Save the Date for Our 60th Annual Meeting!
Miramonte Indian Wells Resort and Spa – Palm Springs, California
February 21-24, 2021

For our 60th anniversary meeting, we will be heading to Palm Springs! (Permitting it’s safe to travel and congregate in large groups again) This will be our first time back to Palm Springs in twenty years! The meeting will be held February 21-24, 2021 at the Miramonte Indian Wells Resort and Spa by Hilton.

It’s never too soon to get the next annual meeting on your calendar. The Palm Springs meeting will open on Sunday, February 21st with the Lay James Gibson Opening Plenary Session and the Welcoming Reception. Three days of paper sessions and social events will follow on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (the 22nd through the 24th).

The Miramonte Indian Wells Resort and Spa will be accepting online reservations under our room block; see the WRSA website (WRSAonline.org) for full details and reservation instructions. Our negotiated room rate for the 2021 meeting is $219/night (plus applicable taxes). The daily resort fee of $35 per will be waived for our group.

The resort is offering complementary wifi, wellness classes through the WELL SPA, and parking if you book under our room block. Additionally, if you would like to extend your stay, the resort will honor our special room rate ($219/night) for three days prior to and three days following our meeting (Feb 17th-27th), based on availability.

Rooms may be reserved via this link or by calling 800-237-2926 and asking for the Western Regional Science Association (Western Regional Science Conference) group rate. Please note: after January 21, 2021, or as soon as our block fills, the hotel will no longer honor our special room rate, so be sure to book early!

The other important date to keep in mind is the deadline for the submission of conference papers: October 30th, 2020. Remember that only full papers are considered for the annual meeting program, although draft versions will be considered so long as final versions are uploaded by the end of the year. All submissions will be reviewed by a member of the Program Committee before invitations to the meeting are issued. See the WRSA website (WRSAonline.org) for online paper submission instructions.

As many of you know, for the first time in our 60-year history, we had to cancel our annual meeting due to the novel coronavirus pandemic around the world. While it was a difficult decision, the health and safety of our members will always be our highest concern.

Although COVID-19 kept us all from getting together, we were still fortunate to receive the Presidential Address from Janet Kohlhase. While it wasn’t a banquet hall in Waikiki Beach, President Kohlhase gave her address in the next best location…her office via online Zoom meeting. Her thoughtful address was on the topic of “Labor Force Diversity and New Firm Formation.”

Congratulations Janet on serving as WRSA’s 61st President! The presidential address was recorded and you can watch it from this link.

WRSA is Thankful for this Year’s Donors

Due to the cancellation of our annual meeting, we are incredibly thankful to the following donors who generously supported through this unprecedented time:

- Donghwan An
- Mark Brown
- Terry Clower
- Arthur Getis
- Kingsley Haynes
- Geoffrey Hewings
- Brian H.S. Kim
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- R. Pete Parcells
- Neil Reid

Gede Nyoman Mindra Jaya Wins Tiebout Prize

The 34th Tiebout Prize was awarded to Gede Nyoman Mindra Jaya (advisor: Henk Flomer), a doctoral student from the University of Groningen. Congratulations to Mindra Jaya! Unfortunately, we were unable to celebrate this accomplishment in person. Jaya’s winning paper was titled, “Identifying Spatiotemporal Clusters by Means of Agglomerative Hierarchical Clustering and Bayesian Regression Analysis.” He will be presenting the winning paper in the upcoming 60th Anniversary Meeting in Palm Springs, CA.

The Tiebout Reading Committee, comprised of past WRSA Presidents, is charged each year with evaluating a large pool of submissions. This year’s committee included: Alan Murray from the University of California, Santa Barbara, Matthias Ruth from Northeastern University, Bruce Newbold from McMaster University, and David Plane from the University of Arizona.

This year the Tiebout Prize Reading Committee also selected two papers as finalists for the prize. These were Daria Denti (advisor: Alessandra Faggian) from Gran Sasso Science Institute for her paper

Tiebout Prize Historic Donation

As with most prize funds, the Tiebout Prize relies on donations to sustain the endowment that pays out the annual prize. This year, thanks to the generosity of Art Getis—longtime WRSA member, Past President, and founder of the WRSA Annual Getis-Ord Lecture—the Tiebout endowment received a gift large enough to allow us to continue to award cash prizes to the winner and finalists. Getis’s $10,000 donation is a game-changer for the Prize. WRSA and future Tiebout winners thank you, Art!
Looking Ahead in Anger: The effects of foreign migration on youth resentment in England), and Orsa Kekezi (advisor: Charlotta Mellander) from Jönköping University for her paper on Labor Market Pooling and Job Outcomes of Displaced Workers. We also want to recognize Min Xiong (advisor: Shaeoming Cheng) from Florida International University whose paper Centrally Administered State-Owned Enterprises’ Engagement in China’s Public-Private Partnerships: A Social Network Analysis was selected as Honorable Mention.

The Tiebout Prize is given in memory of Charles Tiebout and his contributions to regional science, especially his mentoring of graduate students.

Interested in contributing to the Tiebout Prize endowment fund? Donations ensure the long-term financial health of the Prize and every dollar helps! The Tiebout Prize fund is managed by the University of Arizona Foundation. Donations can be made easily online. See the WRSA website for instructions.

Stough-Johansson Springer Prize Winner Goes to Geoff Boeing

The Regional Science Springer Award has been renamed the Stough-Johansson Springer Award in honor of two former Co-Editors-in-Chief of the Annals of Regional Science, the official journal of the WRSA. Roger Reece Stough served as a Co-Editor-in-Chief from 1994-2011 and Börje Johansson served as a Co-Editor-in-Chief from 1994–2014. The prize is awarded annually for the best paper submitted by an early-career scholar (no more than five years post-PhD) to the Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association and is now accompanied by a $500 cash prize from Springer.

This year’s winner is Geoff Boeing from The University of Southern California. The title of Geoff’s paper was, “Off the Grid... and Back Again? The Recent Evolution of American Street Network Planning and Design.” Congratulations Geoff!

The Stough-Johansson Springer Prize is supported by the publisher of our official journal, the Annals of Regional Science, and qualified papers are judged by the team of editors. To be considered for next year’s prize, simply check the “Stough-Johansson Springer Prize” box at the time of paper submission for the 2021 Palm Springs meeting.

WRSA Board Updates

Terry Clower Named Vice President

One of the main tasks at the annual WRSA Board meeting is to make decisions about future leadership of the Association, in particular Vice President, new Board members, and Fellows. This year, the Board enthusiastically selected Terry Clower as our incoming Vice President. Terry L. Clower is Northern Virginia Chair and Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University. He is also director of GMU’s Center for Regional Analysis. The Center provides economic and public policy research services to sponsors in the private, non-profit and public sectors. Prior to joining GMU, he was director for the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas. Dr. Clower has authored or co-authored over 150 articles, book chapters, and research reports reflecting experience in economic and community development, economic and fiscal impact analysis, labor market analysis, transportation, land use planning, housing, and economic forecasting. Dr. Clower is currently serving as a WRSA board member and PRSCO councilor.

President Elect: Richard Church

Richard Church (University of California, Santa Barbara) continues his ascension, moving from Vice President to President-Elect for 2020-2021. As President Elect, Prof. Church will present a topic and host the President’s Reception at next year’s conference in Palm Springs, California.

New Fellow Announced

This year the board made one addition to its list of fellows: Rachel Franklin. Prof. Franklin is the current editor of Geographical Analysis and past book review editor of the Journal of Regional Science. She serves on the editorial boards of Population, Space and Place, as well as Urban Climate and Raumforschung und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning. She is also the outgoing president of the Population Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers and served as the executive director of WRSA for seven years (2011-2018).
Geoffrey Hewings Awarded RSAI Founder’s Medal

Congratulations to our 48th President and current fellow, Geoffrey Hewings, who has been awarded RSAI’s 2020 Founder’s Medal for his lifetime contributions to the field of regional science and the RSAI. Dr. Hewings has served as President, Executive Director and Executive Secretary of the Regional Science Association International in the past. In order to recognize Dr. Hewings’ works and more especially his devotion to introducing numerous graduate students to Regional Science and mentoring them as young scholars, the North American Regional Science Council bestows every year an award in his name to a scholar who has recently completed his doctoral studies and has made distinguished contributions to Regional Science research.

David Plane Receives RSAI Hirotada Kohno Award

WRSA congratulates our 57th President, former executive director, and current fellow, David Plane, who has been awarded RSAI’s 2020 Hirotada Kohno Award! The Hirotada Kohno Award honors a member of RSAI who has provided long and outstanding service to the development and organization of Regional Science. Dr. Plane has greatly contributed to the fields of population geography and regional science through his research in U.S. migration and settlement patterns, the role of the life course in affecting mobility, and methods for modeling activity patterns and temporal change in spatial interaction systems. Dr. Plane has focused on maintaining the quality of scholarly interaction among regional scientists and made a huge impact on the continuing growth of WRSA!
In Memoriam

Roger Stough, WRSA Fellow, 43rd President of WRSA
Dr. Stough had served as the 43rd president of WRSA (2002-2003), and a fellow of WRSA since 2003. He has been representing WRSA for PRSCO (Pacific Regional Science Conference Organisation) for many years and has been actively expanding regional science to many different member countries of PRSCO. He also served as Co-Editor in Chief of The Annals of Regional Science, greatly contributing to the growth of this journal, among the top in our discipline. He was the president of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) for the 2007-2008 term and gave countless contributions to the successful activities of the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC).

In 1964, Roger obtained a BSc in International Trade at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; in 1971, he obtained an M.A. in Economic Geography from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina; and in 1978 he obtained a Ph.D. in Geography and Environmental Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. For his outstanding scientific contributions, in 2006 he was granted a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of Jonkoping, Sweden, while in 2008 he was appointed Fellow of the Regional Science Association International.

Roger has been an outstanding scholar. He has published 45 books published (authored and/or edited); 85 journal articles; and 90 chapters in books. On top of these achievements, as a wise and decent man, Roger would always be willing to listen and offer good advice to both young and experienced colleagues.

Dr. Stough will be remembered fondly for his dedication to regional science and WRSA. His work on regional science and economic development policy will continue as a legacy to influence academics and practitioners for decades to come. Especially for WRSA members and friends, he will always be remembered for his dedication to WRSA through his leadership, academic contribution, and countless service.

Börje Johansson, WRSA Member and Internationally Renowned Regional Scientist
Börje Johansson, Emeritus Professor of the Jönköping International Business School (JIBS) passed away in his home in Stockholm, Sweden, June 18, 2020. From the 1990s and onwards he was a regular attendee at the WRSA meetings. For 20 years, he served as editor of WRSA’s flagship, The Annals of Regional Science. Börje served as President of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) 2000-2003. In 2013, he was awarded the ERSA-European Investment Bank Prize for his great contributions to regional science.

Börje Johansson took his PhD in Economics at Gothenburg University 1978. 1982-1984 he was Acting Leader of the Integrated Regional & Urban Development Group (RUD) at IIASA (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis), Laxenburg, Austria. In 1985 he became Director of CERUM (Centre for Regional Science Research), University of Umeå. 1994 he was appointed Professor of Economics at JIBS (Jönköping International Business School), Jönköping, Sweden, where he stayed until his retirement a few years ago. Börje also held positions as Professor in Economics at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway, Guest Professor at the Karlstad University, Sweden, and Guest Professor in Infrastructure Economics at KTH, Stockholm, Sweden.

Börje’s research interests spanned over large areas of economics and regional science. He made important contributions to economic network theory and productivity analysis. He was an excellent teacher and brought up several generations of PhD students wherever he was active. Börje also had an extraordinary ability to apply his theoretical knowledge to practical problems, and he had innumerable commissions for Swedish agencies and authorities at national and regional levels.
T.R. Lakshmanan, WRSA member and Renowned Regional Scientist

Dr. Lakshmanan was a well-known and active regional scientist. A native of Madras, India, he came to the United States to earn his PhD from Ohio State University. After pioneering work in transportation planning and regional economic development for Alan M. Voorhees & Associates and CONSAD Research Corporation, he joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University. Five years later, he moved to Boston University where he served as a Professor and Chair of the Dept of Geography. He is the author of over a dozen books, and more than 140 articles in refereed Journals and book chapters, reflecting his interests in Modeling and Policy Analyses in Energy and Environment, Economic development, and Urban and Transportation issues. He was the founder of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics at the US Dept of Transportation where he was a presidential appointment and Senate-confirmed Director during the Clinton Administration.

He was elected as a Life Fellow at Clare Hall College, Cambridge University, a Fellow of The International Regional Science Association at The Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences. He was awarded the Anderson Medal by The Association of American Geographers.
Western Regional Science Association

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Roger Stough, George Mason University
Hans Westlund, Royal Inst. Technology/JIBS
Rachel Franklin, Newcastle University, UK

Regional Science Meeting Calendar

67th North American Meetings of the RSAI
Virtual Conference, November 9–13, 2020
http://www.narsc.org/newsite/conference/

60th Annual Meeting of the WRSA
Palm Springs, California, February 21-24, 2021
(See article, Page 1, this Newsletter)
http://www.wrsa.info

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:
Jaewon Lim
Incoming WRSA Executive Director/Newsletter Editor, at jaewon.lim@unlv.edu.

WRSA:
“The Way Academic Life Should Be.”