability to global transitions, current trends associated with a global energy transition, and suggests a strategy to mitigate against the multiple risks associated with a reliance on the export of coal by Regional Queensland.

Regional Migration in Australia: Labour market response or pursuit of amenity?

Paul Forbes, John Hicks, Mark Morrison and Kishor Sharmapage

Abstract: The persistence of differential labour market outcomes has led to the recognition that labour mobility may be influenced by both labour market variables and non-pecuniary factors such as amenity and quality of life. Using regional-level panel data and a fixed-effects estimation procedure, we examine the relationship between labour mobility decisions and unemployment levels, amenity, as well as variables related to previous migration experience, location, the mining boom and the presence of a program designed to encourage labour mobility to regional areas. We find that labour market factors influence mobility decisions, but that these are moderated by amenity, and that mobility is also influenced by anthropocentric amenity. The findings with respect to anthropocentric amenity as well as the program designed to encourage regional relocation provide evidence of the potential effectiveness of government policies designed to overcome labour market impediments.

The response of the Australian States to a National Economic Shock: A statistical analysis of regional economic resilience.

Nicolaas Groenewold

Abstract: It is well known from the literature on regional business cycles in Australia that

there are significant differences between the time-paths of economic activity of the Australian states. These differences must result from either differences in the response of the state economies to a common national shock and/or their response to state-specific shocks. The way in which a regional economy reacts to a national shock is closely related to the notion of regional economic resilience, a concept that has gained considerable popularity in the regional economics literature of the past decade or so. It has become common in that literature to distinguish between engineering resilience (the ability of a regional economy to return to the original equilibrium following a negative shock) and ecological resilience (the convergence of regional economies to new equilibria). The economic resilience of the Australian states is the focus of the research reported in this paper.

We analyse resilience within a vector-autoregressive (VAR)/vector-error-correction (VEC) model using monthly employment data for the states and the nation as a whole from the 2nd quarter 1978 to 1st quarter 2019. We find that employment growth rates are stationary so that, in terms of growth rates, the state economies are resilient in the engineering sense, although they may revert to equilibrium at different rates. The (log) levels of employment, however, are non-stationary but cointegrated, suggesting ecological resilience in employment levels since cointegration implies that the cointegrated variables return to (likely new) equilibria following a shock.

We use a VEC model to identify a national shock, generate responses of the state employment levels to this shock and compare the resulting time-paths (the impulse response functions) to assess relative resilience. We find that Western Australia is the least sensitive of the states to a national shock and so the most resilient, while the economies of Tasmania and Victoria are the most sensitive to an adverse national shock and so the least resilient. The responses of the other states are all quite close

to the national average response, indicating little difference in the resilience of New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.

ABOUT ANZRSAI

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Contact details:

Paul Dalziel,
Executive Officer, ANZRSAI
PO Box 236, Darling Heights QLD 4350

Email: anzrsai@anzrsai.org

Website: www.anzrsai.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/anzrsai>