



Western Regional Science Association

Summer 2014

Newsletter



Our 54th Annual Meeting: A WRSA Homecoming Loews Ventana Canyon, Tucson, Arizona, February 15–18, 2015

WRSA's 54th annual meeting will be a homecoming of sorts. For decades, under the leadership of Lay Gibson and then Dave Plane, the Western Regional Science Association was run from the Geography and Regional Development department at the University of Arizona in Tucson. However, in spite of its close ties to the area, the WRSA has met in Tucson only twice before: in 1994 for its 33rd annual meeting and in 1977 for its 16th annual meeting (although we did meet close by, in Rio Rico, in 2003).

Tucson in February is delightful: the weather should be comfortably warm and sunny and the location combines the best of urban amenities and access to desert wilderness. One can spend days in and around Tucson and still not see everything there is to see, so you'll want to plan your trip accordingly! And those planning to come to Tucson solely for the conference need not fret. Loews Ventana Canyon, our meeting hotel, is one of the nicest resorts in the area.

Our 54th annual meeting will get going on Sunday afternoon, February 15, with the Lay James Gibson Opening Plenary—the 5th annual!—and the Welcoming Reception. Three full days of sessions and events

follow, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, including the Annual Banquet Luncheon and the President's Address and Reception. This year will also feature the 3rd Annual Getis-Ord Lecture in Spatial Analysis (see Page 2 for further details).

What you need to know now... This year, WRSA is making a small break with past practice. The traditional **October 15, 2014** paper submission deadline holds, but this year we move into the 21st century with a new website and online submission of papers. See story on Page 6 for further details.

Our negotiated room rate at Loews Ventana Canyon is \$189 per night (plus applicable taxes). The resort will honor this rate three days before and after our meeting dates. Our rate includes complimentary parking, spa access, and guest room internet. February is high vacation season in Arizona, so don't delay in making your reservation! After **January 23, 2015**, Loews will no longer be obligated to honor our room rate (and, indeed, our room block may be full). Reservations can be made by calling 800-234-5117 and referencing the WRSA meeting or by using the internet link available on the WRSA website (www.wrsa.info).

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Website: <http://www.wrsa.info> ~ WRSA is now on Facebook!

The San Diego Annual Meeting



WRSA's 53rd annual meeting was held February 16–19, 2014 at the Paradise Point Resort and Spa in San Diego, California. All in all, the weather could have cooperated better, but occasional chilliness aside, the conference was a success. In the final tally, the meeting attracted over 200 participants from around the world, with large contingents from Sweden, the Netherlands, and South Korea, as well as much of the U.S. and Canada.

This year's program boasted forty paper sessions, including special sessions organized by AUBER, the Remote Regions group, and WRSA members Neil Reid and Christine Bae. A hearty thank you goes out to these contributors to the program and to all other members of the Program Committee, without whose assistance the annual meeting would be much tougher to organize. In addition, for its financial contribution to the Welcoming Reception, we thank Paul Polzin (30th WRSA President) and the AUBER group. Finally, we thank the hard-working graduate students who ensured that the registration desk was run smoothly and with a smile.



Dongwoo Kang, graduate student at the University of Arizona, mans the WRSA registration desk in San Diego

The San Diego meeting opened with the 4th Annual Lay James Gibson Plenary, given this year by John Weeks, from San Diego State University. Weeks' talk described the changing demographics of the San Diego region, with Dave Plane serving as discussant for the talk. Following the Plenary, the social aspect of the meeting got off to a strong start with the Welcoming Reception.

Serge Rey, WRSA President, gave his Presidential Address during the Annual Banquet Luncheon. Rey spoke knowledgeably on the topic of "Open Regional Science," and Eric Heikkila, from the University of Southern California, was equally enthusiastic in his discussant commentary following the address.



Serge Rey waxes eloquent on the topic of Open Regional Science for his Presidential Address

News on the Getis-Ord Lecture

A new WRSA tradition was inaugurated at the 52nd annual meeting of the WRSA in Santa Barbara: The Getis-Ord Lecture in Spatial Analysis. This new annual feature of the WRSA meeting showcases research in the broad field of spatial analysis. The inaugural lecture was given by Keith Ord, well known for his work in spatial statistics.



Anselin delivers the 2nd Annual Getis-Ord Lecture

This year Luc Anselin, known for his contributions to spatial econometrics and GIS, gave the 2nd Annual Lecture, titled, “Big Data, Spatial Analysis and CyberGIScience.” Henk Folmer served as discussant and the Lecture was followed by a nice reception.



For the 3rd Annual Lecture, the tradition of inviting well-known speakers continues: Harry Kelejian, economist at the University of Maryland and longtime WRSA member, has agreed to speak at the Tucson Annual meeting. Kelejian works in the field of spatial econometrics and has

been active in regional science for years: we can expect a stimulating and memorable talk this coming February in Tucson!

Zhenhua Chen Wins 28th Charles M. Tiebout Prize

A hallmark of the WRSA annual meeting is the Charles M. Tiebout Prize, awarded to a graduate student for research presented at the conference on a regional science topic. This year, the 28th Tiebout Prize was given to Zhenhua Chen of George Mason University. Chen’s paper was titled, “Multilevel Assessment of Public Transportation Infrastructure: A Spatial Econometric Computable General Equilibrium Approach.” His graduate work is supervised by Kingsley Haynes.



Bob Stimson, Chair of the Tiebout Reading Committee, awards Zhenhua Chen the 28th Tiebout Prize

The Tiebout Reading Committee this year also selected one Finalist and two Honorable Mentions. The Finalist award went to Frank Davenport from the University of California, Santa Barbara, for his paper, “Estimating Standard Errors in Spatial Panel Models

with Varying Spatial Correlation.” The two Honorable Mentions went to Pardis Nabavi from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm and to Fynnwin Prager from the University of Southern California.

This year’s Reading Committee was chaired by Bob Stimson and also included Sandy Dall’Erba, Henk Folmer, and Peter Gordon. Winners of the Tiebout Prize receive \$1,000 to help cover the costs of attending the WRSA annual meeting. Thanks to the continuing generosity of donors, the Tiebout Prize has become one of the pre-eminent awards in regional science, and one of just a few that recognize the contributions of the next generation of regional scientists. Please consider contributing to the Tiebout Prize endowment! Every dollar helps. Donation instructions can be found on the WRSA website.

Springer Prize Awarded to Pengyu Zhu



Annals co-editor, Janet Kohlhase, presents the Springer Prize to Pengyu Zhu

At the Annual Banquet Luncheon in San Diego, Pengyu Zhu of Boise State University was awarded the 18th Springer-Verlag Prize for his paper, “Residential Segregation and Employment Outcomes of Rural Migrant Workers in China: Addressing Self-Selection Bias with Attitude Information.” The Prize competition was adjudicated by the editors of the WRSA’s official journal, *The Annals of Regional Science*, Euijune Kim, Janet Kohlhase, and Börje Johansson. Winners receive a certificate and a \$300 book voucher from Springer.

The Springer Prize is awarded at the Annual Meeting of the WRSA for the best paper presented by an early-career scholar. To be eligible for the Prize, all paper authors must have completed their graduate studies within the past five years. Entering the competition is straightforward: at the time of conference paper submission (or by December 31), simply let Rachel Franklin know that you would like your paper considered for the Prize. Further details can be found on the WRSA website.

Updates from the WRSA Board

David A. Plane:

The New WRSA Vice President

When the WRSA Board assembles each year at the annual meeting, one of its primary tasks is to decide upon a new Vice President, as well as any additions to the Board and to the list of Fellows. It was with great joy that the Board this year unanimously selected Dave Plane from the University of Arizona as the next Vice President of the Association.

For two decades, Dave served as the Executive Secretary of the WRSA and his scholarship is well recognized in the fields of regional science, geography, and demography. He is a Fellow of both the RSAI and the WRSA and is a former editor of the *Journal of Regional Science* and *Papers in Regional Science*. It is difficult to imagine a more appropriate way to honor the contributions Dave has made to regional science in general and to the WRSA in particular.



Dave Plane (center), incoming Vice President of the WRSA, with longtime friends and WRSA members, Janet Kohlhasse and Waldo Tobler

Our President-Elect: Bruce Newbold

At the annual meeting, the current Vice President of the WRSA transitions to a new role: President-Elect. This year in San Diego it was Bruce Newbold's turn to assume the mantle of President-Elect, meaning that he will serve as host of the President's Reception at the Tucson meeting and will deliver his Presidential Address there during the Annual Banquet Luncheon.

New Board Members and Fellows

The WRSA Board was busy this year, selecting two new Board members and a whopping four new Fellows. The Board also thanked Maureen Kilkenny, who is leaving the Board, *in absentia* for her years of service to the Association. The new WRSA Board members are Jouke van Dijk from the University of Groningen and Eric Heikkila from the University of

Southern California. The Board selected van Dijk and Heikkila for their scholarly records and their support of the Association, as evidenced by their regular meeting attendance and their encouragement of students and colleagues to do the same.



New WRSA Board members Jouke van Dijk (left) and Eric Heikkila

The four new WRSA Fellows are all well known within their individual disciplines and within the field of regional science. All have been longtime members and supporters of the WRSA and it is with great pride that we add their names to the list of WRSA Fellows: Tony Bailly (36th WRSA President), T. John Kim (49th WRSA President), Gordon Mulligan, and Waldo Tobler.

Change in Annals Editorial Team

This year, after many years of service, Börje Johansson expressed a desire to step down as co-editor of *The Annals of Regional Science*. In the months leading up to the annual meeting a search for a replacement co-editor was conducted and at its annual business meeting the WRSA Board approved the appointment of Martin Andersson from Lund University as new co-editor of the *Annals*. He joins the two continuing co-editors, Euijune Kim and Janet Kohlhasse. Many thanks to Börje for his dedication to the journal and to Martin: welcome aboard!



Departing co-editor of the Annals, Börje Johansson (left), and new co-editor, Martin Andersson

In Memory of Larry Brown

This April, the WRSA lost a longtime member and friend. A geographer at Ohio State University, Lawrence A. Brown was known for his research in population geography. He was also an institution in the fields of geography and regional science: a ubiquitous presence at conferences, always raring for a spirited conversation on a wide range of topics, and passionate in his support of students and colleagues. Although he never assumed a leadership role in the WRSA, he was, as Lay Gibson puts it, “an unofficial former Board member and Fellow who always elected to participate in Board Dinners and similar stuff.” He will be deeply missed.



Larry Brown at this year's WRSA annual meeting in San Diego

WRSA Members Recall Larry Brown

I first met Larry Brown in the middle 1960s when he came to the Department of Geography at Ohio State University, where I was completing my undergraduate degree. I only met him and then left so did not get to know him well—other than that he was one of the new faculty that came to the Geography department there at the beginning of the quantitative revolution in geography. That department was soon thereafter ranked as the top university in the world in the new quantitative-based geography. Later, when I was finishing my degree at Johns Hopkins University on a cognitive approach to intra-urban migration, his work on urban migration provided central grounding in the areas of place utility and concepts on intra-urban migration. He was very helpful in the formation of the research question and the structure of the methodological approach. After that my career took a different track into areas such as transport modeling and regional economic development, with increasing involvement in the regional science field and associations. Thus, in the early 2000s, it was interesting to me to see Larry at regional science meetings (especially at the Western Regional Science Association and North American Regional Science Council conferences). He was a regular participant and paper presenter at these meetings.

He was a serious member who often stayed through the last day of conferences to help the organization provide senior persons for the last day sessions to ensure that young faculty members and graduate students had thoughtful audiences for these often poorly attended sessions. It is important to understand that Larry Brown was a serious and active participant in regional science during the last 10 years of his career and contributed in a major way to providing solid useful comments to its members on their research. Hats off to you, Larry.

—Roger Stough

We will miss Larry in our next meetings...everybody knew when he did not attend a meeting, since Larry was so different: A bright guy in his shorts, open shirt, sandals, in the middle of grey-looking academics. He was a super regional scientist, with a critical approach to basic modeling, a man open to new thinking. He was also a person with whom you could spend hours in a pub...but he was stronger than us, even in wine knowledge. We will not spend another evening with Larry...too bad for WRSA conviviality.

—Tony Bailly

Coming Soon to a Web Browser Near You: A New and Improved WRSA Website

Big changes are coming to the WRSA website and to the way in which payments are processed and papers submitted for the annual meeting. By the end of the summer, WRSA will debut a brand new website, one capable of handling not only online payments but also online submission of conference papers.

Rather than relying on the NARSC payment infrastructure, the new WRSA website will directly process membership and registration fee payments, along with donations to the Association. This change will facilitate association accounting and will also speed response times to financial inquiries and requests for refunds. Although in the long run the change will streamline registering for the annual meeting, there will be a bit of a learning curve in the short run: when you renew your membership or preregister for the Tucson meeting you will need to generate a new account in the system. Don't worry, though, this will only need to be done one time! In subsequent years you will only be

prompted to *update* your information with any changes that may have occurred.

The new website will also mark a complete shift in the way in which papers are submitted and processed for the annual meeting. Starting with the 2015 meeting in Tucson, papers will be submitted and reviewed online. The system will be similar to those employed by many other associations, including NARSC: at the time of submission participants will be prompted to upload papers and to complete information about paper title, authors, and institutional affiliations. The traditional paper submission deadline remains the same: **October 15, 2014**. The process for participating in the program as a session chair or discussant will also remain the same. Simply drop Rachel Franklin a note with your interests and scheduling preferences and she'll happily make use of your skills in program assignments.

Photos from the 53rd Annual Meeting in San Diego

(Many more photos from this year's meeting can be found at the WRSA website, www.wrsa.info.)



WRSA friends, old and new



Scenes from the Welcoming Reception...



...And from the Annual Banquet Luncheon



Western Regional Science Association

Officers for the 2014–2015 Year

President:

Sergio Rey, Arizona State University

President-Elect:

K. Bruce Newbold, McMaster University

Vice President:

David A. Plane, University of Arizona

Immediate Past President:

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and Jönköping International Business School, Sweden

Executive Director:

Rachel Franklin, Brown University

WRSA's PRSCO Councilors:

Lay James Gibson, Rachel Franklin, Roger Stough

WRSA's NARSC Councilor:

Rachel Franklin

Board of Directors

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Chang-Hee Christine Bae, University of Washington

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Richard Church, University of California, Santa Barbara

Terry Clower, University of North Texas

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Alessandra Faggian, Ohio State University

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Genevieve Giuliano, Univ. Southern California

Eric Heikkila, Univ. Southern California

Euijune Kim, Seoul National Univ. (*ex officio*, *Annals* editor)

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Antoine Bailly, University of Geneva

Martin Beckmann, Brown University

Arthur Getis, San Diego State University

Lay James Gibson, University of Arizona

Michael Greenwood, Colorado University

Kingsley Haynes, George Mason University

Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, University of Illinois

T. John Kim, University of Illinois

Theodore Lane, Thomas Lane & Associates

Frank Mittelbach, University of California, Los Angeles

Robert Monahan, Western Washington University

Gordon Mulligan, University of Arizona

Jack Osman, San Francisco State University

Anthony Pascal, The Rand Corporation

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

54th European Congress of the RSAI

St. Petersburg, Russia, August 26–29, 2014

<http://www.ersastpetersburg2014.org>

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

WRSA:

“The Way Academic Life Should Be.”