



Western Regional Science Association

Summer 2017

Newsletter

Forecast is Rosy for Our 57th Annual Meeting!

Hilton Pasadena, Pasadena, California, February 11–14, 2018

WRSA hews to its traditions: the October 15 paper submission deadline that is almost always extended, the 45 minutes allocated to each paper presentation, the much-hallowed assignment to discuss a paper or chair a session that every meeting participant looks forward to, and our frequent return to the meeting sites we enjoy most. As good regional scientists, though, we also value innovation. In that spirit, WRSA travels to a new location for its 57th Annual Meeting: Pasadena, California. Not only is the city new to us, but our meeting venue—the Hilton Pasadena—is undergoing renovation and should be shiny and new and ready to greet us when we convene there in February.

Pasadena has something for everyone. The Hilton is located within walking distance of Old Pasadena, which is dense with restaurants, bars, and shopping. Located within the larger Los Angeles metropolitan region, Pasadena still has the feel of a smaller, southern California town—but with relatively easy access to big-city amenities. Pasadena itself is home to the California Institute of Technology (better known as CalTech) and the Rose Bowl Stadium, for those who'd like to see some sights.

Of course, the location is secondary to the meeting itself. As in previous years (tradition!), the meeting program will be organized around our signature paper sessions, with their 45-minute paper slots and dedicated paper discussants. Plenary sessions, receptions, and our luncheon and coffee breaks will provide ample opportunity for WRSA to come together as a community and for participants to interact in an informal and collegial setting.

Preliminary meeting details are outlined on Page 2. Of paramount importance is keeping in mind the biggest WRSA tradition of all: invitations to present a paper at the meeting are only issued on the basis of full papers—no abstracts or presentation slides. Submissions, which will be reviewed by a member of

the Program Committee, may be in draft format so long as the final version is uploaded before the end of the year. As mentioned, the preliminary deadline for paper submissions is **October 15, 2017**. Instructions for submitting papers can be found on the WRSA website.



Pasadena Town Hall

Meeting Overview...Our 57th Annual Meeting will open on Sunday afternoon (Feb. 11) with the 8th Annual Lay James Gibson Plenary Session and Welcoming Reception. Three full days of sessions will follow on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (Feb. 12 to 14). The 6th Annual Getis-Ord Lecture in Spatial Analysis will be held on Monday (see Page 2 for brief details), and the Banquet Luncheon, Presidential Address, and President's Reception will take place on Tuesday. Keep in mind that over a third of the paper presentations will be scheduled for Wednesday! Please plan to attend the entire meeting!

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Pasadena Planning

See below for helpful meeting information and important dates. Start planning now!

Hotel...A block of rooms has been set aside at the Hilton Pasadena at \$199/night (plus taxes). The hotel has agreed to honor this rate three days before and after our meeting, based on availability. Reservations can already be made via the WRSA website or by calling 626-577-1000 or 1-800-HILTONS and asking for the Western Regional Science Association group rate. Note that after **January 11, 2018**, or as soon as our room block fills, the Hilton will no longer be obligated to honor this room rate. Please book early!

Meeting Registration and Paper Submission...Both paper submission and meeting registration are handled via the WRSA website (www.wrsa.info). The initial deadline for paper submission is **October 15, 2017**. Registration fees for the 2018 meeting will be \$310 (\$150 for students), if paid by the **January 11, 2018**, pre-registration deadline. Rates increase after that date.

Travel to Pasadena...Pasadena is located approximately 45 minutes from the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and 20 minutes from the Bob Hope Burbank Airport (BUR). Pasadena is quite walkable and the Hilton offers free shuttle service within a two-mile radius of the hotel. Rental cars should only be necessary for those planning to sightsee in the greater Los Angeles region.

Tiebout Prize...The hard and fast deadline for submissions for the 32nd Tiebout Prize is **October 15, 2017**. Papers are submitted on the WRSA website. Be sure to check the "Tiebout Prize" box to ensure your paper is appropriately considered! See story on this page for further details.

Springer Prize...The Springer Prize is awarded for the best conference paper by an early-career regional scientist (PhD within the past five years). To be considered for the Prize, simply check the appropriate box during the paper submission process.

Conference Assistants...WRSA seeks student assistants to help with meeting registration and events in Pasadena. In exchange for approximately 10 hours of assistance, students will have their meeting fees refunded and have access to reduced-rate rooms at the Hilton at \$149/night (plus taxes). To volunteer, simply contact WRSA Executive Director, Rachel Franklin (rachel_franklin@brown.edu).

The 2018 Getis-Ord Lecture: Michael F. Goodchild

The 6th Annual Getis-Ord Lecture will be given by Michael Goodchild, Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara. A member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and a foreign member of the Royal Society of Canada, Goodchild is widely recognized as one of the leaders of Geographic Information Science and spatial analysis. Further details on his lecture will be announced in the coming months.

Calling All Graduate Students! The 32nd Annual Tiebout Prize Competition

The Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science is awarded each year at the WRSA annual meeting to a current or recently-graduated doctoral student for excellent regional science research. Winners, who must attend the meeting to receive the Prize, receive \$1,000 (as well as meeting registration) to help defray the costs of attending the conference. The paper may be published in the official journal of the WRSA, *The Annals of Regional Science* (published by Springer) following standard review/revision procedures. Full submission guidelines are available on the WRSA website. Keep in mind that the **October 15** submission deadline is a hard one!

New for this year: Papers co-authored with faculty advisors are acceptable, however the primary author must meet the Tiebout student requirements and the bulk of the substantive work and contribution of the paper must have come from the student. At the time of submission, papers must include a letter from the faculty advisor confirming that these requirements have been met.

The Tiebout Prize honors Charles Tiebout, not only for his lasting contributions to regional science but also for his valuable mentoring of graduate students. The Prize is supported through an endowment fund, managed by the University of Arizona Foundation. Every small donation helps ensure that the Prize will continue to be given for years to come! To donate, see instructions on the WRSA website.



Call for Applications: The Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science

Graduate students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in North America are encouraged to apply for the Eighteenth Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science, administered by the North American Regional Science Council of the Regional Science Association International (NARSC-RSAI). This Fellowship, in support of dissertation research in Regional Science, is awarded annually in memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stevens, an intellectual leader whose selfless devotion to graduate students as teacher, advisor, mentor, and friend had a profound impact on the field.

Eligible students should have completed all degree requirements except for their dissertation by the time the Fellowship commences. A requirement of the Fellowship is that the recipient has no duties other than dissertation research during the Fellowship, although the recipient may hold other fellowships concurrently. Applications from students working in any area or any Ph.D. program are welcome as long as their dissertation research addresses a research question in Regional Science.

The Fellowship consists of a stipend in the amount of \$30,000 (U.S.), paid over a twelve-month period. Applications for the 2018–2019 Fellowship should be sent electronically by the applicant to the Selection Committee Chair, Professor Mario Polèse (mario.polese@ucs.inrs.ca) by the deadline of February 15, 2018. See the NARSC website (www.narsc.org) for application instructions.



A souvenir of Santa Fe...

Santa Fe Summary

In February, the WRSA returned to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the La Fonda on the Plaza hotel for its 56th annual meeting. The meeting venue, the program, and, especially, the participants all combined to create another successful and memorable conference. All told, there were over 150 participants at this year's meeting, including 23 students. The program featured 32 sessions, including organized sessions from the Remote Regions Group and the traditional Western States Economic Outlook session. Many thanks to these contributors to the meeting program. Thanks, too, to members of the Program Committee and to the Student Assistants, who helped the meeting run so smoothly.

Along with paper sessions, a key component of the WRSA annual meeting are the plenary sessions. This year, Steve Vierck, from the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County, New Mexico, got the meeting off to a strong start during the 7th Annual Lay James Gibson Plenary Opening Session with his discussion of New Mexico's economic drivers. This year's Getis-Ord Lecture in Spatial Analysis, the second of our two plenary sessions, was given by James LeSage, renowned spatial econometrician. The title of his talk was, "Mixing Spatial and Other Types of Cross-Sectional Dependence." Serge Rey offered discussant remarks following LeSage's lecture.



Alan Murray gives his Presidential Address

The "big event" of each year's meeting is the Annual Banquet Luncheon, during which prizes are awarded and the WRSA Presidential Address is given. This year's memorable Address was given by Alan Murray, 58th WRSA President, on the subject of, "Analytics in Regional Science." Daoqin Tong served as Murray's discussant.

...see pages 4–6 for more Santa Fe stories...

Brian Asquith Awarded 31st Tiebout Prize

This year's Tiebout Prize was awarded to Brian Asquith, of the Department of Economics at the University of California, Irvine. Asquith's winning paper was titled, "Rent Control and Evictions: Evidence from San Francisco," and his research was supervised by Jan Brueckner. Congratulations to Asquith and Brueckner!



From right: Serge Rey, this year's Chair of the Tiebout Reading Committee, Brian Asquith, Winner of the Tiebout Prize, and Nicholas Irwin and Alireza Ermagan, Tiebout Finalists

In recognition of their strong submissions, this year the Tiebout Reading Committee also selected two Finalists:

- Alireza Ermagan, from the University of Minnesota, for his paper, "Network Weight Matrices and Traffic Flow Analysis"
- Nicholas Irwin, from Ohio State University, for his paper, "Urban Revitalization and Targeted Demolitions: How Housing Markets Respond to City-Led Redevelopment."

The Reading Committee this year was chaired by Serge Rey. The other members of the Committee were Peter Gordon, Bruce Newbold, and Hans Westlund.

As noted on Page 2 of this Newsletter, the deadline for this year's competition is fast approaching. Spread the word! Full details are available on the WRSA website.



Juan Carlos Lopez Wins Springer Prize

This year's Springer Prize for best paper presented at the Santa Fe meeting by an early-career scholar was awarded to Juan Carlos Lopez, University of Denver, Colorado, for his paper, "Cultural Workers and the Character of Cities." The Prize is sponsored by Springer, publisher of WRSA's official journal, *The Annals of Regional Science*. Winners of the Springer Prize are awarded a certificate, as well as a \$500 book voucher.

This year's submissions were judged by the three co-editors of the *Annals*, Martin Andersson, Euijune Kim, and Janet Kohlhase. See the "Pasadena Planning" story on Page 2 of this *Newsletter* for details on the next competition.

WRSA Board Updates

At the Annual Meeting each year, the WRSA Board convenes. One of its chief tasks is to select a Vice President and any new Board members. This year, after several years of adding new members, no additions to the Board were made.

Genevieve Giuliano Named Vice President



As Vice President, the Board enthusiastically selected Genevieve Giuliano. Over the years, Giuliano has been a frequent participant at annual meetings, has long served on the WRSA Board, and has helped introduce many graduate students to the WRSA annual meeting and the field of regional

science. Giuliano is a Professor at the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California, in Los Angeles. She is well-known for her scholarship in the areas of transportation and transportation policy.

President Elect: Matthias Ruth

At this year's meeting, our current Vice President, Matthias Ruth, Northeastern University in Boston, transitioned to President-Elect. As our incoming President next year, Ruth will give his Presidential Address at the Pasadena meeting and will also host the President's Reception.

A Sample of Pictures from the 2017 WRSA Annual Meeting

(Many more photos forthcoming on the WRSA website!)



Assorted reception photos...(continued on Page 6)

Santa Fe reception photos, continued...**In Memoriam*****Martin Beckmann, WRSa Fellow and 17th WRSa President***

My acquaintance with Martin goes back a long time. I believe it started at the Annual WRSa Meeting in San Diego in 1968. We then met regularly each year at the subsequent meetings, always coordinating our personal meetings on those occasions beforehand. These regular get-togethers got less frequent in the late 1990s when Martin failed to attend the meetings on a regular basis. In those years, he was a rather frequent guest lecturer in Asian countries from India to Japan and absent for months at a time. In later years, until about two years ago, we always exchanged regular Christmas greetings and short notes about our doings.

In 1970 I invited Martin to present a paper at the conference, “Regional and Rural Economic Adjustment Policy Issues,” held in November, 1970, in Winnipeg, Canada, under the title: “The Impact of Scientific and Technical Change on the Location of Economic Activities.” Martin made his presentation in his very own inimical and entertaining style, rushing from one blackboard to a second one and back again, filling them with reams of mathematical formulas and equations, earning a lot of applause at the end for his performance, although I am sure that few people in the audience were able to follow his mathematical derivations. I had elected to be the commentator to his paper—I did it without mathematics but used real world examples instead. Both presentations were—after extensive revisions—published in the book, “Regional Poverty and Change” (Ottawa, Canada, 1973, Gunter Schramm, ed.). We also combined the arguments of our two papers into a uniform whole that was published under the title: “The Impact of Scientific and Technical Change on the Location of Economic Activities” in the journal, *Regional and Urban Economics* (Aug. 1972).

Martin was quite a unique character. He was very social, loved to get together with his fellow colleagues, and thoroughly enjoyed good food and wine (if somebody else paid the bill). He kept his pennies together—he usually arrived with red-eye night flights because they were cheaper and he also tried always to exchange business class tickets for long overseas flights paid for by his sponsors with economy-class ones, pocketing the difference. He rarely stayed at the WRSa Conference hotels but usually found cheaper accommodations nearby. He also was a rather sloppy dresser, not being bothered by spots or tears.

But for all his peculiarities, he was a very likable fellow, a brilliant mathematician, a great and entertaining lecturer, despite the obtuse material that he presented to his listeners. I am deeply sorry he is gone.

—Gunter Schramm, 27th WRSa President

Anthony H. Pascal, WRSA Fellow and 12th WRSA President



The Western Regional Science Association (WRSA) is very sad to report the death of longtime member and former President, Anthony Henry Pascal. Tony was born in 1933 and died April 3, 2017. He was a distinguished economist and regional scientist who made lasting contributions to the organizations and institutions with which he was associated. He was a very bright guy with a solid grasp of theory who could put that theory to work on a variety of policy assignments, including those dealing with racial discrimination and poverty in education and public health. Tony was born in East Los Angeles, studied economics at UCLA and in 1956 moved to New York to enter graduate school at Columbia University, where he earned his Ph.D. He returned to Los Angeles to begin his tenure at the RAND Corporation in its growing public policy division. Much of his career was spent at RAND Santa Monica, with time away for assignments working for the Johnson Administration in Washington and on research projects in Monterrey, Mexico. Tony was the 12th President of the WRSA, serving during the 1971–1972 period. At the time of his death Tony was a WRSA Fellow. When WRSA launched its Mexico initiative in the late 1970s he was part of a small team of American regional scientists who worked with Mexican scholars to establish a Mexican regional science association and to convene conferences on U.S.-Mexico economic relations. The first of these conferences was held in July, 1981, in Guanajuato, Mexico. Tony was there as a member of the planning committee and also in support of his wife, Barbara, who had organized a first-of-its-kind exhibit of Mexican American (Chicano/Chicana) art in Mexico. He was involved with subsequent conferences as well. He is survived by two daughters (Amy and Jenny) and their families. His wife, Barbara, preceded him in death in 2016.

—Lay Gibson, 39th WRSA President and WRSA Fellow

Raymond Florax, Longtime WRSA Member and Friend



On March 1, 2017, the WRSA community learned the deeply sad news that Raymond Florax passed away unexpectedly. Raymond had a long and impressive career as a regional scientist, reflected in numerous recognitions including RSAI Fellow, Fellow of the Spatial Econometrics Association, the Tinbergen Institute, the Wageningen School of Social Science and the Netherlands Network of Economics. His research contributions shaped the development of many key areas of regional science, with particular focus on spatial econometrics, meta-analysis, and environmental economics and modeling. In the “Golden Anniversary Issue” of the *Papers in Regional Science*, Andrew Isserman identified Raymond as one of the intellectual leaders of the 1990s generation.

Raymond’s substantial research contributions were paralleled by his enormous dedication to our profession. He served as Editor-in-Chief and European Editor of the *Papers in Regional Science* between 1997 and 2007, along with appointments on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Regional Science*, the *International Regional Science Review*, and *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science*. These, and other, contributions were cited in his EIB/ERSA award in 2014.

Raymond was friend to many in the WRSA family. He possessed a quiet, warm, and easy-going personality, along with a passion for research and intellectual curiosity that were contagious. These qualities made him an iconic ambassador for WRSA. Raymond was a wonderful colleague and a world class scholar. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by the WRSA.

—Serge Rey, 55th WRSA President



Raymond Florax discusses Harry Kelejian’s 2015 Getis-Ord Lecture



Western Regional Science Association

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David Plane, University of Arizona

Harry Richardson, Autonomous Univ. State of Mexico

Roger Stough, George Mason University

Waldo Tobler, University of California, Santa Barbara

Regional Science Meeting Calendar

57th European Congress of the RSAI (ERSA)

Groningen, The Netherlands, August 29–Sept. 1, 2017

groningen.ersa.org/

64th North American Meetings of the RSAI

Vancouver, British Columbia, November 8–11, 2017

<http://www.narsc.org/newsite/conference/>

57th Annual Meeting of the WRSA

Pasadena, California, February 11–14, 2018

(See article, Page 1, this *Newsletter*)

<http://www.wrsa.info>

57th Annual Meeting of the SRSA

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 15–17, 2018

<http://www.srsa.org/conference.htm>

15th PRSCO Summer Institute

Lima, Perú, July 4–6, 2018

<http://www.prsco.info>

12th World Congress of the RSAI

Goa, India, May 29–June 1, 2018

<http://www.regionalscience.org/2018worldcongress/index.html>

News Contributions Welcomed!

The *WRSA Newsletter* is published twice yearly and welcomes contributions from members and friends.

Please feel free to send along news, employment opportunities, research updates, calls for papers, brief reviews of published work, or related items.

We especially appreciate updates from our peer regional science associations!

Newsletter submissions and address updates should be sent to:

Rachel Franklin,
WRSA Executive Director/Newsletter Editor,
at wrsa@brown.edu
or the mailing address on Page 1.

WRSA:

“The Way Academic Life Should Be.”