

*Contents*

**FOREWORD**

ANZRSAI 40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference dates, venue and call for papers	1
Cities Summit, City Deals	2
UK City Deals: Manchester	4
City Deals: A Critical Perspective (by Professor Lee Pugalís)	5
Victorian Regional Futures Summit	7
Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (Victoria)	7
A Labor Regional Innovation Fund policy proposal	7

**COMMENTARY**

<i>From the Regional Australia Institute</i>	
Innovation in regional Australia	8
<i>From the Cockatoo Network</i>	
USDA toolkit for local food investment	9
The demographics of innovation in the United States	10
Tassie tourism	10
<i>From the Economic &amp; Social Research Council (UK)</i>	
The modifiable areal unit problem	11
<i>From the Productivity Commission</i>	
Digital disruption: What do governments need to do?	12
<i>From the NBN by Bernard Salt</i>	
The rise of lifestyle towns	12
<i>From the Grattan Institute</i>	
Roads to riches: better transport spending by Marion Terrill	13
<i>From The Conversation</i>	
Homelessness, a product of policy threatens urban housing	14
Co-living and co-working: internet and mobility can change regions	14
<i>From the South Australian Freight Council</i>	
Review of the Shipping Legislation Amendment Bill	14

**REGIONAL POLICY and PRACTICE**

Innovation Systems and small Higher Education Institutions	15
RMIT Urban Futures Enabling Capability Platform	15
BITRE: Lengthy Commutes in Australia	16
Robyn Eversole has published a new book: Being Regional	17
Indigenous Endeavour Fellowship to study Basque fisheries	17
Tasmania has a new Regional Research Network	18
Book Review: Rural and Regional Futures (by Yogi Vidyattama)	20
Population Mobility and Labour Markets in remote Australia	21

**CONFERENCES and STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

Regional Science Association International 2016 Dissertation prize	22
Australian Regional Development Conference 2016	23

**CURRENT RESEARCH ABSTRACTS**

<i>Regional Science Policy and Practice</i> 8(1-2) 2016	24
<i>Papers in Regional Science</i> 95(2) 2016	26

**ABOUT ANZRSAI**

ANZRSAI Council Notes	29
ANZRSAI Conference News	30
ANZRSAI Council 2016	30

### *Foreword*

Planning for ANZRSAI's 40th Annual Conference has begun. The theme is *Towards the Future: Emerging Priorities in Regional Policy and Practice*. Save the dates and venue: 5-7 December in the Swanston Academic Building, RMIT University city campus, Melbourne. The conference is hosted by the European Union Centre at RMIT and the RMIT Social Change Enabling Platform.

Plan your paper and register now.

The call for papers and registration are available here: <http://www.anzrsai.org/conference/>.

### *Cities Summit, City Deals*

Welcome ANZRSAI summiteers. Regions and cities in Australia have become the topic of at least two summits in this election year and City Deals feature in policy statements.

City Deals, a keynote topic at ANZRSAI's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, were discussed at the Smart Cities Summit held on 29 May 2016 and a Smart Cities Plan was released in April 2016. Townsville is recognized in the first City Deal in Australia. Western Sydney features in future proposals. <https://www.liberal.org.au/coalitions-policy-smart-cities>

The following text is from the Smart Cities Plan.

“Smart Policy

“All levels of government contribute to the development of our cities. We recognise that coordinating action and investment in cities is not easy, and that this challenge is magnified by the budgetary constraints confronting all tiers of government.

“However, funding alone will not resolve congestion, housing affordability and accessibility impacting on the liveability of our cities.

“The Australian Infrastructure Plan makes clear, that if we do not undertake reforms, Australian cities will face “a future of congestion and constraint” with “increasing bottlenecks and costly delays”.

“That will “mean it takes longer for Australians to get to work or home, our goods will take longer to reach ports and shops, and the many services we rely on from infrastructure will decline”.

“For our part, the Australian Government can and should examine new ways to fund the infrastructure that make our cities more liveable and productive.

“But states, territories and local government must equally be prepared to remove bottlenecks that add costs to development and make our urban environments more prone to congestion and unresponsive to housing needs. We must harmonise regulations increasing costs and impeding the provision of goods, services and skills across boundaries.

“We equally must reform the settings through which infrastructure for our growing cities and regions is planned, funded, delivered and operated.

“Fundamentally, making our cities better must start with an acceptance by all levels of government that a strategic approach is necessary—one that identifies clear, unambiguous processes, timeframes and accountabilities for city level reforms.

“This requires Smart Policy:

1. Delivering ‘City Deals’
2. Leading regulatory reform
3. Measuring success

“City Deals will deliver better outcomes through coordinated investment in cities of all sizes.”

“In addition to being more strategic, Australian Government funding will be linked to reform and incentivise actions and accountabilities at the state and local level.”

“Through City Deals, governments, industries and communities will develop collective plans for growth and commit to the actions, investments, reforms and governance needed to implement them.”

“Some City Deals will cover a whole city and surrounds, and others will focus on a specific urban centre, regional or metropolitan—wherever all three levels of government can partner to support economic growth and quality of life.”

“Many of our regional cities, where there is a single local government responsible for metropolitan planning, are especially well placed to take advantage of City Deals.”

“City Deals will be structured around nationally and locally informed objectives, with a focus on economic growth, jobs creation, housing affordability, and environmental outcomes.” p.21

“For example, a City Deal may include:

- Targeted initiatives to strengthen existing or emerging economic hubs including transport, industry, defence, health or education facilities
- Transport infrastructure funding or financing to improve connectivity and increase access to jobs
- Housing supply and planning changes to encourage higher density development, affordable housing and activate value capture
- Changes to regulatory and zoning arrangements that foster commercial growth and allow entrepreneurial approaches to service delivery including the sharing economy
- Investments that improve environmental outcomes, enhancing public spaces, facilities and active transport options, reducing emissions and pollutants, or improving the sustainability performance of buildings and infrastructure
- Maximising benefits from underutilised state and Commonwealth land for example, repurposing government land to be used for affordable housing or public space
- Integrating environmental criteria into decision making—such as green coverage to minimise urban heat island impacts, reducing localised air pollution from investments, reducing waste and increasing recycling”

“Specific actions will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, with regard to local objectives and opportunities.

“Though each City Deal will be unique, the foundational elements include:

- Defined geographic area
- Clear outcomes and actions
- Specific capital investments connected to reform

- Clear governance arrangements, delivery timeframes and accountabilities
- Performance measurement, including the indicators and methodology to be used

“Since 2012, the UK has used City Deals to prioritise government investment in cities.

“While the UK model is not directly applicable to Australia because of our different federal system, it is a demonstration of what can be achieved when policy, investment and regulatory decisions are taken together to look at cities’ needs as a whole.” P22

#### *UK City Deals: Manchester*

“The first of over 20 UK City Deals covered Greater Manchester, involving 10 local governments making up the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The Greater Manchester City Deal features:

- Investment: a £1.2 billion local transport infrastructure fund was created to drive growth, rewarded through ‘earn back’ funds from the central government of up to £30 million a year for 30 years for meeting growth targets
- Business support: a £4.4 million Regional Growth Fund allocation is strengthening Greater Manchester’s Business Growth Hub to help start-ups, and small and medium-sized enterprises
- Skills: a City Apprenticeship and Skills Hub was created to place around 6,000 apprentices in jobs
- Transport: GMCA’s delivery arm, Transport for Greater Manchester, is implementing a £1.4 billion transport expansion and improvement program
- Housing: a housing investment fund has been established, using local and national investment funds to develop 5,000 to 7,000 new homes by 2017
- Reduced carbon emissions: a Low Carbon Hub has been established, with plans to reduce the city’s emissions by 48 per cent by 2020.” p.23

“The Greater Manchester City Deal, signed in 2012, is a demonstration of what can be achieved when policy, investment and regulatory decisions are taken together to look at individual cities’ needs as a whole.” The Greater Manchester City Deal is available. Refer to Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), *Greater Manchester City Deal*, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Manchester, 2012, viewed 28 March 2016 at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/221014/Greater-Manchester-City-Deal-final\\_0.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221014/Greater-Manchester-City-Deal-final_0.pdf).

The whole Smart Cities Plan is available at: [www.dpmc.gov.au/cities](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/cities).

On 29/04/2016 the Prime Minister Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, together with the Minister for Major Projects – the Hon Paul Fletcher MP and the Assistant Minister for Cities – the Hon Angus Taylor MP released the Commonwealth’s Smart Cities Plan, to deliver jobs closer to homes, more affordable housing, better transport connections and healthy environments. The Plan was launched at a Cities Summit in Melbourne.

Governments, businesses and the Australian community must work together to transition our economy to be led by innovation. The performance of our cities - metropolitan and regional - is crucial to this transition. Great cities attract, retain and develop increasingly mobile talent and organisations, encouraging them to innovate, create jobs and support growth.

The Smart Cities Plan includes:

- The establishment of an infrastructure financing unit to work closely with the private sector on innovative financing solutions; and
- Committing \$50 million to accelerate planning and development works on major infrastructure projects to develop business cases and investment options.

The Plan will draw on the Commonwealth's coordination capacity and the strength of its balance sheet at a time of historically low interest rates, to get the best infrastructure projects off the ground. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the Cities Plan will be used to unlock more housing supply.

“The global lesson is that cities collaborate to compete. There's a great incentive here for everyone to work together. The Smart Cities Plan will also importantly target jobs growth for regional cities and outer metropolitan centres. Our regional cities need a strong platform for coordinated investment and planning.”

All Australians, wherever they live, are encouraged to share their ideas on the Smart Cities Plan. Feedback is welcome through the cities website [www.dpmc.gov.au/cities](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/cities).

Ed.: How will the new Parliament respond?

### *City Deals: A Critical Perspective*

By Professor Lee Pugalis

Place-based deal-making – including international variants such as Territorial Development Contracts used in many countries from Canada to Colombia and City Deals, Growth Deals and Devolution Deals pioneered in the UK – is a policy tool that has found favour with the Australian Federal Government under the auspices of City Deals.

In essence, a deal-making approach involves all relevant partners sitting at the deal-making ‘table’ to discuss, negotiate and, ultimately, agree a long-term deal intended to facilitate the development of a particular place. Place-based deals can include a variety of relational and transactional contracts relating to performance, collaboration, investment and implementation.

The concept of City Deals, as expressed through the Commonwealth's Smart Cities Plan, appears to borrow heavily from English practice and, in particular, the co-called ‘Manchester Model’. Championed by KPMG and the Property Council of Australia as a ‘smart approach to supercharging economic growth and productivity’, City Deals are being lauded as the latest solution for addressing decades of chronic underinvestment in infrastructure provision and services. Nevertheless, how ‘smart’ the government's embryonic City Deals policy is, remains a moot point.

Whilst the notion of place-based deal-making offers much promise – particularly as a multi-level governance mechanism for fostering collaboration across multiple tiers of government and sectors – there is no guarantee that this approach will accelerate economic growth and development. It is concerning, although not so surprising, the manner in which the ‘Manchester Model’ has been accepted by the Federal Government with little, if any, critical review. Indeed, it appears to be a classic case of ‘fast-policy

transfer', whereby government is ignorant to the challenges and limitations facing deal-making in the UK in its eagerness to follow in the lead of the Manchester 'success story'.

Moreover, how a policy tool devised in the context of a unitary state can be applied effectively in a federal state context is a critical issue that may have been neglected in the rush to rollout a rather paltry national urban policy statement. The Smart Cities Plan makes a cursory remark about the need to tailor the Manchester Model, but stops short of actually outlining how Australian City Deals will be distinct. The adoption of City Deals in Australia, therefore, raises some pertinent issues, which are worthy of more in-depth and critical debate, namely: To what extent are UK deals applicable in an Australian context? Will incentives be strong enough? Is there an adequate culture of trust to support collaborative governance processes and what institutional forms are most applicable? How will conditions be applied and who will enforce them? What is to be the role of the private sector and civic sector? Will new investment finance materialise? Are new scales of governance and partnerships required? Is there adequate capacity, knowledge and expertise across existing tiers of government? Answers to such questions will help to crystallise whether deal-making in an Australian context is the latest in a long line of policy fads or a more substantive shift in the practice of urban and regional development.

**Professor Lee Pugalis** is based at the Institute for Public Policy and Governance, University of Technology Sydney and is a Visiting Professorship at Leeds Business School, Leeds Beckett University, UK. He is currently leading an international project investigating the merits of place-based deals. He is contactable at: [lee.pugalis@uts.edu.au](mailto:lee.pugalis@uts.edu.au)

***Victorian Regional Futures Summit 20 July 16***

## **Media Release**

**The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC**

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Regional Development

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



On Friday, 11 March, 2016 the Andrews Labor Government announced arrangements for the Regional Futures Summit – a new initiative to influence and drive population growth in regional and rural Victoria.

“The Summit will be held in Bendigo on 20 July 2016, and will bring together demographers, academics, community leaders, government, industry, education and health providers to shape new regional population strategies.

“Regional Futures will influence priorities for the Labor Government’s \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) as well as the work plans for the nine new Regional Partnerships.

“Speaking in Marysville, Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced the conference to the state’s 38 rural councils at their annual summit.

“The announcement builds on the Government’s Stronger Rural Councils initiative – a \$3.5 million commitment to rural councils to support and promote sustainable, liveable and prosperous regional communities.

“Over two days Regional Futures will bring together the minds and hearts that will influence population growth, whether it’s in fast growing regional cities, tree or sea-change communities or smaller rural areas.

“Victoria’s rural and regional councils will be invited to bring their experience and ideas to the summit, in order to help shape the future of our regions.”

### ***Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (Victoria)***

The Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) is the Victorian Government’s overarching regional development package. It will invest in growing jobs, building infrastructure and strengthening communities in regional Victoria.

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) manages the RJIF’s three programs:

- the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)
- the Regional Jobs Fund (RJF)
- the Stronger Regional Communities Plan (SRCP).

There are ten program streams with public grant programs under the fund.

The Government welcomes grant proposals from regional and rural local government authorities, government agencies, not-for-profits, community groups and businesses. This includes from businesses in high-growth sectors such as: medical and new energy technology; food and fibre; transport, defence and construction technology; international education and professional services.

See the application guidelines, information sheets and Frequently Asked Questions for more information. You are encouraged to call your local RDV office early, to talk through your proposal and how RJIF programs might be able to support your project before you draft an application.

For details go to <http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/programs-and-grants>

### ***A Labor Regional Innovation Fund policy proposal***

The Australian Labor Party has a proposal for a Regional Innovation Fund for Australia.

“Labor will create a Regional Innovation Fund, which will kickstart a range of initiatives to expand the role of Australia’s regions in contribution to the national innovation effort.

“It will, for example, invest in an expansion of the network of hubs and accelerators across the country, focussing on regional and rural sites. Labor will also support the continuation and expansion of existing university-based hubs and accelerators in metropolitan and outer-metropolitan universities.

“Our approach will be flexible, underpinned by consultations with stakeholders in rural and regional Australia to ensure investment reinforces local economic strengths and priorities.

“And in recognition of the success and demonstrated potential of existing university-based hubs and accelerators in metropolitan areas, additional funding will also be available on a competitive basis for these universities to ramp up their programs.

“University-based accelerators will be at the centre of this initiative; however we will remain open to other avenues to boost regional innovation activity.

“For example, funded entrepreneurship hubs could be based at a regional university campus or, in some cases, a local TAFE or private consortium that has attracted [and] demonstrated regional support across business and state/local government bodies.

“A Shorten Labor Government would fund the establishment of up to 20 new accelerators over three years, based on applications from consortia that must include, at a minimum:

- a regional university or TAFE
- local government(s); and
- a local business organisation (such as a Chamber of Commerce) or a group of local businesses.

“Each consortium would receive seed funding of up to \$500,000 per year for three years, which must be matched at least dollar-for-dollar with funding from the consortium or other sources.

Further information is available here:

[http://www.alp.org.au/poweringinnovation?\\_ga=1.221586968.1662921638.1467011831](http://www.alp.org.au/poweringinnovation?_ga=1.221586968.1662921638.1467011831)

### ***Commentary:***

#### ***From the Regional Australia Institute***

##### ***[In]Sight - Innovation in Regional Australia: Spreading the Ideas Boom***

“Executive Summary: Across regional Australia there is an emergence of start-ups, business accelerators, co-working spaces and entrepreneurial hot spots. Some of this activity is connected with our traditional Research and Development (R&D) system, but much of it is occurring in areas which are less connected to traditional R&D institutions.

The role of R&D is also changing as innovators increasingly use digital technology to bring their ideas to market without relying on the research process. A university or other R&D presence remains a real innovation asset for any community, but in a modern economy it is the ecosystem around that capability – the region’s entrepreneurs, business start-ups and the strength of their connections to the R&D presence – that will drive the economic outcomes from innovation.

This transition has been evident for a while but to date there’s been no way of consistently measuring this new innovative capacity in regions around Australia.

This update to the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) [In]Sight – Innovation index is a big step towards better understanding regional innovation. It combines and contrasts traditional measures of innovation focused on R&D and Science, with a new approach that seeks to measure the commercial innovation environment in a region - the region’s Business Dynamo.



Examining Australia's national picture of innovation through this lens reveals a much more diverse picture than previous work has suggested in regions.

It remains true that big cities are the nation's key innovation assets and only 26 regional local government areas (LGAs) have a registered R&D institution. This is where the investment flows to, and R&D strength is concentrated in these areas.

But more than 150 regional areas have higher than average rates of innovative capacity that provide a foundation for spreading the 'Ideas Boom'.

Knowledge-intensive business services (KIBS) – from legal and accounting, to design and marketing – are one indicator of a rich and innovative local business network and a key measure of emerging innovation capacity in many of these regions used by [In]Sight.

Regional places including Bunbury (WA), Byron (NSW), Gladstone (Qld), Wodonga (Vic), Mt Barker (SA) and Launceston (Tas) all show emerging capability in KIBS.

Places like Darwin (NT), Gold Coast and Gladstone (Qld) rank highly in terms of this rich local business network, and also have high rates of business start-ups.

For the document go to: <http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Innovation-In-Regional-Australia-Spreading-the-Ideas-Boom-1.pdf>.

For further details you can also access the maps, data, index and rankings associated with this work through [In]Sight, *Australia's Regional Competitiveness Index – Innovation*, at <http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/tools-and-products/insight/>.

### *From the Cockatoo Network*

Our thanks go to The Cockatoo Network for extending this courtesy to ANZRSAI. In this issue we include material from recent issues of the Cockatoo. You can contact The Cockatoo Network at email [apdcockatoo@iprimus.com.au](mailto:apdcockatoo@iprimus.com.au).

#### *USDA toolkit makes economic case for local food investment*

As consumers across the United States express a growing interest in a closer connection to their food producers—whether through access to more localized markets and/or shorter supply chains—cities and regions have begun to regard the expansion of local food marketing activities as a critical component of their economic development strategies. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) has published a new resource to help communities make the economic case for investments in local food.

“The Economics of Local Food Systems: A Toolkit to Guide Community Discussions, Assessments and Choices” will help local food stakeholders tell the story of how investing in strong local and regional food systems—including farmers markets, food hubs, and other local food outlets—can revitalize rural and urban economies across the country. The toolkit—developed by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)—allows communities to conduct reliable economic impact assessments of investing in local food system initiatives. It includes seven modules and guidance to evaluate investments in local and regional food systems.

The toolkit uses real-world projects, experiences, and applied research, making it a practical and useable resource for community leaders, businesses, and others. For example, in Kane County, Ill., regional planners wanted to evaluate the economic and farmland preservation potential of investing in local food. One of the toolkit modules shows how the planners were able to determine that adding 1,000 acres into local fruit and vegetable production would result in a \$5.3 million increase in total industrial output, a \$2.43 million increase in value-added production, and a \$1.8 million increase in labor income based on the creation of 35 new jobs. With this information, Kane County had the data it needed to make the case for a local food project.

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Toolkit%20Designed%20FINAL%203-22-16.pdf>

*The Demographics of Innovation in the United States*

By Adams Nager, David Hart, Stephen Ezell, and Robert D. Atkinson (February 2016)

Source: The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research and educational institute focusing on the intersection of technological innovation and public policy. Recognized as one of the world's leading science and technology think tanks, ITIF's mission is to formulate and promote policy solutions that accelerate innovation and boost productivity to spur growth, opportunity, and progress. For more information, visit <https://itif.org/>

**Abstract:** For the United States to continue to lead the world, it must reassert itself as a leader in innovation. The results of this survey illustrate who in the United States innovates. We find that different segments of the population innovate at vastly different rates, that in-depth, specialized knowledge and experience in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics is vital to innovation, and that government has a real role to play in both conducting research and fostering innovation.

One major factor holding the United States back in this regard is the lack of an adequate workforce in STEM fields. To improve U.S. productivity, innovation, and competitiveness, the United States should focus intensely on expanding the supply of potential innovators, both by letting in more high-skill, STEM-educated immigrants and by increasing the pool of highly educated scientists and engineers, particularly women and minorities.

From Cockatoo 15 April 2016

*Tassie Tourism*

Tasmania recorded a 28% growth in tourism patronage last year. We thus rang the University of Tasmania to seek out the success underlying factors. Dr. Alison Dunn, a Scot, kindly offered her thoughts along with a Tasmanian Government official.

Their combined take is as follows:

- Improvements in tourism transport e.g. refurbishment of the Spirit of Tasmania, cheap flights instigated by Virgin, Jetstar and Tiger.
- Improvements in the tourism product – MONA has inspired other arts and culture stakeholders, and the external perception of Tasmania has lifted.

- High-end accommodation e.g. Saffire resort on the Freycinet Peninsula, Pumphouse retreat near Cradle Mountain have reinforced tourist perceptions.
- Improvements in marketing e.g. the ‘Behind the Scenery’ campaign and the Tassie whisky publicity.
- Growing awareness of the quality of Tasmania’s sparkling wines and pinot noir.
- The 2014 visit by Chinese President Xi – Chinese arrivals grew 49% last year!
- The weaker \$A i.e. attractive for international tourists as well as Aussies on the mainland pulling back from international markets.
- The fact that Tasmania is a captive regional market i.e. tourists travel around the island, spreading their expenditure.

What can other regions learn from the Tasmanian experience?

Well, cheap flights are very important – Canberra, Cape York, Pilbara, Kimberleys, Broken Hill and many other suffer by comparison. Secondly, alliances definitely help.

The Tassie whisky industry has come from nowhere, and the Scottish distilleries have been a great help in sharing ideas and tacit knowledge (some of the Scottish clusters facilitated this).

Thirdly, iconic institutions like MONA can drive your marketing effort – the Bendigo Gallery’s Marilyn Monroe features are doing the same.

Fourthly, can we leverage off the aura of international leaders like Premier Xi?

This could backfire, but it’s worth thinking about.

But the bottom line is that Tasmania deserves its tourism success. It’s been a long road. The dismantling of its manufacturing and forestry industries has arguably been a wake-up call to Tasmanians and they have responded magnificently.

*From the Economic & Social Research Council*

#### *The Modifiable Areal Unit Problem*

“The modifiable areal unit problem (MAUP) is an important phenomenon associated with the use of data aggregated to geographical areas. It affects the aggregation of events, individuals or households and therefore applies to many variables of interest in the social sciences, including, for example, unemployment and ethnicity rates. In these cases, the geographical boundaries are 'imposed' in the sense that they do not relate in any meaningful sense to the variables of interest. Typically, data are aggregated from source observations to areas such as census wards or output areas which have no special meaning in terms of the underlying geographical distributions such as unemployment or ethnic composition.”

For a simple clear graphical explanation go to: <http://www.restore.ac.uk/geo-refer/91023cwors00y00000000.php>.

Ed: This may be a useful and accessible tool for teaching.

*From the Productivity Commission*

*Digital Disruption: What do governments need to do?*

This Commission research paper was released on 15 June 2016.

This paper focuses on the role of government in the face of potentially disruptive technological change. Governments establish the legal and regulatory systems that govern the operation of the economy. They provide key inputs into the economy by educating the labour force and providing public infrastructure and services. They also negotiate (through democratic processes) and maintain (through social expenditure and justice) an underpinning social compact with the community. Disruptive technologies have implications for each of these roles.

Access the paper here: <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/completed/digital-disruption>.

*From the NBN by Bernard Salt:*

*“The rise of lifestyle towns*

The Australian lifestyle shift that I see is different. It augments rather than competes with the pull of the retirement coast. It taps into a fundamental Australian desire to live a different non-metropolitan life.

It is the Australian penchant for living in a small town beyond the metropolitan fringe and commuting back into town for work. Or, ultimate lifestyle, working locally. Or ultimate ultimate lifestyle, working in a city-funded job but from home. Oh what pure Australian bliss. And the lifestyle township itself can come in a range of sizes and locations.

There’s seachange and treechange cuteness as well as the lifestyle impact of quite substantial provincial cities. There’s authentic and working country towns as well as specialist resort towns. There’s upmarket lifestyle towns and there’s affordable lifestyle towns. There are places with views, there are places with water, there are places of historic significance, there’s even places that have been master-planned.

Give an Australian half a chance and they will take the lifestyle option every time. One of those lifestyle options is an affordable property perhaps with space to spare, perhaps with views, definitely with character and within striking distance of a capital city.

Did you know that within 150 km (say two hours drive) of the centre of Sydney there are more than 100 towns on the beach and in the country? And that they range in scale from the mini-metropolitan Newcastle (pop 308,000) and Wollongong (pop 246,000) to villages of less than 500 residents? The population of places like Moss Vale (pop 7,300) near Bowral increased by nine per cent between the 2006 and 2011 censuses. Berry (pop 1,700) near Nowra jumped 14 per cent and Gerringong (pop 4,000) south of Kiama increased by 11 per cent over the same time frame.”

Source: <http://www.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/media-centre/media-releases/gennbn-australias-most-connected-generation-unveiled.html>.

*From the Grattan Institute*

*Roads to riches: better transport spending* by Marion Terrill

Australian governments have spent unprecedented sums on transport infrastructure in the past decade, and while important projects have been built, the overall investment has been poorly directed.

Our big cities are the engines of Australia's economic growth, but investment has not prioritised vital urban freight and passenger routes. Our largest cities now face increasing congestion, and competition between passengers and freight.

Too much money has been spent on the wrong projects in the wrong places. In particular, governments have spent up big in electorates where federal elections are won and lost, funding roads that are not very important to the economy, but are popular with local voters.

This ad hoc approach to infrastructure investment missed opportunities and wasted money. In some cases, return on investment has been staggeringly low. Project evaluation shows one highway upgrade between Geelong and Colac, not a project of national significance, is expected to yield a return of just eight cents for each dollar spent.

Canberra's light rail, now being built, is likely to provide no more benefits than bus rapid transit but cost more than twice as much.

One difficulty is that there is little to stop politicians making dubious commitments on the basis of weak or undisclosed business cases, and particularly during election campaigns. Without more public information on potential projects, the public can't be sure that funds will be spent wisely.

Oversight mechanisms aren't working. Since 2012 over half of Commonwealth infrastructure spending has gone to projects where Infrastructure Australia has not published an evaluation. States have spent billions more with little transparency.

A better approach would be for an independent body to assess all infrastructure proposals rigorously on a like-for-like basis. The assessment of the net benefits should then be tabled in the parliament, and only then should governments be able to go ahead and commit public money.

Once governments are only building projects where the community benefit clearly outweighs the cost, their second step should be aim to build all such projects.

For the report go to <http://grattan.edu.au/report/roads-to-riches/>

## THE CONVERSATION

*Homelessness, a product of policy, threatens urban housing*

Homelessness is an outcome of housing policy with effects on every citizen and every city.

<https://theconversation.com/our-cities-will-stop-working-without-a-decent-national-housing-policy-60537>.

The base document for this article is also available here:

[https://www.vinnies.org.au/icms\\_docs/238828\\_The\\_Ache\\_for\\_Home\\_Paper\\_2016.pdf](https://www.vinnies.org.au/icms_docs/238828_The_Ache_for_Home_Paper_2016.pdf)

*Co-living and co-working: internet access and mobility can change regions*

A thought provoking piece written by Tim Mahlberg from the Conversation. Here is the link:

<https://theconversation.com/co-living-is-demolishing-the-line-between-work-and-life-60614>.

### *From the South Australian Freight Council*

Review of the Shipping Legislation Amendment Bill

Commonwealth Transport and Infrastructure Minister, Darren Chester, who has been re-elected, has indicated that he is undertaking a review of the stalled Shipping Legislation Amendment Bill, including holding talks with the MUA on the issue.



The Bill was intended to reverse and modify Labour's 2012 changes to coastal shipping, including introducing the '180 day rule'.

Mr Chester told media outlets he was "listening to relevant stakeholders and hearing their specific concerns ... in the spirit of co-operation". He said he had also met others, including the shipowners' body, Maritime Industry Australia Limited, other maritime unions and manufacturing and petroleum industry groups.

Given these comments, it appears that the bill is unlikely to be reintroduced to parliament in its current form.

However, the shipping industry has been a strong supporter of the current bill. Shipping Australia noted in November 2015 'It is disappointing that the Shipping Legislation Amendment Bill, aimed at improving the efficiency of domestic trade flows, reducing import substitution and protecting Australian jobs in the manufacturing and primary production sectors, failed to pass the Senate'.

SAFC (and the industry in general) will be watching with interest to see if Minister Chester can walk the fine line between fixed interests to deliver a bill palatable to all.

## *Regional Policy and Practice*

### *Innovation Systems and the role of small and specialist Higher Education Institutions*

GuildHE and CREST have undertaken research in partnership with the OECD and the LEED Programme, encouraged by HEFCE, into the role of small and specialist Higher Education Institutions in stimulating innovation and local, regional, national and international economic growth. The report – *Innovation systems and the role of small and specialist Higher Education Institutions* – which profiles case studies from the UK and other OECD nations, was officially launched at GuildHE's annual conference at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in November 2014.

Details are available here: <http://www.crest.ac.uk/innovation-systems-and-the-role-of-small-and-specialist-higher-education-institutions/>

The Consortium for Research Excellence, Support and Training (CREST) provides an innovative model for how to further research excellence and promote institutional and interdisciplinary collaboration. <http://www.crest.ac.uk/about/>

CREST is a sub-association of GuildHE, a representative body for Higher Education in the UK. GuildHE is one of the two recognised representative bodies for Higher Education in the UK. It is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Charity. It was founded in 1967 as the Standing Conference of Principals, registered as a company in 1992 and became GuildHE in 2006.

The GuildHE vision is of a sustainable, diverse and dynamic higher education sector which:

- plays a full part in the development of a well-educated and socially inclusive nation;
- enhances the UK's economic competitiveness; and fosters cultural engagement, knowledge creation and exchange in a global context. [www.guildhe.ac.uk](http://www.guildhe.ac.uk)

### *RMIT University's Urban Futures Enabling Capability Platform*

A recent AKADEUS job listing at for *Director, Enabling Capability Platform – Urban Futures* at RMIT University may interest regional scholars.

RMIT is driven by impact and as the world economy transforms, the University has a responsibility to make the resulting changes work for the whole of society. The Research and Innovation Portfolio actively supports this strategic vision for RMIT's research framework by creating a cohesive and supportive environment for entrepreneurship and innovation activity within RMIT's research network of enabling capability platforms (ECPs), research centres, groups and research collaborations.

Earlier this year, RMIT's eight enabling capability platforms were introduced to embrace a more multi-disciplinary based research framework with a focus on translation and impact. The ECPs consist of clusters of multidisciplinary research and innovation capabilities that will be deployed to deliver research outcomes with a strong focus on translation and significant economic, social and environmental impact. They are defined by their people, infrastructure, internal and external relationships, and subject matter expertise and connect researchers from multiple disciplines and from across the University under a thematic umbrella.

Joining RMIT at this pivotal stage of their research journey will be eight Platform Directors responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of innovative approaches to research and innovation in each individual focus area on a global scale. As a thought leader around research excellence and translation, they will be able to develop and drive strategy into high performance outcomes.

For these exciting new appointments we are seeking strong research leadership, management and planning experience and the ability to lead and influence internal stakeholders across schools, colleges and portfolios in achieving research outcomes. The ECP Directors' leadership and strategy-associated duties will occupy roughly 50% of the role with the balance open to conducting outstanding research by leading a personal research team, aligned to the platform area, or by leading and facilitating cross-organisational research translation initiatives in areas such as innovation and entrepreneurship.

Responsibilities will include building RMIT's research workforce, infrastructure and research environment aligned to the platform and providing high level, discipline/platform specific input to strategic discussions that contribute to the development of RMIT's research capability and innovation and entrepreneurship aspirations consistent with the Strategic Plan. The Director ECP will collaborate with key internal and external stakeholders aligned to the platform, on initiatives that bring together research academics from across the University to enable aligned RMIT centres, groups and individual researchers to realise major external research funding opportunities and maximise the impact and innovation performance.

The Director ECP will also inspire and support emerging researchers within the respective platform through promoting development, mentoring and networking opportunities and, where relevant, leading by example by maintaining a strong research track record and developing large new cross-disciplinary projects associated with the platform in collaboration with peers.

With the rapid growth of urban communities, there is an urgent need for research to inform how cities can be more equitable, sustainable and accountable. This platform harnesses interdisciplinary expertise across social science, humanities, creative arts and design, environmental and technological disciplines, to analyse and resolve urban challenges.

Drawing on the cutting edge urban disciplines of architecture, urban planning and the built environment, geospatial, civil and structural engineering information technology and the urban-based post-industrial applied disciplines such as cultural studies, new media, urban sociology, fashion and creative arts this platform engages with practical problems of urban change, including sustainability, resilience and inclusion, delivering real world impact.

Ed. Platforms may offer a capacity to better links between researchers and better connections to practice.

***BITRE: Lengthy Commutes in Australia***

The research provides a solid evidence-base to understand who is undertaking lengthy commutes (those longer than 45 minutes one way), their prevalence and trends. It also explores whether some individuals undertake lengthy commutes for long periods or whether it tends to be temporary.

Research Report 144. Access at: [http://bitre.gov.au/publications/2016/rr\\_144.aspx](http://bitre.gov.au/publications/2016/rr_144.aspx).



*A new book from Robyn Eversole*

‘Regional Development in Australia: Being Regional’

In Australia, regions are not just geographic locations, they are also cultural ideas. Being regional means being located outside the nation’s capital cities and in the periphery of its centres of power and influence. Regional development in Australia is thus significantly different than its European or American counterparts. However, surprisingly little has been written about the unique dynamics of development in Australia’s regions; this book has been written to fill this gap.

In recent decades the Australian government has made repeated policy efforts to achieve sustainable development in its non-metropolitan areas. Over the same period, those who live and work outside the nation’s capital cities have come to identify as regional Australians. This book takes an anthropological approach to understanding the particularities of regional development in Australia. It draws upon rich, on-the-ground observations of towns, industries, universities, development organisations, and communities across different settings to provide an in-depth understanding of the subject.

The book, titled ‘Regional Development in Australia: Being Regional’ (Routledge, 2016) can be accessed at <https://www.routledge.com/Regional-Development-in-Australia-Being-regional/Eversole/p/book/9781138920200>.

Who knew that, apart from her books and articles on regions, Robyn is also the author of children’s books? See UTAS article: <http://www.media.utas.edu.au/general-news/all-news/academics-book-sheds-new-light-on-regional-australia>.

Local media: <http://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/3959389/regions-the-focus-of-book/>  
<http://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/3961582/focus-on-farm-innovation/>.

Professor John Martin was in Tasmania in early June visiting the Institute for Regional Development – during his visit he launched the book – see <http://www.examiner.com.au/story/3958922/on-the-ground-innovation/> and spoke at a number of regional events including the Cradle Coast Innovation Ideas festival <http://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/cradle-coast-innovation-inc-3898051685> and the Regional Development Research Showcase <http://www.events.utas.edu.au/2016/june/regional-development-showcase-event>.

In launching the book Emeritus Professor John Martin gave emphasis to a very important point about regional development: “...without a set of eyes and ears on the ground, it is impossible to get a realistic view of our regional industries.” Reported in ‘The Examiner’ (Wednesday July 6, 2016).

*Indigenous Endeavour Fellowship granted to research Basque fisheries*

The Institute for Regional Development at University of Tasmania is pleased to announce that PhD candidate Emma Lee has been awarded a prestigious Indigenous Endeavour Fellowship to undertake research on Basque Fisheries in Spain, commencing this July. This research is a fascinating cross-cultural regional development project focusing on food, culture and tourism: see: <http://www.media.utas.edu.au/general-news/all-news/phd-student-embarks-on-spanish-seafood-expedition-researching-ways-to-drive-taste-tourism-for-tasmania>.

Ms Lee will investigate how Basque traditional fisheries sustain traditional communities and food cultures by retaining and using locally caught seafood in regional tourism. This will provide a basis for a distinctive, sustainable and Indigenous regional food economy. (Sourced from media.utas.edu.au)

*Tasmania has a new Regional Research Network*

– which now has over 100 members! Robyn Eversole would like to challenge other states to match us...

Researchers at the University of Tasmania in a wide range of disciplines engage regularly with regional development issues and topics. To enhance cross-disciplinary research collaboration and grow the policy and practice impact of our research, we are establishing a Regional Research Network.

The Regional Research Network is a collegial network of researchers working on regional development and regional policy issues in Australia and overseas.

We are keen to involve researchers who work on practical issues (education, skills, environment, industry development, health, community development, employment, enterprise, governance, leadership and others) and how they play out in particular regions and communities.

The overall aim of the Regional Research Network is to enhance cross-disciplinary research collaboration to foster, and improve the impact, policy and practice relevance of regional development research in Tasmania and Australia.

*Some Background...*

Regional development is a cross-disciplinary field that analyses socio-economic change in particular social and spatial contexts, most particularly in non-metropolitan regions. Non-metropolitan regions in Australia, despite their many differences, share common issues of peripherality vis-à-vis capital cities, leading to common equity and sustainability challenges for regional communities and industries (Eversole 2016). Work in a range of disciplines engages regularly with regional development issues but this work is often undertaken in isolation from other work and from the broader context of regional development. Additionally, regional issues are often overshadowed by national issues and there lies a danger of important regional issues being ignored when framing disciplinary research.

Moreover, while numerous researchers have analysed regional development in Australian contexts over the past two decades (e.g. Beer et al 2003; Dibden et al 2001; Hogan and Young 2015; Martin and Budge 2011; Pritchard and McManus 2000) most of this work is poorly known outside a narrow sphere and has not successfully engaged with or influenced regional development policy. It is important to match contemporary developments in academic disciplines with regional issues in priority among policy makers and foster debates and discussions which help researchers address regional issues.

The Regional Research Network will enhance cross-disciplinary research collaboration in order to foster, and improve the impact, policy and practice relevance of regional development research in Tasmania and Australia. The Regional Research Network has been established as a joint initiative of the Institute for Regional Development (IRD), the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics (TSBE) and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), as an outgrowth of existing partnership research.

Membership in the network is open to all interested researchers in Tasmania, and the Network will actively link to national and international research networks through the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association (ANZRSAI).

### Objectives of the Network

- To provide a platform for communication and ultimately collaboration among researchers working on regional development (RD) issues at the University of Tasmania and elsewhere in Australia.
- To provide a supportive network for early career researchers investigating regional development issues.
- To develop targeted collaborative projects and policy contributions to the most common RD issue areas in Tasmania and across Australia (Eversole 2016): regional services such as health, education, transport; demographic change in regional communities; and regional industries and economic transition.
- To help both new and established researchers to leverage their work to increase its RD policy impact.

### Planned Activities for 2016

#### 1) **Network building I:** Regional Development Speed Dating (May 2016)

*Objective:* To help people meet others who do research in the RD space or would like to, develop new contacts, and make others aware of their work.

*Outcomes:* 1) Database of interested researchers, 2) strengthened face-to-face networking among researchers

#### 2) **Network Building II:** Regional Development Showcase Event (June 2016)

*Objective:* To build awareness of successful high-impact RD research already taking place at UTAS, and inspire future collaboration among network members.

*Outcomes:* 1) Strengthening the visibility of current high-impact RD research within UTAS and the broader community, 2) stakeholder input into defining researchable problems and scoping policy useful research outcomes, 3) Inspiration and enthusiasm about developing high-impact projects.

#### 3) **Network building III:** Regional Development Project Den (August 2016)

*Objective:* To help people practice 'pitching' early-stage RD project ideas and identify collaborators and collaboration opportunities.

*Outcomes:* 1) Database of projects under development within the network, with follow up mentoring, 2) Opportunity to refine project ideas through 'pitching' them to an audience, 3) Identification of potential collaborators and resources for projects, 4) developing a core group of UTAS researchers whose research links to real world problems and encourages policy actions.

#### 4) **Networking Nationally** (April - October 2016)

*Objective:* To establish a Regional Research Network at national level, facilitating links between UTAS researchers and those working in similar areas interstate.

*Outcomes:* 1) Strengthening communication and networks among RD researchers across Australia, 2) Identifying opportunities for comparative projects with Network members in Tasmania and interstate.

Ed: Here is a challenge to members and friends of ANZRSAI in other parts of Australia and New Zealand. Jerry Courvisano leads the Victorian Universities Regional Research Network as covered in our previous edition. What opportunities are there to establish, strengthen and extend collaboration between networks in New Zealand, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia?

***Book Review: Rural and Regional Futures***

By Yogi Vidyattama

Anthony Hogan and Michelle Young (Eds), 2014, *Rural and Regional Futures*, Routledge, Oxon 2015. 384 pages. ISBN: 9781138025073 (hbk). ISBN-10: 1138025070 ISBN: 9781315775333 (ebk), Series: Routledge Advances in Regional Economics, Science and Policy.

The book *Rural and Regional Futures of Australia* provides a broad overview mostly of central-federal government policies in Australia. The book provides a dependable starting point for the study of places outside the capital cities of Australia.

The book is much more than a critical review of past policy and hopes for better policy in future. The authors provide systematic reasoning supported by references to the academic literature. For example, Collits' assessment of regional policy following the Second World War provides a nice summary of the major policy views of the prime ministers of the time without shying away from stating the policies he prefers and what should be done in the future. Although using different styles, Cockfield's chapter on the responsibility for regional development and Smith and Pritchard's chapter on agricultural policy each provide a critical review and suggestions for the future. The latter is especially strong on how economic efficiency seems to drive agricultural policy rather than a longer term view and planning. The tones are more neutral in the chapters by Tennent and Lockie and by Henderson on natural resources and the environment, respectively; these chapters focus more on setting out the policies that matter.

The view that "the policy makers could do more and should think better about the future" holds this book together as the different authors discuss the range of policy issues affecting regional Australia. The introductory chapter by Hogan and Young actually captures this quite well by showing how each chapter captures the problem – the watershed moment, the impact and the challenges of regional policies in Australia.

The chapters of the book on policy specific issues provide a valuable source for authors to go back to when writing on regional policy issues. Robert's chapter on education for rural Australia provides a base for research on the spatial inequality of education in Australia, Hunt's chapter provides background on indigenous wellbeing and Gross's chapter provides the sources and discussion of migration issues. These chapters provide valuable starting points and references for students of regional policy.

The third part of the book captures the emerging issues in regional policy. I felt that I should have read Hogan et al's discussion of localism when my former student was preparing an article on decentralisation, localism and deforestation in Indonesia; the chapter nicely presents the development of localism as well as the issues involved in applying localism in regional Australia.

There are several criticisms that I have for this book. First: there are never enough books offering an edited collection of articles on regions. I am really keen to learn about the evolution of local government,

and how it manages its funding, sources of income and fiscal needs. Surely the chapter “From state direction to community self-efficacy” by Cockfield captures part of this, but local government budgeting deserves a specific chapter in this book.

Second: the book needs pictures. As I read through the book, I was really craving to see pictures of the rural areas the authors talk about, the schools, the indigenous peoples as well as the prime ministers in regional areas in the case of Collit’s chapter. The book brings the reader on the journey of these rural and regional areas but it is sometime hard to be immersed without seeing the places or the occasions.

Third, as the articles reproduced in the book are written the academic style, the book has the feeling of an impartial look at regions from outside, perhaps underplaying the empathy the authors have for these areas. This probably should not be a criticism as this may be what intended by the book and for me, as an academic, this style is really useful and easy to follow.

Summing up, I felt this book provides a valuable starting point for readers interested in learning about regional Australia. It may not provide everything but it is certainly a very good starting point.

Yogi Vidyattama

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“The Population Mobility and Labour Markets project is one of a wide range of projects being undertaken by the Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation and which seek to address the economic challenges facing remote Australia.

High rates of temporary mobility among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians living in central Australia are often seen as a barrier to socio-economic advancement and as frustrating mainstream models of service delivery and infrastructure provision.

Despite this view, policymakers and service providers in fact have very little understanding of the mobility patterns of remote community populations.

The aim of the Mobility project is to enhance livelihoods and economic participation by providing a better understanding of the drivers of mobility and generating estimates of the extent and patterns of mobility.

The project has employed over 60 local Aboriginal Community Researchers to conduct 885 surveys across 21 communities, and to conduct follow-up surveys.

People do travel a great deal to get the things they need. The survey asked people whether they ever left the community to access a range of services. The main service they reported travelling for was shopping, but other commonly cited reasons were for banking, health and to visit Centrelink.

On average people report making 19 trips per year away from their community to access services – or just more than one trip every three weeks. For those who go to Alice Springs, we can estimate the average distance they travel to access such services is around 865 kilometres per month. ...

“Good policy and planning decisions require understanding how people will respond to different incentives. Conceptual work undertaken for the Mobility project has argued that to fully understand human mobility across different cultural contexts, mobility should be seen as a means to accessing things that contribute to wellbeing, or avoiding things that contribute to illbeing.” ...

Consistent with existing literature, the data highlight the importance of connection to country, culture and kinship networks in determining where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live and where they travel. In our sample, 86.5 per cent of respondents indicated that they lived on their homelands. When they travel they stay with family. Visiting family or homelands, hunting and collecting bush tucker and attending cultural events are common activities.

The enduring nature of these drivers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mobility suggests country, kin and culture are intrinsic to their wellbeing. If policy does not take account of this, then either people will not respond as intended, or policy will fail to accommodate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aspirations.”

“Question marks hang over the future of smaller remote communities. The data from the Mobility Survey and lessons from history suggest the residents will not readily sever ties with country, kin and culture, for this is what their wellbeing and identity are built around. Mobility facilitates this. Steps to rationalise communities and the services provided to them will at most see people drift into larger centres, where lack of jobs is already an issue. Any such measures would have to be carefully weighed against the alternatives of promoting economic development and livelihoods within those communities: addressing the lack of licences and housing, improving transport networks and promoting local enterprise.”

The Mobility Project would like to thank all the communities, respondents and the Aboriginal Community Researchers who have contributed to this project.

By courtesy of the Population Mobility and Labour Markets project of the CRC for Remote Economic Participation, Mike Dockery, Principal Research Leader. For more details email: [mike.dockery@nintione.com.au](mailto:mike.dockery@nintione.com.au) or phone: +61 8 9266 3468

### *Conferences and Study Opportunities*

#### *Regional Science Association International*

#### **Call for submissions: 2016 RSAI Best Dissertation in Regional Science**

The Regional Science Association International (RSAI) invites submissions for the annual competition 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.

The winner will be decided by the Selection Committee and will receive a cash award of 750 Euros. Award announcements will be made at the North American Meetings of the RSAI, where participants in the competition are strongly encouraged to be present. The Selection Committee reserves the right to not make an award. Decisions made by the Selection Committee are final.

Eligibility:

- A dissertation completed in any Ph.D. program in any country is eligible,
- A dissertation written in English,
- A dissertation successfully defended, with official graduation date between July 1st 2015 and June 30th 2016,
- A dissertation on a single or multiple general regional science topics. The Selection Committee reserves the right to determine whether a dissertation is relevant to the field of regional science.

Application (in either PDF or MS Word format) should include:

- A two-page curriculum vita;
- A letter of support and nomination from the major professor (also known as dissertation committee chairperson or supervisor) on stationary paper and with signature. The letter should clearly explain the dissertation's originality and contributions to the field of regional science;
- The dissertation.

**Applications should be submitted electronically by July 31, 2016 to the Selection Committee Chair, Dr. Shaoming Cheng ([scheng@fiu.edu](mailto:scheng@fiu.edu)). Large submissions can be uploaded to a cloud file-sharing site. Questions regarding the dissertation competition may be sent to him too.**

Best regards, *Elisabete Martins*

RSAI Secretariat



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*Australian Regional Development Conference 2016*

The conference runs from 5-6 September 2016. If you register before 25 July you save \$100 off the standard registration. Click [here](#) to complete your registration now.

The planning committee is pleased to introduce the 2016 keynote speakers for the Australian Regional Development Conference. They are:

- Warwick Powell, Founder and Chairman, Sister City Partners Ltd
- Simon McArthur, Deputy Chair, Australian Regional Tourism Network
- Michael Kilgariff, Managing Director, Australian Logistics Council
- David Fleming, Research Economist, CSIRO
- Nicky Ison and Jarra Hicks, Co-Founders, Community Power Agency

Warwick's presentation, *New Possibilities in Regional Resilience: Moving beyond the Mendicant Economy Model: Innovating New Regional Economic Institutions and Architectures*, asks the question what does it mean to be innovative in a regional context. Simon McArthur presents a profile of Sustainable Tourism Models relevant within a regional context. Michael Kilgariff will discuss the six priority areas the Federal government must act upon to 'get the supply chain right'. Nicky Ison and Jarra Hicks tackle the renewable energy question outlining the economic, technical, social and policy drivers behind the rapid growth in renewable energy.

The program will also include a wide range of sessions that address innovation, regional environmental sustainability, land use planning, employment, water, sustainable development, urban planning, community development and digital economies. The program is now available to view on the conference website at <http://regionaldevelopment.org.au/>. The contact person is Debra Thompson, Conference Secretariat, Tel: 05 5502 2068.

## **CURRENT RESEARCH**

### *Regional Science Policy & Practice*

8(1-2) March-June 2016

Pages 3-26

Bev Wilson and Mallory L. Rahe

### *Rural prosperity and federal expenditures, 2000-2010*

Abstract: Rural development policy in the US lacks coordination and coherence, but sustaining prosperous rural communities should be a primary aim. We identify rural non-core counties that remained prosperous during the recent recession and use regression analysis to model the relationship between rural prosperity and per capita federal expenditures. The number of prosperous rural non-core counties increased from 2000 to 2010. Social capital and educational attainment are now more important predictors of rural prosperity than economic diversity. Prosperous rural non-core counties are

associated with higher rates of expenditure and the distribution of federal expenditures across these counties exhibits positive spatial dependence. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12070

Pages 27-44

Pedro V. Amaral and Alan T. Murray

### *Equity in regional access to renal dialysis in Brazil*

Abstract: Public healthcare is arguably the most important concern for a region, or national economy. Costs continue to rise, as do expectations for reasonable access to services. Health service facility location is of great importance given its relationship to utilization rates. This paper examines equitable access to renal dialysis in Brazil. System enhancements involving new equipment for different levels of investment are explored. Results show that it is possible to improve the locational efficiency of dialysis equipment. Further, nationwide allocation plans enable shorter average distances



to be achieved compared to the state allocation strategy that is traditionally relied on. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12071

Pages 199-224

Hodjat Ghadimi, Trevor Harris and Timothy Warner

*A geospatial approach to measuring regional and sub-regional inclusive wealth: the case of resource rich West Virginia, USA*

Abstract: Inclusive wealth is a key indicator of economic sustainability and an important component in evaluating regional policy and sustainable development initiatives. Measuring capital stocks at scales below the national level is challenging and there is limited empirical research to guide individual or comparative studies. Advances in geospatial technologies including GIS and remote sensing, and the availability of well-attributed spatial data, provide new opportunities to generate empirical wealth estimates at differing spatial granularities. Based on a case study of West Virginia, USA, this study outlines an approach for determining inclusive wealth estimates using GIS and spatial data infrastructures at sub-regional scales of analysis. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12067

Pages 45-60

Irfan Kaygalak and Neil Reid

*Innovation and knowledge spillovers in Turkey: The role of geographic and organizational proximity*

Abstract: This study focuses on spatial dimensions of innovation and tests whether there is an overlap between geographical clusters and the location of knowledge creation in Turkey. We used patent documents as indicators of inventors' collaboration in innovation and examine diverse characteristics of inventors by social network analysis. Using the address and

company affiliation of the inventors, this study suggests that the role of geographical and organizational proximities in knowledge creation and diffusion can be tested by using social network analysis. This study concludes that innovation processes in Turkey are highly concentrated geographically and rather than organizational proximity between the actors, being close to industrial clusters is more important for innovative knowledge production and flows. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12072

Pages: 61-73

Jinwon Bae and Sandy Dall'erba

*The economic impact of a new solar power plant in Arizona: Comparing the input-output results generated by JEDI vs. IMPLAN*

Abstract: As an increasingly adopted renewable energy resource, solar power has a high potential for carbon emission reduction and economic development. This paper calculates the impact on job, income and output creation of a new solar power plant in an input-output framework. The contribution is twofold. First, we compare the multipliers generated by the construction and operation/maintenance of a plant located in California with those it would have generated had it been built in Arizona. Second, we point out the differences in the results obtained with the popular IMPLAN software from those we get with the solar photovoltaic model of JEDI. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12073

Pages: 75-91

Richard V. Adkisson and Francisco J. Pallares

*Retail employment in rural America: The case of New Mexico*

Abstract: A pattern is evident where many geographically large but demographically small states rely on employment in retail to a greater extent than does the nation. To gain insight into this phenomenon, this paper examines the relationship between rurality and retail trade in

31 New Mexico counties during the 2001 to 2013 period. Location quotients were used to capture the relative advantage that retail trade has in a particular county. Retail employment tends to be relatively more important in New Mexico's rural, as opposed to urban, areas, even after accounting for income levels. Ultimately the composition of income helps to explain the anomalous observation in New Mexico. There may be some opportunities to use retail development as a more general economic development strategy in rural areas. DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12074

*Papers in Regional Science*

95(2) June 2016

Pages 201-222

Pasquale Commendatore and Ingrid Kubin

*Source versus residence: A comparison from a new economic geography perspective.*

Abstract: A standard result on international capital income taxation is that applying the residence principle does not affect industrial location and is therefore more efficient than applying the source principle. However, many countries do in fact apply the source principle. We argue that in a new economic geography framework the standard result needs to be qualified: the size of the market is crucial for industry location and it is changed by taxation and by public expenditures; we show that – for the high tax region – this effect dampens capital losses under the source principle and causes them under the residence principle. The sharp difference between the two taxation principles blurs and, unsurprisingly, both principles are found in taxation laws. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12134

Pages 223-257

Christian Hundt and Rolf Sternberg

*Explaining new firm creation in Europe from a spatial and time perspective: A multilevel*

*analysis based upon data of individuals, regions and countries*

Abstract: This paper seeks to better understand the significance of spatial context conditions and personal attributes for early-stage entrepreneurship. We combine individual with regional and national level data using multilevel analysis to test our hypotheses. We differentiate between two phases in the entrepreneurial process as well as between general and ambitious entrepreneurship. First, we show that both the national and the regional context significantly impact individual entrepreneurial activities. Second, individual level characteristics exert the greatest overall influence, but the direction of this influence is not stable. Third, the impact of the three levels varies across the different phases in the entrepreneurial process as well as between different types of start-ups. Fourth, we demonstrate that cross-level interactions between individual characteristics and spatial context factors are important in explaining entrepreneurial activities. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12133

Pages 259-279

Carla Daniela Calá, Miguel Manjón-Antolín and Josep-Maria Arauzo-Carod

*Regional determinants of firm entry in a developing country*

Abstract: We analyse the determinants of firm entry in developing countries using Argentina as an illustrative case. Our main finding is that although most of the regional determinants used in previous studies analysing developed countries are also relevant here, there is a need for additional explanatory variables that proxy for the specificities of developing economies (e.g., poverty, informal economy and idle capacity). We also find evidence of a core-periphery pattern in the spatial structure of entry

that seems to be mostly driven by differences in agglomeration economies. Since regional policies aiming to attract new firms are largely based on evidence from developed countries, our results raise doubts about the usefulness of such policies when applied to developing economies. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12128

Pages 281-307

Ludo Peeters and Coro Chasco

*Identifying local determinants of destination choices of international immigrants to the Madrid metropolitan area*

Abstract: We examine the local determinants of destination choices of foreign immigrants to the Madrid metro area using data for 2005 and 2009 from the Spanish annual municipal-level registers of inhabitants. Taking advantage of the equivalence relation between conditional logit and Poisson, we estimate a location-choice model using the Poisson fixed-effects estimator. Origin-destination fixed effects are incorporated to account for the persistent spatial structure of the immigrants' settlement patterns and to control for potential violations of the independence of irrelevant alternatives (IIA) assumption. The Poisson regression model is estimated for seven different groups of immigrants according to world regions or countries of origin. Our modelling strategy has important empirical implications, with magnitudes and/or signs of the estimated coefficients changing in the expected directions. It is found that newly arriving immigrants tend to settle in low-to-middle-income locations in the suburban reaches of the Madrid metro area. Moreover, the effects of the size of local communities of established immigrants are found to be insignificant and even negative in several instances, reflecting hetero-local settlement preferences and/or the saturation of local networks causing in-group job rivalry, respectively. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12130

Pages 309-327

Liang Zheng

*What city amenities matter in attracting smart people?*

Abstract: This paper applies a migration choice model to examine what city amenities matter in attracting smart people. I find that young people with different education levels prefer cities with more population, a lower population density, more educated residents, a racially diverse population, lower income inequality, and a warmer winter. In contrast, less crime and better schools appear to be unimportant city amenities for each education group. Moreover, I also find that there is significant heterogeneity in the estimated marginal willingness to pay for some city amenities. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12131

Pages 329-351

Laura Márquez-Ramos

*Port facilities, regional spillovers and exports: Empirical evidence from Spain*

Abstract: This paper analyses whether regions benefit from their neighbours' transport facilities. We focus on ports and estimate a gravity model of trade that includes port facilities indicators as explanatory variables. The model is estimated by using exports from 19 Spanish regions to 45 countries from 2000 onwards. To test for the existence of regional spillovers, we construct a weight matrix that takes into account the relative importance of the neighbouring ports, as well as the quality of port infrastructure in destination countries. The findings suggest that regional spillovers play a larger role than port facilities themselves in the growth of Spanish exports. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12127

Pages 353-362

Masafumi Tsubuku

*Endogenous transport costs and firm agglomeration in new trade theory*

Abstract: Departing from the exogenous treatment of transport costs, this study examines endogenous transport costs and their impact on firm location in new trade theory. Previous studies argue that, if exogenous transport costs in a large country are sufficiently higher than in a small country, then the home market effect disappears. In our model, national governments control domestic transport costs via public infrastructure investment. Our study presents persuasive findings that a large country always collects more tax revenue for public investment than a small country, which results in lower domestic transport costs, and hence, the home market effect always prevails. DOI: 10.1111/pirs12126

Pages 363-382

Jen-Jia Lin, Chi-Hau Chen and Tsung-Yu Hsieh

*Job accessibility and ethnic minority employment in urban and rural areas in Taiwan*

Abstract: This study is an empirical exploration of the effects of job accessibility on ethnic minority employment in urban and rural areas. The urban sample is composed of Taiwanese aborigines who migrated to cities from their native locales while the rural sample is composed of aborigines who reside in aboriginal villages. Sample data are collected through questionnaire surveys conducted in 2009 and 2012. Results indicate that rural aborigines have a lower unemployment rate but less stable employment than urban aborigines. Employed rural aborigines receive slightly higher salaries and incur higher commuting cost than employed urban aborigines. However, regardless of where the aborigines live (i.e., urban or rural areas), increased job accessibility is not related to employment and employment stability, but significantly increases aboriginal salary.

Moreover, improved job accessibility increases the commuting time of rural aborigines, but its effects on the commuting time of urban aborigines depend on the travel mode. Empirical evidence implies that migrating to cities can be both beneficial and fruitless for aboriginal employment, and that the effects of accessibility on the employment of Taiwanese aborigines in urban and rural areas are both similar to and different from those of non-aborigines documented in previous studies. DOI: 10.1111/pirs12125

Pages 383-406

Xianlei Ma, Nico Heerink, Ekko van Ierland and Xiaoping Shi

*Land tenure insecurity and rural-urban migration in rural China*

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of land tenure security perceptions on rural-urban migration decisions of rural households, using data collected in Minle County in Northwest China. We find that tenure security perceptions play a significant role in household migration decisions in villages without well-functioning land rental markets but not in villages where the land rental markets are more developed. In villages with underdeveloped land rental markets, households that expect that no land reallocations will occur within their village in the near future are less involved in migration, while households that attach a greater importance to land certificates in protecting land use rights are more involved in migration. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12129

Pages 407-426

Yusep Suparman, Henk Folmer and Johan H.L. Oud

*The willingness to pay for in-house piped water in urban and rural Indonesia*

Abstract: This paper analyses household preferences for in-house piped water in urban and rural Indonesia via a hedonic price model, specified as a constrained autoregression-structural equation model (ASEM). ASEM reduces bias due to time-varying omitted variables and measurement errors. In addition, it provides a convenient way of testing and correcting for endogeneity. On the basis of the Indonesia Family Life Survey data set, we find that on average urban and rural households have the same willingness to pay for in-house piped water, that is, 34.24 per cent of their monthly house rent. For the 25 per cent urban and rural households with lowest expenditure, this percentage is equivalent to 9.41 per cent and 7.57 per cent of their monthly expenditure, respectively. The findings support a need for further investment in in-house piped water in both areas, particularly for the households with the lowest expenditure levels. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12124

Pages 427-435

Juan Carlos Bárcena-Ruiz, F. Javier Casado-Izaga, Hamid Hamoudi and Isabel Rodriguez

*Optimal zoning in the unconstrained Hotelling game*

Abstract: This paper studies a zoning mechanism that gives the optimal locations of two firms in a linear city under mill prices. A regulator biased towards consumers allows a central area of the city to be shared by firms and consumers and thus firms are not allowed to locate outside the city limits. A regulator more concerned about firms extends this central zone outside the city limits and the city has a residential use only if the firms so decide. Finally, a regulator highly biased towards firms allows them to locate only beyond a set distance from the city, so there is a strip of land outside the city but close to its boundaries, for alternative uses. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12132

Book Review

This issue of Papers in Regional Science June 2016 (95(2) pp 437-438) contains an excellent and interesting review of:

*Geographical labor market imbalances. Recent explanations and cures.* Chiara Mussida and Francesco Pastore (eds.) Berlin-Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 2015. Series: AIEL Series in Labour Economics. 370 pp., 107.09 EUR. ISBN 978-3-642-55202-1.

**ABOUT ANZRS AI**

*ANZRS AI Council Notes*

Recent discussions between the presidents of ANZRS AI and of the Regional Studies Association have led to a proposal to co-promote events, to offer existing RSA members a 20% discount if they join ANZRS AI and to offer existing ANZRS AI members a 20% discount if they join RSA. Some details still need to be worked out, but your editor feels sure that these proposals will benefit regional research and practice in Australia and New Zealand.

Council is supporting for an external funding proposal to develop networks among regional researchers in Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Argentina.

Recognising the high quality of the Australian Journal of Regional Studies (AJRS) Council has agreed to provide further funds to support to the editors.

The latest edition of Australasian Journal of Regional Studies (AJRS) Special Edition (2016 Volume 22, Issue 1) titled Local Governance and Regional Development is accessible to members at <http://www.anzrsai.org/publications/ajrs>

ANZRSAI members are always welcome to contact members of the Council with their ideas and suggestions.

***ANZRSAI Conference News***

Preparations are well advanced for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ANZRSAI, to be held at RMIT University in Melbourne from 5-7 December 2016.

The conference will address how regions can be improved through better design and execution of high quality regional policy and practice.

Following the conference a special edition of AJRS will be published on 'Emerging priorities in regional policy and practice' edited by Bruce Wilson and Peter Fairbrother.

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