



Western Regional Science Association

Fall 2014

Newsletter

Call for Papers...

54th Annual Meeting | Tucson, Arizona | Loews Ventana Canyon February 15–18, 2015

What can we say? Tucson is splendid, the WRSA meeting is splendid, and the participants are splendid. In short: you should attend! We are mere weeks away from the traditional October 15 paper submission deadline, which means that now is the time to get your paper polished and uploaded to the new WRSA paper submission portal (see story on Page 3 for further details). While you're at it, you may want to make your hotel reservation and start pondering the really difficult decision: how long to extend your visit.

We say this every time, but this year's meeting venue truly is magnificent. For our 54th annual meeting, we head to Tucson, Arizona and the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort. The resort is lovely and its location is perfect for a wide range of activities. Located in the mountain foothills just on the edge of the city, Ventana Canyon is handy for hiking and other outdoor activities, but also convenient to the hustle and bustle one would expect of a city with over 500,000 inhabitants—plenty of restaurants and cultural activities to choose from. The Arizona-Sonora Desert museum is a must-see (and great for families!). Sabino Canyon, just minutes away from the hotel, provides another opportunity for soaking up some winter warmth.

As always, we will do our best to ensure that the meeting itself lives up to its surroundings. Preparations for the 5th Annual Gibson Opening Plenary and welcoming reception are already underway and we are planning for three full days of paper sessions, interspersed with social and networking events like the Presidential Reception and the annual luncheon. This year we continue our tradition of a second plenary: the 3rd Annual Getis-Ord Lecture in Spatial Analysis. This year's speaker will be longtime WRSA member, Harry Kelejian, an expert in spatial econometrics at the University of Maryland.

We can always use additional volunteers to serve as paper discussants and session chairs; we never have as many as we need! If you're planning to attend the Tucson meeting and won't have a paper ready to present—or if you're just looking for an excuse to come—please feel free to contact Rachel Franklin and she will be happy to assign you program duties.



A typical Tucson sight (photo: Rachel Franklin)

Key Meeting Information:

Paper Submission... New this year, all papers submitted for the meeting must be uploaded via the WRSA website (www.wrsa.info). Aside from the web interface, nothing else has changed about paper submissions. The preliminary, traditional deadline remains **October 15, 2014**. All submissions are reviewed by a member of the program committee before a formal invitation to the meeting is issued. In addition, invitations will only be issued on the basis of full papers (draft format is acceptable), not outlines or presentation slides!

Meeting information continues on Page 2...

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Meeting Preregistration...Collection of meeting registration fees has also moved to the new WRSA website. Once logged in to the user area of the site, simply select the “register” option and then choose the 54th annual meeting. Preregistration rates for the 2015 meeting are \$310 for regular meeting participants and \$150 for students. After **January 15, 2015**, fees increase to \$400 and \$200, respectively. So register early!

Everyone who participates in the meeting is required to register. As an added bonus, all participants will also benefit from 2015 WRSA membership. Membership has its privileges: the twice-yearly *Newsletter*, as well as an electronic subscription to *The Annals of Regional Science*, WRSA’s official journal. WRSA members also become members of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) via the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) and thereby pay member-level registration fees when attending RSAI conferences in, for example, Europe or North America.

Preregistration for the conference helps us *and* you: check-in lines move more quickly at the meeting registration desk and we use our preregistration counts to estimate meeting attendance. By registering early, participants save up to \$90.

Room Reservations at Loews Ventana Canyon...Our negotiated room rate is \$189/night (plus taxes). Our rate includes complimentary parking and spa access, as well as hotel room internet. In addition, Loews will honor our room rate—which is excellent for Tucson in February—three days before and after our official meeting dates, depending on availability at time of booking.

To make a room reservation, use the dedicated link on the WRSA website or call 800-234-5117 and reference the WRSA 2015 conference. After **January 23, 2015**, the hotel is no longer obligated to honor our rate, so be sure to book early!

Getting to Tucson...Those residing in southern California or the Phoenix metropolitan area can drive to Tucson. Others will want to fly. Tucson International Airport is served by all the major U.S. carriers and the airport is about half an hour’s drive from the meeting venue. Those planning to rent a car may want to compare air ticket prices for Tucson and Phoenix. Phoenix is about two hours away from Tucson but the ticket prices may be lower.



*The Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson
(photo courtesy of the Resort website)*

Planning Your Trip...Use the day-by-day meeting schedule below to help plan your trip:

- ❖ **Sunday, February 15:** *There are no paper sessions scheduled this day.* Registration opens late afternoon; 5th Annual Lay James Gibson Opening Plenary in the late afternoon, followed by the Welcoming Reception (for all participants and accompanying persons)
- ❖ **Monday, February 16:** Registration continues all day; Concurrent paper sessions all day; 3rd Annual Getis-Ord Lecture in Spatial Analysis
- ❖ **Tuesday, February 17:** Registration continues all day; Concurrent paper sessions all day; Annual Awards Luncheon (for all registered meeting participants; tickets and fee required for non-registered accompanying persons); Evening President’s Reception (for all participants and accompanying persons)
- ❖ **Wednesday, February 18:** Registration open through late morning; Concurrent paper sessions all day; Conference ends around 6 o’clock in the evening

More Information...For additional conference information and to submit a paper or register for the meeting, visit the WRSA website at www.wrsa.info. Contact WRSA Executive Director, Rachel Franklin, with any questions that may arise (rachel_franklin@brown.edu).

Call for Submissions: 29th Tiebout Prize

The Tiebout Prize recognizes graduate student research on regional science-related topics. It is awarded each year at the WRSA annual meeting in honor of Charles Tiebout, who is remembered for his mentorship of graduate students, along with his lasting contributions to the field of regional science.

Students wishing to have their work considered for the Prize must be currently enrolled in a graduate program or have completed their studies during the 2013–2014 academic year. Co-authored papers are eligible, but only if the co-authors are also students. Unlike the deadline for conference paper submissions, the deadline for Tiebout Prize papers is inflexible: hard copies of papers must reach the WRSA office by **October 15, 2014** at the latest. See the WRSA website for further details.

The Springer Prize for Early Career Research

This award is offered for the best paper presented at the WRSA meeting by an early career scholar. To be eligible for the competition, all paper authors must have completed their degree within the past five years.

The winner of the Springer Prize receives a certificate and \$300 worth of Springer books, to be selected by the winner, as well as the option to have his/her paper considered for publication in the WRSA's official journal, *The Annals of Regional Science* (see advertisement below). Submission is simple: simply send a note to Rachel Franklin by January 1, 2015 that you would like your conference paper to be considered for the Prize.

 Springer
the language of science
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Springer Award

for outstanding papers in
the field of Regional Science



The prize is awarded annually for the best paper presented by a recent post-graduate scholar of no more than 5 years* at the Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association.

Prize US \$300.-
(to be awarded in Springer books of the winner's choice)

The paper will be published in **The Annals of Regional Science**, official Journal of the WRSA, and announced on the Springer Website.

WRSA 2014 Membership Statistics

WRSA's 2014 membership stood at 238 at the time this *Newsletter* went to press. Most membership is the result of annual meeting attendance, although the WRSA continues to have several longtime members who no longer attend the meeting each year, but like to keep abreast of WRSA news and events.

Just over a third of the WRSA membership resides outside the United States and Canada—and representation continues to be strong from Korea, Japan, Sweden, and the Netherlands. Canadians represent about 7 percent of this year's membership. Just over 20 percent of WRSA members are students and many of those are multi-year members!

The New WRSA Website

After a summer of redevelopment, the WRSA's website transition is complete. The address hasn't changed (www.wrsa.info), but the site's functionality has dramatically increased. Starting this year, all paper submissions will be submitted via the website and NARSC will no longer serve as our go-between for conference registration and membership payment processing. This should all be good news in the long term. In the short term, this means that, at the time of paper submission, users will need to create a new account on the website (use the Login/Register button on the left of the main splash page and then click the link to create a new account). Once the account is created, users will have access to paper submission and payment options. A few hitches are inevitable: please direct any issues or questions to Rachel Franklin.

Conference Assistant Opportunities

The WRSA seeks students to assist with the annual meeting in Tucson. Student conference assistants run the meeting registration desk and help out behind the scenes as needed. In exchange for 8–10 hours assistance, student helpers will have their meeting fees reimbursed (worth \$150, to be processed as a refund following the conference). A few discounted rooms are also available for assistants at the meeting hotel.

Conference assistant duties can be assigned over multiple shifts and duties will not conflict with other meeting obligations. Not only is this an opportunity to save some money, it's also a great chance to meet other graduate students attending the conference. Volunteers will be accepted on a "first come, first served basis." To volunteer, or for questions, please contact Rachel Franklin (rachel_franklin@brown.edu).



Western Regional Science Association

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Lay James Gibson, Rachel Franklin, Roger Stough

WRSA's NARSC Councilor:

Rachel Franklin

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Waldo Tobler, University of California, Santa Barbara

Regional Science Meeting Calendar

61st North American Meetings of the RSAI

Washington, D.C., November 12–15, 2014

http://www.narsc.org/newsite/?page_id=10

54th Annual Meeting of the WRSA

Tucson, Arizona, February 15–18, 2015

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

<http://www.wrsa.info>

54th Annual Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA)

Mobile, Alabama, March 26–28, 2015

<http://www.srsa.org>

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 wsra@brown.edu
or the mailing address on Page 1.

WRSA:

“The Way Academic Life Should Be.”

