



Western Regional Science Association

Fall 2015

Newsletter

Final Call for Papers...

55th Annual Meeting on the Big Island of Hawai'i Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort February 14–17, 2016

Close your eyes and think of February. Now close your eyes and think of Hawaii in February: warm breezes, sand and sun, perhaps a tropical drink in hand, and... a scholarly meeting. Isn't that really the way academic life should be? And there's still time to attend: in what is quickly becoming a new WRSA tradition, the paper submission deadline has been extended to **November 16, 2015**. There's still plenty of time to make the necessary travel arrangements, too. This *Newsletter* is chock full of preliminary meeting details, everything from schedule overview to room reservation instructions (see pages 2 and 3).



Big Island View (photo courtesy of the Hilton Waikoloa Village)

For our 55th annual meeting, the WRSA returns to the Big Island of Hawaii and the Hilton Waikoloa Village. Some WRSA members will remember this location as the site of our 2008 annual meeting. For those who have yet to discover the joys of the Hilton Waikoloa or the Big Island, you are in for a treat. The resort has plenty to offer every type of visitor, from singles, to couples, to families with children of all ages. The island itself is awesome in its scenery: black

sand beaches, active volcanoes, and a climate that ranges from wet rainforest feel to dry, almost deserty air and terrain.

We know that location is secondary to professional priorities and we've got you covered there, too. As always, the annual meeting will feature three full days of paper sessions (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, February 15–17), with 45 minutes allocated to each and every paper. The meeting will also feature the annual Gibson Opening Plenary, with talks devoted to local economic, social, and environmental issues. The Getis-Ord Lecture in Spatial Analysis this year will be given by Edward Glaeser, urban economist at Harvard University. Glaeser will speak on transportation and politics. The Presidential Address, another high point of the annual meeting, will be given this year by incoming president and longtime WRSA leader, David Plane. As usual, the meeting will also include a number in informal social activities, including the Welcoming Reception and the President's Reception. There will be ample opportunity to catch up with old friends and also make some new ones.

If you plan to attend the meeting but won't be presenting a paper, please do feel free to contact Rachel Franklin if you'd like a place on the program as a session chair or paper discussant. We are always in need of extra volunteers! Likewise, if you are a student participant and would like the opportunity to save a few dollars, contact Rachel Franklin to sign up as a Student Volunteer (see additional information on page 3).

Finally, a word to the wise: Hawaii is a popular destination in the winter months. Flights and hotel rooms are best booked early!

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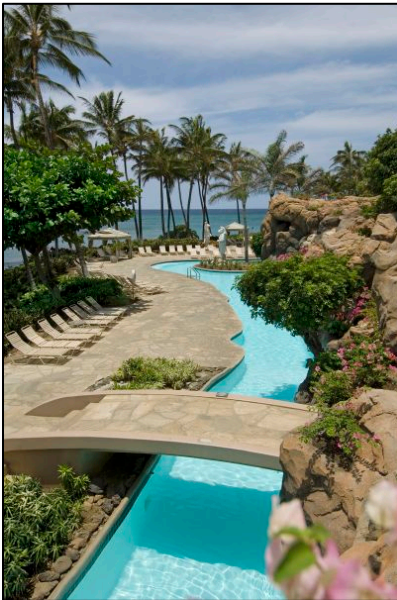
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Website: <http://www.wrsa.info> ~ <https://www.facebook.com/regionalscience> (Like us!)

What You Need to Know

Key Meeting Information

Overview of meeting dates...

- ◆ **Sunday, February 14:** *There are no paper sessions scheduled on this day!* The meeting will open in the late afternoon with the Gibson Opening Plenary, followed by the Welcoming Reception.
- ◆ **Monday, February 16:** Registration will be open all day and concurrent paper sessions will also run all day; 4th annual Getis-Ord Lecture in Spatial Analysis.
- ◆ **Tuesday, February 17:** Registration continues all day; concurrent paper sessions all day; Annual Awards Luncheon (for all meeting participants; ticket and fee required for all non-registered accompanying persons); President's Reception in the evening.
- ◆ **Wednesday, February 17:** Final full day of paper sessions; registration closes late morning; meeting ends approximately 6pm.



*Hilton Waikoloa Village Resort
(photo courtesy of the hotel)*

Paper submission... Papers should be submitted via the WRSA website by **November 16, 2015**. All submissions undergo review by a member of the Program Committee. Papers may be in draft format at the time of submission, so long as we have a complete version by the end of the year. Presentation slides or outlines will not be sufficient.

Meeting preregistration... Meeting registration is also handled on the WRSA website (www.wrsa.info). After logging in to the user area of the website, simply select "register" and choose the 55th annual meeting in Hawaii. The preregistration rate for the 2016 meeting is \$310 or \$150 for students, if paid by January 10, 2016. Academic households may wish to choose member + spouse preregistration: \$525 before January 10. Note that this rate is intended for those with two meeting attendees in the household! Those planning to bring a guest to meeting social activities (receptions and luncheon) will want to opt to purchase a set of extra reception/luncheon tickets for \$80.

Everyone who participates in the meeting is required to register. As an added bonus, all participants gain 2016 WRSA membership. Membership comes with 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 Asia, Europe, or North America.

Please preregister. 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. After January 10, registration fees increase to \$400 and \$200 for regular and student participants, respectively.



Big Island Sunset (photo courtesy of the Hilton Waikoloa Village)

Reserving your room at the Hilton Waikoloa Village...

The Hilton Waikoloa is already accepting room reservations under our room block. Our negotiated room rate is \$205 per night for resort view rooms and \$260 and \$280 for partial or full ocean view rooms, respectively. Our room rate includes wireless internet in guestrooms, complimentary parking, and access to the fitness center. The Hilton has agreed to honor our room rate, pending availability, from February 11–21.

After **January 13, 2016**, the resort is no longer obliged to honor this excellent room rate. Rooms may be reserved via the dedicated link on the WRSA website or by calling 808-886-1234 and referencing the WRSA annual meeting (Group Code: WRS).

Those with specific dates and room preferences in mind should be especially sure to book early! Our Hawaii meetings are popular and our room block may fill sooner than usual!

Getting to the Big Island... The Big Island is remarkably easy to get to. The closest airport to the Hilton Waikoloa is in Kona (airport code: KOA). All major U.S. airlines service Kona with direct flights from the mainland and there are frequent flights from Honolulu, as well.

The Hilton Waikoloa is a 20 minute drive from the Kona International Airport. The resort can be reached by taxi or shuttle. Those planning to see a bit of the island can rent cars from the airport or the resort.

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).



View of the Lagoon at the Hilton Waikoloa (photo courtesy of the resort)

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 \$500 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*. Submission is simple: simply send a note to Rachel Franklin by **January 1, 2016** that you would like your conference paper to be considered for the Prize.

Conference Assistant Opportunities

The WRSA seeks students to assist with the annual meeting in Hawaii. 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).

WRSA's 2015 Membership

Our 2015 membership, which mostly derives from annual meeting attendance, stood at 199 as this *Newsletter* went to press. Want to maintain your membership continuity? There's still time to pay your dues for this year!

Of the 199 members, about 60 percent are U.S.-based scholars. The remainder come from a variety of countries, from Australia to the United Kingdom, with detours to Saudi Arabia and Switzerland. As in past years many of our members come from Japan, Korea, Sweden, and Canada. And many of our members are repeat customers: once they discover the benefits of WRSA membership, they keep returning year after year.



Western Regional Science Association

Officers for the 2015–2016 Year

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President-Elect:

David A. Plane, University of Arizona

Vice President:

Alan Murray, Drexel University

Immediate Past President:

Sergio Rey, Arizona State University

Executive Director:

Rachel Franklin, Brown University

WRSA's PRSCO Councilors:

Lay James Gibson, Rachel Franklin, Roger Stough

WRSA's NARSC Councilor:

Rachel Franklin

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Frank Mittelbach, University of California, Los Angeles

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Richard Morrill, University of Washington

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

62nd North American Meetings of the RSAI

Portland, Oregon, November 11–14, 2015

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

55th Annual Meeting of the WRSA

Big Island of Hawai'i, February 14–17, 2016

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

<http://www.wrsa.info>

55th Annual Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA)

Washington, DC, March 31–April 2, 2016

<http://www.srsa.org>

11th World Congress of the RSAI

Istanbul, Turkey, April 17–20, 2016

http://www.regionalscience.org/index.php?option=com_m_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=165&Itemid=859

47th Annual Conference of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA)

Charlotte, North Carolina, June 9–11, 2016

<http://www.mcrsa.org/conference.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.”

