



NARSC NEWS



Welcome from the Executive Director



Hello everyone, and welcome to the December NARSC Newsletter.

The 71st North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International sponsored by the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) took place in New Orleans last month. It was great to see so many friends again. I was especially glad to meet so many new people and see the large number of young scholars joining us.

As always, the conference could not happen without the volunteers that help in front, and in behind the scenes. Elham Erfanian and Caleb Stair continue to provide great support to NARSC and myself. You see the two of them running around the hotel making sure every projector is working and making sure that your coffee breaks are ready when you are. They also provide assistance throughout the year, printing name tags, reviewing and editing documents, and many other small details to make sure the conference runs smoothly.

This year Sandy Dall'erba did a great job as he pulled double duty as the President and Program Chair. I know he had some great help from his students and from all of you who set up special sessions. A special shout out to Matt Fannin, for helping to store our equipment (projectors and other items for the conference) during the year. Most people do not realize that we store our equipment near the conference site which saves on shipping and rental costs. I also want to thank our regional organizations (WRSA, SRSA, MCRSA, CRSA, and NERSA) for providing assistance throughout the year.

Now as we look towards the close of 2024, planning begins on 2025 and beyond. We are continuously looking for new ways to push Regional Science forward. Consider joining one of our organizations as a leader, this exposes you to new colleagues and provides excellent opportunities to have a say in the direction of Regional Science. Also, remember that NARSC is a 501(c)(3) organization, so consider giving a donation to NARSC if you are

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able. Another way you can help NARSC is to stay at the host hotel during the conference. NARSC contracts with the hotel for a set number of rooms and we need to meet our obligations to ensure the future of our organization.

Save the date for the 72nd Meetings in Denver, Colorado on November 12-15, 2025. My friend Neil Reid will be President and also the Program Chair. So, start thinking about your presentation for 2025 and organizing special sessions. Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season. See you in the Mile High City!

John Sporing
NARSC Executive Director

Words from the Editors



We are delighted to present the December 2024 issue of the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) Newsletter. We start this issue with news from NARSC, which focuses on events from the 71st North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International in New Orleans. In this section, there is the summary of Sandy Dall'erba's presidential address and new leadership within the NARSC Council is announced. The

New Orleans meetings also feature prominently in the membership section, where the members honored during the awards ceremony are featured.

Next is news from our parent association, the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), and our featured subregional associations, the Canadian Regional Science Association (CRSA) and the Northeastern Regional Science Association (NERSA). This is followed by our publishing in regional science section, which focuses on the successes and upcoming changes to several journals. Finally, we round out the issue with the call for applicants for the Stevens Fellowship, upcoming meetings, and job openings.

As always, please contact us at newsletter@narsc.org if you have any suggestions for upcoming issues or would like to contribute to the newsletter. See you in Denver next year!

[Liz Dobis](#) and [Bonnie Bounds](#)

Newsletter Co-Editors

NARSC News

NARSC Presidential Address

The presentation, **“How can Regional Scientists keep contributing to climate and environmental economics?”** given by Prof. Sandy Dall'erba as the 2024 NARSC Presidential Address explores the significant and evolving role of regional scientists in addressing critical global climate and environmental challenges. Against a backdrop of unprecedented global changes, the presentation

illustrates how regional science is uniquely positioned to contribute meaningful solutions by leveraging its interdisciplinary foundations, advanced methodologies, and ability to engage with diverse audiences. Prof. Dall'erba works in the Dept. of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is the Founding Director of CREATE, the University's Center for Climate, Regional, Environmental And Trade Economics of which goal is to study climate change and environmental accounts based on system-wide techniques developed in regional economics and trade economics.

Over the past 50 years, the world has undergone dramatic transformations. The global population has doubled, the economy has grown over fourfold, and fossil fuel use has increased nearly threefold, driving a corresponding rise in greenhouse gas emissions. These shifts have led to a global temperature increase of over 1°C above pre-industrial levels, underscoring the urgent need to adhere to climate agreements like the Paris Accords, which aim to limit warming to 1.5°C. This context sets the stage for Prof. Dall'erba's call to action for regional scientists.

The presentation emphasized that regional scientists are already deeply involved in tackling climate and environmental issues through their focus on spatial patterns of economic activity, urbanization, and regional processes. Theories and frameworks like Spatial Equilibrium, Agglomeration Economies, and Location Theory provide foundational tools for analyzing and responding to climate-related challenges. For example, understanding how climate change influences migration patterns, land-use vulnerabilities, and resource allocation demonstrates the field's relevance. Notable studies cited include research on the impact of natural disasters on trade flows, economic resilience to climate extremes, and governance strategies for land-use hazards under climate change.

One of the central themes of the presentation was the breadth of contributions regional scientists can make to climate and environmental economics. Prof. Dall'erba highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, showcasing examples where atmospheric science integrates with regional economic models to analyze spillover effects, such as the geographical spread of emissions or the localized impacts of extreme weather (Dall'erba, et al. 2024a). The work of regional scientists in adapting existing frameworks to incorporate physical processes, such as atmospheric fluxes, illustrates the field's versatility in addressing climate complexities.

Additionally, the presentation delved into the development and application of cutting-edge methodologies. Prof. Dall'erba discussed advanced econometric techniques like Difference-in-Differences (DID), which, when combined with spatial models, enable robust analyses of climate impacts. A notable example is the introduction of ENDID (Dall'erba, et al. 2024b), a method that accounts for endogenous externalities such as trade and migration in the context of drought and agricultural production. These innovations allow researchers to capture the nuanced relationships between economic activity and environmental changes across regions, sectors, and scales.

A further focus of the presentation was on the necessity of regional scientists reaching beyond academic circles to engage with policymakers, practitioners, and the general public. Prof. Dall'erba underscores the importance of communicating research findings in accessible formats, whether through media, policy briefs, or public outreach efforts. The presentation cited historical examples of impactful regional science, such as the work of Walter Isard on regional economic integration and Edward Glaeser on urban innovation, demonstrating how the field can shape critical policy debates and societal outcomes. Recent issues, like the COVID-19 pandemic and its disruption of global supply chains, have further highlighted the relevance of regional science in addressing interconnected global challenges.

The presentation concluded with a clear call to action: regional scientists must embrace their interdisciplinary capabilities, refine their technical methods, and expand their reach to have a broader societal impact. By doing so, they can contribute significantly to understanding and mitigating climate change, enhancing resilience, and promoting sustainable development. Prof. Dall'erba's address served not only as a reflection on the accomplishments of regional science but also as a roadmap for its future contributions to one of humanity's most pressing challenges.

Sandy Dall'erba
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

References:

Dall'erba S., Riemer N., Xu Y., Yao Y., and Xu R. (2024a) Combining international atmospheric fluxes and trade flows of air pollution across countries: new evidence, and spatial interactions, *Economic Systems Research*, 36(3), 404-421.

Dall'erba S., Chagas A., Ridley W., Xu Y., and Yuan L. (2024b) Instrumental variable network difference-in-differences (IV-NDID) estimator: model and application, CREATE Discussion Paper 1-21.

Meet your new NARSC President: Neil Reid



The role of the President goes to a distinguished regional scientist. The next NARSC President is Neil Reid from the University of Toledo. Dr. Reid is a Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning. As a regional scientist and industrial geographer, his research is focused on the spatial dynamics of local economic development. His work includes helping the Northwest Ohio greenhouse industry understand the benefits of cluster-based economic development and analyzing how the spatial dynamics of America's craft brewing industry contributes to local neighborhood development. Dr. Reid's education includes geography degrees from the University of Glasgow (M.A., 1985), Miami University (M.A., 1987), and Arizona State University (Ph.D., 1991).

Dr. Reid has been an active and involved member of the regional science community. He served as NARSC's Executive Director from 2013 to 2021 and as the Chair of the International Geographical Union's Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces from 2010 to 2014. He currently serves as associate editor for *Applied Geography* and *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, and as book review editor for both *Economic Development Quarterly* and *Regional Science Policy & Practice*. In 2009, Dr. Reid received the Distinguished Service Award from the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Regional Development and Planning Specialty Group, and, in 2016, he received NARSC's Boyce Award for Distinguished Service to Regional Science. He also received several awards from the University of Toledo, including the President's Award for Excellence in Creative and Scholarly Activity (2021), the Edith Rathbun Award for Excellence in Outreach and Engagement (2010), and the Outstanding Researcher Award (2008-09).

Please welcome Neil as our new NARSC President!

Meet your new NARSC Chair: Sarah Low



Dr. Sarah Low is a Professor and the Head of the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Her research interests include regional and rural economic development, entrepreneurial ecosystem building, rural and farm policy, and aspects of rural wellbeing such as healthcare, infrastructure, and food access. She is serving as a Councilor-at-Large for NARSC and has co-organized the Regional and Rural Development Sessions at the NARSC Annual Meetings since 2018. Dr. Low is an editor for *Global Challenges & Regional Science* and is an editorial board member for the *International Regional Science Review*, *Letters in Spatial and Resource Economics*, and *Reaching Regions*.

Before joining UIUC, Dr. Low spent ten years at USDA's Economic Research Service. She then served as the Fred V. Heinkel Chair in Agriculture within the Division of Applied Social Sciences at the University of Missouri (MU). In her tenure at MU, she was the Director of MU Extension's Regional Economic and Entrepreneurial Development (Exceed) program and the inaugural Director of the Rural and Farm Finance Policy Analysis Center (RaFF). She holds a B.S. in sociology from Iowa State University, a M.S. in Agricultural economics from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in agricultural and consumer economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Meet your new NARSC Councilor: Elizabeth Dobis



Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Dobis is a Research Agricultural Economist in the USDA Economic Research Service's Rural Economy Branch with a focus on rural health in the United States. Her research interest is spatial economic analysis, particularly pertaining to health, demography, and communities. Her health-related research has focused on topics such as health care utilization of vulnerable populations, spatial variation in life expectancy, diverging rural-urban natural cause mortality rates, insurance coverage among the rural self-employed, and health care supply and demand related to COVID-19. Dr. Dobis has also been instrumental in developing ERS's new census-tract-level data product, the Area and Road Ruggedness Scales. Her other research has included topics such as the evolution of the American urban hierarchy, the connection between rural-urban interactions and economic vitality, the colocation of vineyards and wineries, and poverty and place. She has published her work in journals such *Social Science & Medicine* and the *Journal of Economic Geography*.

Dr. Dobis is a member of the Southern Regional Science Association's Executive Council and the Board of Directors for the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development. She also is co-editor of NARSC's quarterly newsletter and on the editorial board of *Reaching Regions*. Dr. Dobis received a B.A. in geography, B.S. in economics, and a minor in mathematics from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. She received an M.S. and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Purdue University. Prior to

joining the USDA ERS, she worked as a researcher with the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development at Penn State and the Purdue Center for Regional Development.

Meet your new NARSC Councilor: Carlianne Patrick



Dr. Carlianne Patrick is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Her research focuses on policy-relevant issues related to local variation in economic incentives, particularly how locational characteristics, public goods, and policies affects firm location, housing decisions, and labor market outcomes. Dr. Patrick's current projects include microdata tests of the economic theories justifying local economic development policies; investigating the shape of the agglomeration function and multiple equilibria associated with large, positive shocks to local industrial structure; the distributional consequences of targeted economic development incentives; geographic variation in skills; and the influence of gender role attitudes on occupational choice. Her research has been published in

journals such as *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Economic Inquiry*, and *The National Tax Journal*.

Dr. Patrick is a recipient of the 2020 Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award, 2016 Miernyk Research Excellence Medal, the 2014 Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Dean's Early Career Award, Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science, Barry M. Moriarty Prize, W.E. Upjohn Foundation Early Career Award, and Regional Science Association International Dissertation Award. She also serves on the editorial board of *The Review of Regional Studies*, *Annals of Regional Science*, and *Contemporary Economic Policy*. She holds a B.A. from the University of West Georgia Honors College, a M.S. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

Member Accomplishments

Daniel Griffith receives the 2024 Isard Award

The Walter Isard Award for Scholarly Achievement pays tribute to regional scientists who have made significant theoretical and methodological contributions to the field of Regional Science throughout their careers. **The winner of the 2023 Walter Isard Award for Scholarly Achievement is Dr. Daniel Griffith.** Dr. Griffith is an Ashbel Smith Professor Emeritus in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences at the University of Texas Dallas. Prior to joining UT Dallas, he held positions at Ryerson University, SUNY/Buffalo, Syracuse University, and the University of Miami. He has also been a visiting professor at several universities across the United States and Europe. Dr. Griffith received his doctorate in Geography from the University of Toronto in 1978. His primary areas of research are in spatial statistics, quantitative urban and economic geography, and spatial epidemiology.

He served as Editor of *Geographical Analysis* and president of NARSC. He also served on numerous editorial boards, provided advisory expertise for major scientific committees, and spoke as a keynote at international conferences.

A pioneering expert in spatial statistics (spatial eigenvector filtering) and regional science, Dr. Griffith has established an impressive record of scholarly contributions, marked by 12 books, 9 edited books, more than 200 journal articles, and over 18,000 citations. The application of his work is broad, impacting fields from urban studies and public health to transportation modeling and housing markets. Over his time as a professor, he has graduated 35 M.S. and Ph.D. students. The impact of Dr. Griffith's work has been recognized by his election as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAS), a Fellow of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), and Founding Fellow of the Spatial Econometrics Association (SEA). He was also chosen as a Research Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) to the US Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service and awarded Distinguished Research Honors by the American Association of Geographers (AAG).



Pictured left to right: Sandy Dall'erba and Daniel Griffith

NARSC is pleased to award the **2023 Walter Isard Award** for Scholarly Achievement to Dr. Daniel Griffith.

Craig Carpenter receives the 2024 Hewings Award



Pictured left to right: Sandy Dall'erba and Craig Carpenter

The Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award recognizes distinguished contributions to Regional Science research by scholars who have recently completed doctoral studies. **The winner of the 2023 Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award is Dr. Craig Wesley Carpenter.** Dr. Carpenter received his Ph.D. in Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics from Michigan State University in 2016 and is currently an Assistant Professor there. His research displays exceptional expertise and innovation in regional economic modeling, minority entrepreneurship, and public policy issues. Through the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs), he has used his access to raw federal data sets to enhance data accuracy, which has allowed him to research vital regional policy issues that were difficult to address due to data suppression and accessibility. Among the issues he has addressed using the FSRDCs are the effects of government programs like redlining and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on labor market, health, and food security outcomes.

Dr. Carpenter has 29 peer-reviewed articles and numerous policy publications in journals such as the *Journal of Regional Science* and *Economic Development Quarterly*. He has served in multiple leadership roles, including the Chair of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association's Community and Regional Economic Network (CRENET) and Extension (EXT) sections, President of a USDA-funded multistate research project group, Chair of the National Association of Community Development and

Extension Professionals Finance Committee, and President of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association. Dr. Carpenter has also published over 75 Extension/outreach publications, provided interviews for popular press articles, developed the History of Redlining in Michigan and Economic Opportunity Mapping Tool websites, and presented at over 50 Extension/outreach meetings.

NARSC is pleased to award the **2023 Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Award** to Dr. Craig Carpenter.

André Chagas receives the 2024 Boyce Award



The David Boyce Award for Service to Regional Science acknowledges the service contributions of members to Regional Science organizations. **The winner of the 2023 David Boyce Award for Service to Regional Science Dr. André Chagas.** Dr. Chagas' efforts in organizing conferences, facilitating research networks, and promoting inclusivity within the field have significantly elevated the visibility and impact of regional science in Latin America. This includes serving as President of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Science Association and Councillor-at-large for the Regional Science Association International. Dr. Chagas is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of São Paulo where he has supervised numerous Ph.D. students and postdoctoral scholars. His research has resulted in extensive contributions in the fields of

spatial econometrics, regional economics, and urban planning which have addressed critical issues in urbanization, migration, agricultural policy, environmental sustainability and economic development, particularly in Brazil and across Latin America. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of São Paulo in 2009.

NARSC is pleased to award the **2023 David Boyce Award** for Service to Regional Science to Dr. André Chagas.

Alan Murray receives the 2024 Stough Award

The Roger R. Stough Outstanding Mentor Award recognizes regional scientists who have been exceptional mentors to students, junior faculty members, and underrepresented populations and communities over a lifelong career. **The winner of the 2023 Roger Stough Mentor Award is Dr. Alan T. Murray.** Dr. Murray is a Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research and teaching interests include geographic information science, spatial optimization, emergency response, health informatics, urban growth and development, land use and urban, regional, and natural resource planning and development, and infrastructure and transportation systems. Dr. Murray's mentorship style combines thorough academic instruction with genuine personal support, fostering both the intellectual and personal growth of his



Pictured left to right: Sandy Dall'Erba and Alan Murray

mentees. His dedication has resulted in students achieving prestigious positions across academia, industry, and public service.

Over the years, Dr. Murray has held faculty positions at The Ohio State University, Arizona State University, and Drexel University. He is a champion of initiatives aimed at enhancing diversity and inclusivity in the academic community. Additionally, in his department, he has strengthened graduate recruitment, improved retention and built an inclusive and supportive environment for emerging scholars.

NARSC is pleased to award the **2023 Roger R. Stough Outstanding Mentor Award** to Dr. Alan Murray.

Abdumavlonov and Yang win the 2024 NARSC Student Paper Competitions

The chairs of the 2024 NARSC Graduate Student Paper Competitions, Christa D. Court and Claudia Montaña Portillo, would like to thank the reading committee for reviewing the 12 submissions that were received (8 graduate-student-led and 4 graduate-student-authored papers). Finalists from the two student paper competitions were featured in a special session at the annual meeting of the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC), which took place in New Orleans.

We would also like to thank NARSC for the contribution of a cash prize to these award winners. Congratulations to this year's winners!



Pictured left to right: Humoyun Abdumavlonov, Christa Court, Claudia Montaña Portillo, and Hao Yang

The winner of the Graduate Student-Authored Paper Competition is Humoyun Abdumavlonov from the University of Pittsburgh for his paper, "Market Access and Urban Growth in the Former Soviet Union." He is advised by Lester Lusher from the University of Pittsburgh. This year's **honorable mention** for the Graduate Student-Authored paper competition is **Vinicius Curti Cícero** from Colorado State University for his paper, "Resource boom, export composition, concentration, and sophistication: Evidence from Brazilian local economies." He is advised by Tim Komarek from Colorado State University.

The winner of the Graduate Student-Led Paper Competition is Hao Yang from the University of Georgia for the paper "Bridging Theory and Deep Learning: Predicting and Understanding Environmental Factors on Traffic Violations." Mr. Yang coauthored the paper with Angela Yao of University of Georgia and Gengchen Mai of University of Texas at Austin. This year's **honorable mention** for the Graduate Student-Led Paper Competition is **Jihan Park** from Pusan National University for the paper, "Regional automation risk estimation and the impact of digitization on regional resilience: 4.0 transformation." Mr. Park coauthored the paper with Donghyun Kim, also from Pusan National University.

As a reminder, NARSC is not the only association to hold graduate student paper competitions. We encourage everyone to check the eligibility requirements and apply to the graduate student paper competitions hosted by our regional associations:

- **Barry M. Moriarty Graduate Paper Competition**, awarded by the Southern Regional Science Association (submissions typically due in February)
- **M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition**, awarded by the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (submissions typically due in March/April)
- **Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science**, awarded by the Western Regional Science Association (submissions typically due in October)

Ashleigh Price wins the 24th Stevens Fellowship



Pictured left to right: Heather Stephens and Ashleigh Price

The **Ashleigh Price**, a Ph.D. candidate in Geography at the University of Alabama, **has been selected as the winner of the 24th Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science**. The Fellowship will provide a 2024–25 Academic Year stipend of \$36,000 to support Ms. Price’s dissertation research on “The Influence of Environmental Disruption on Offender–Target Interactions and Criminal Activity in Emergency Scenarios.”

Ms. Price’s research aims to blend geographic, criminological, and operations research principles within a regional science context to effectively analyze the effects of extreme events on the emergence of crime. Operating within the framework of human–environment interaction, it leverages and integrates agent-based and spatial optimization models to understand and address the complex dynamics of criminal behavior amidst emergencies. This innovative approach allows for a nuanced

exploration of the spatial relationships between offender conduct, crime victimization, and the distribution of protective resources, particularly within communities and individuals facing socio-economic challenges and disadvantages.

Ms. Price’s doctoral research is supervised by Kevin Curtin, Professor of Geography and Director of the Laboratory for Location Science at the University of Alabama. In his letter of support provided as part of the required application materials, Professor Curtin noted: “Ashleigh’s work containing theoretical, methodological, and practical applications embodies the hope that Professor Stevens expressed in 1995 when he outlined the opportunities and responsibilities of researchers when seeking ‘Mutually Beneficial Interactions between Regional Science and Regional Practice’ (*International Regional Science Review* 18(2): 211–217).”

In addition to selecting the Fellowship recipient, the Selection Committee identified two other applicants as finalists in the 24th Annual Competition: *Jiwon Baik* from the Department of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara, advised by Alan Murray; and *Sarah Strochak* from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University, advised by Ingrid Gould Ellen. The 24th competition winner and finalists were recognized at the awards luncheon of the 71st North American Meetings of the RSAI in New Orleans. The Committee thanks the 15 students who entered the competition in 2021, as well as their dissertation supervisors.

The 2024 Stevens Fellowship competition was overseen by a Selection Committee composed of: Shaoming Cheng, Florida International University (Chair); Steven Deller, University of Wisconsin; Heather Stephens, West Virginia University; Zhenhau Chen, Ohio State University; and Joshua Drucker, University of Illinois Chicago.

The Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science was established in 1998 in memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stevens (1929–97), an intellectual leader whose selfless devotion to graduate students as teacher, advisor, mentor, and friend had a profound impact on the field of Regional Science. Graduate students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in North America are eligible to compete for the Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in support of their dissertation research in Regional Science.

The Stevens Fellowship Committee administrates the Stevens Fellowship Fund on behalf of the North American Regional Science Council. In 2023–24 its members were: Tony Smith, University of Pennsylvania, Chair; David Plane, University of Arizona, Secretary; Michael Lahr, Rutgers University, Treasurer; Janet Kohlhasse, University of Houston; and John Spring, Executive Director of NARSC.

Fundraising to support the Stevens Fellowship Fund, begun in 1998, is ongoing. **Donations may be made either via credit card by accessing the User Area of the NARSC website or by sending a check to:**

The Stevens Fellowship Fund
First Financial Bank, Attn: Danville Trust Department
One Towne Center
Danville, IL 61832 USA

RSAI Announcements

In 2024, the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) hosted the 14th World Congress from April 8–11 in Kecskemét, Hungary. Besides being a great location, it was also a strategic choice to attract potential members from the Balkans and nurture the formation of new national sections. The next RSAI World Congress will be held May 25–28, 2026 in Quito, Ecuador. The RSAI also inducted three new Fellows in 2024: Dr. Yoshiro Higano from the University of Tsukuba, Japan; Dr. Eduardo Haddad from the University of São Paulo, Brazil; and Dr. Andrea Caragliu from Polytechnico di Milano, Italy.

In addition to promoting the development of regional science through conferences and the RSAI journals, RSAI also offers a Nurturing new talent program. This program offers resources to co-finance workshops and summer institutes intended to provide substantive training to pre-doctoral researchers. It has been a few years since a NARSC-based organization has used this program, so RSAI leadership is urging NARSC members to keep it in mind when planning educational initiatives.

Finally, there will be some changes to RSAI leadership in 2025. On January 1, 2025, Dr. Ana Vinuela from the University of Oviedo, Spain will start as the next RSAI Executive Director. The incoming RSAI President for 2025–26 is Dr. Hiroyuki Shibusawa from the Toyohashi University of Technology, Japan.

For more information on RSAI current events, check out the latest issue of the [RSAI Newsletter](#).

Regional Spotlight: Canadian Regional Science Association

Contributed by: Bruce Newbold, Sébastien Breau, and Jean Dubé

CRSA promotes an active, bilingual research community

Despite not having an annual meeting or venue, The Canadian Regional Science Association (CRSA) remains active, with the *Canadian Journal of Regional Science* the flagship of the CRSA. Edited by [Sébastien Breau](#) and [Jean Dubé](#), the journal publishes 3 issues per year and is open access. The journal recently announced a new editorial board that reflects its international contributions. It expects to be indexed in Scopus early in 2025, increasing its appeal to potential contributors. The journal also offers a 'Best student-led paper award' valued at \$750Cdn. Issues as well as submission information can be found at <https://idjs.ca/en/cjrs>.



The annual conference of the French language regional science association (<https://asrdlf2025.org>) will be hosted in Quebec City at Laval University on June 25–27, 2025. Please watch for further details in the NARSC newsletter.

Regional Spotlight: Northeast Regional Science Association

Contributed by: Ting Zhang

NERSA strives to mentor the next generation of regional scientists

The NERSA Executive Council continues to work on reviving the organization with the goal of creating a vibrant engaging community that is actively mentoring the next generation of regional scientists. Subsequently, the Executive Council has developed a tentative plan to create a program to support early career regional scientists, including those new to the field. The program would include a series of virtual and in-person activities spanning several months that will foster interdisciplinary collaboration, policy-relevant research, and mentoring. The activities will be guided by strategic considerations, incorporating diverse formats and aligning with the NARSC meetings. The tentative plan reflects input from the current Executive Council and founding members of NERSA and will be further refined in upcoming discussions to align with organizational goals and priorities.

Publishing in Regional Science



PIRS to create online data repository

In 2025, *Papers in Regional Science (PIRS)* will open a new online section to serve as a repository of published articles' datasets. These datasets will be made freely available to scientists or students interested in replicating published results or using the data for other scientific purposes. As a gold open access journal, this new repository will bring *PIRS* into alignment with the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) and the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) agreements regarding open science practices. A dedicated editor will be appointed for this section.

Rosella Nicolini (Autonomous University of Barcelona) will continue in her tenure as Editor-in-Chief for the 2025–27 term. The editorial team will also include Daniela Constantin (Bucharest University of Economic Studies), Paul H. Jung (Inha University), Elizabeth Mack (Michigan State University), Raul Silveira Neto (Federal University of Pernambuco), Sébastien Bourdin (book editor, EM Normandie Business School), and Maria Kubara (data editor, University of Warsaw).



Contributed by: Tomaz Dentinho and Andrea Caragliu

Continuing success and new challenges for *RSPP*

How did RSPP do in 2024?

During 2024, 188 papers were submitted to *Regional Science Policy and Practice (RSPP)*, of which 69 were rejected, 26 were accepted, and 86 are currently being processed. The majority of submissions received originated from Spain, Italy, India and Iran. Most published papers came from Italy, while works from the Netherlands and India were among those most frequently cited. Impressively, the journal maintained its 2023 impact factor of 1.7 despite a 25% increase in the number of papers published.

Several *RSPP* awards were given in 2024. The *RSPP* Award for Best Paper was awarded to two papers:

- “Using mobile phone data to probe the mobility-related well-being of rural residents: A case study of Chengdu, China” by Xuesong Gao, Lun Liu, Dinghua Ou, Haomiao Yuwu, and

- “Urban agglomeration, city size, and spatial density effects on wage flexibility: New evidence on the wage curve in Brazil” by Ana Barufi, Eduardo Haddad and Peter Nijkamp.

The *RSPP* Award for Best Special Issue Editors was awarded to Louafi Bouzouina, Karima Kourtit and Peter Nijkamp for Volume 14 (2022), Special Issue 1 “Covid-19, Transport and Mobility”, with 11 papers and 73 Cite Score citations (ratio 6.60) as of August 2024.

The Editorial Team promoted workshops in Sarajevo, Samarkand, Kaisery, and Maputo, with the aim to attract papers authored by colleagues in the Western Balkans, Central Asia, Middle East, and Southern Africa. Ultimately, the goal is for *RSPP* to support the emergence of sections of the *RSAI* in these areas. Additionally, Emmanouil Tranos (University of Bristol), Maria Abreu (University of Cambridge), Isabelle Nilsson (University of North Carolina at Charlotte), and Patrícia Melo (University of Lisbon) asked to leave the Editorial Team by the end of 2023 after serving the journal for seven years.

Since 75% of the papers published in 2024 were submitted in 2023, only 14 of the 50 article publishing charge (APC) waivers that were granted when *RSPP* became gold open access were requested so far. As for the journal’s ranking, Elsevier moved the journal from the area of Geography to the area of Regional and Urban Planning. A change is also being made to the special issue format in *RSPP*. Special Issues will become Special Compiled Issues based on papers of the same topic and editor, published before in the monthly issues.

According to Google Scholar, citations of papers published in *RSPP* exceeded 1,552 in 2022, 1,805 in 2023 and 2,184 until October 2024. Given the trend in citations, we expect citations to hit 2,500 by the end of 2024.

According to [Scopus](#), the journal’s Cite Score was to 0.2 in 2015, 0.7 in 2016, 1.0 in 2017, 1.4 in 2018, 0.9 in 2019, 1.4 in 2020, 2.3 in 2021, 3.1 in 2022 and 3.6 in 2023. The drop in 2019 was due to the strong increase in the number of papers from 2018 to 2019. The current CiteScoreTracker for 2024 is 3.2, with 12 issues already published. Hopefully this indicator will recover, as it includes 12 months of papers in 2024 but only 10 months of citations received in 2024.

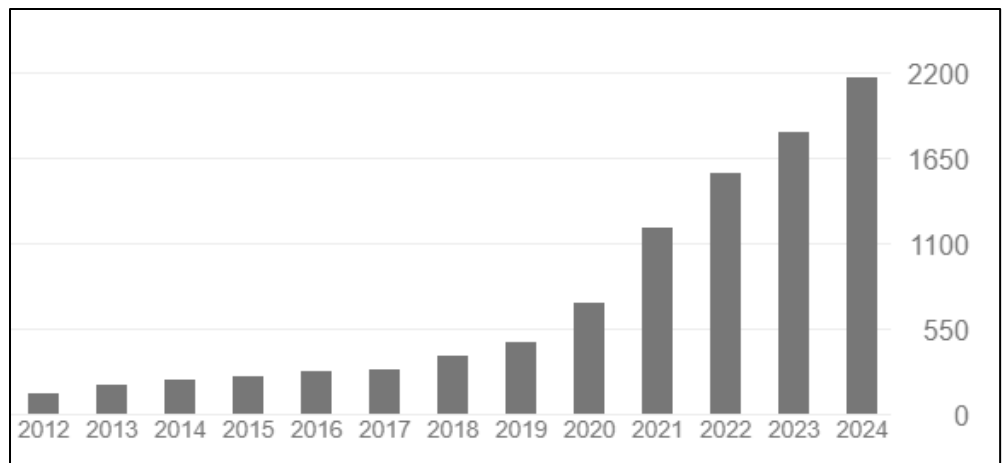


Figure 1: Google Scholar RSPP Citations (as of November 2024)

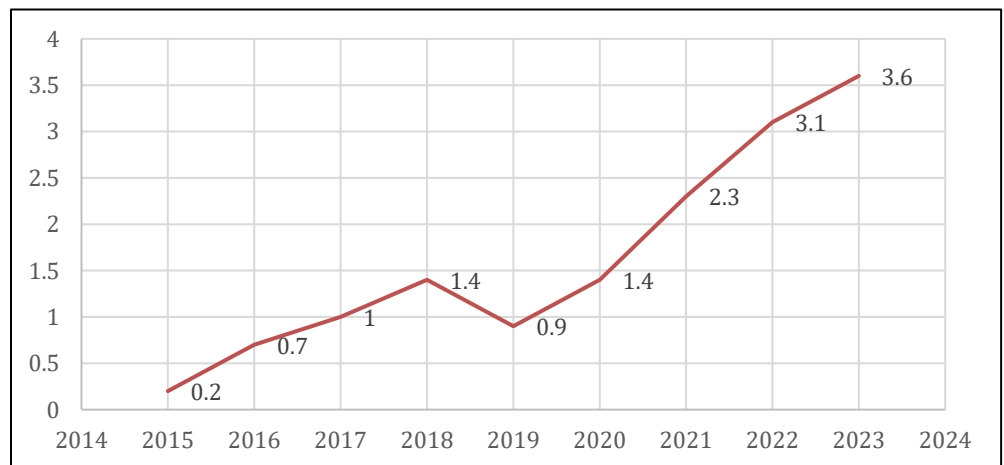


Figure 2: Scopus Cite score of RSPP

New Challenges for RSPP

During the RSAI Council meeting held at the 71st NARSC congress in New Orleans, Andrea Caragliu (Politecnico di Milano, Italy) was appointed new Editor-in-Chief, along with a new board of editors consisting of André Chagas (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, LARSA), Hee-Jung Jun (Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea, PRSCO), Neil Reid (University of Toledo, USA, NARSC), and Terciane Sabadini Carvalho (University of Paraná, Brazil, LARSA).

The RSAI pledges resources to further strengthen the image of the journal and further enhance its reputation, guaranteeing a continuous growth of the quality of papers published. This strategy will be pursued with the final goal to make RSPP *the* reference journal for high-quality papers dealing with regional policies, as well as on the regional impacts of space-blind policies, for all disciplines.

The new board will focus on thematically oriented special issues, capable of a strong impact, on hot policy topics being debated all over the world. The new board will also commit resources to invest in the journal's indexation in major national academic rankings and promoting dedicated workshops at major Regional Science events.

The board cordially invites NARSC scholars to submit their best policy papers to *RSPP*. With the new Gold Open Access status, papers published on RSPP will be guaranteed maximum impact, and the global regional science community will hopefully contribute to the further development of the journal.

We look forward to receiving your submissions to RSPP!



Reaching Regions to publish inaugural collection of papers

Reaching Regions is the new peer-reviewed, open-access, official outreach journal of NARSC. The journal began receiving submissions in 2024 and the inaugural collection of papers is scheduled for publication in early 2025. All contributions should be written in non-technical language accessible to non-academics. Additional information including submission instructions is available via the journal's website: <https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/rreg/>.

The Editors also invite proposals for one or more special themed collections. Please contact [Heather Stephens](#) and [John Winters](#) with proposal submissions or questions.

Upcoming Meetings

Western Regional Science Association (WRSA 2025)



The 64th Annual Meeting of the Western Regional Science Association will be held **February 12–15, 2025** in Henderson, Nevada. The opening plenary and reception are scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, February 12th, followed by three full days of sessions on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (February 13–15). Only fully drafted papers will be accepted for this conference. **The deadline for submission was extended to November 30, 2024.** All submissions will be reviewed and will be assigned to a discussant on the program.

WRSA will be meeting at the Hilton Lake Las Vegas Resort and Spa, a Mediterranean-style oasis in the Las Vegas desert that is 30 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip. This is WRSA's first meeting in the Las Vegas area since 1967. The negotiated daily room rate is \$199 plus applicable taxes and a resort fee of \$15. The room reservation can be made via this [link](#) or by calling 702-567-4700 and asking for the Western Regional Science Association 2025 group rate. **After January 10, 2025, or as soon as our block fills, the hotel will no longer honor the special room rate.** So, be sure to book early!

WRSA will provide a **Travel Grant for Graduate Students and Early-Career Scholars** (who earned a Ph.D. after 2019). The Travel Grant will cover the Conference Registration Fee and partial Hotel Accommodation. The WRSA Program Committee will review the submitted papers by Graduate Students and Early-Career Scholars and notify the selected recipients by the end of December 2024. Students who do not receive the Travel Grant and who are interested in sharing a hotel room to cut down their costs are encouraged to contact WRSA via [email](#) or to post an inquiry on our [Facebook page](#).

Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA 2025)



The 64th Annual Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association will be held **April 3–5, 2025** in Louisville, Kentucky. **Abstracts are due January 31, 2025.** Please join us for a wonderful meeting including an undergraduate poster session and the Barry M. Moriarty Graduate Student Paper Competition. The meeting will be held at **The Brown Hotel**, a landmark hotel in the heart of Louisville, just blocks from Whiskey Row. You can book your room [here](#) at the conference rate of \$155 per night. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA 2025)



The 2025 MCRSA/IMPLAN conference will be held **June 4–6, 2025** at the University of Missouri Kansas City's Bloch School of Management. The program committee welcomes papers on a wide range of topics relating to applied economics, economic development, planning, geography, business, public administration, sociology, and political science. The Call for Papers will be available in February. Check [MCRSA's website](#) in the future for more information on abstract submission, hotel, and registration.

Regional Cultural Differences Conference

The 2nd Regional Cultural Differences Conference will be held **July 8–11, 2025** in beautiful Vancouver, Canada. The conference will provide an intimate setting for participants with a diverse set of disciplinary backgrounds and career stages to discuss a wide range of research on regional cultural differences. Topics of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Descriptive accounts of regional cultural differences
- Historical and contemporary ecological, economic, and social causes of cultural and psychological differences across regions
- Political, economic, social, and health-related consequences of regional cultural differences on the regional macro-level and the individual micro-level
- Regional cultural dynamics over time
- Data and methods to measure and analyze regional cultural differences
- Interdisciplinary perspectives on the study of regional cultural differences and theoretical frameworks for future research

The call for papers is now open and **abstracts are due January 6, 2025.** More details on the schedule, registration, and accommodations are available [here](#). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the organizers: Friedrich Götz, Tobias Ebert, and Eric Hehman.

North American Regional Science Council (NARSC 2025)



The 72nd Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International will be held **November 12-15, 2025** in Denver, Colorado. The conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt Denver. Please join us for a fun-filled opportunity to exchange our traditional scientific content in the Mile High City!

Call for Applications

The Benjamin H. Stevens 2025-26 Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science

Graduate students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in North America are encouraged to apply for the Twenty-Fifth Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science, administered by the North American Regional Science Council of the Regional Science Association International. 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. Regional Science is a multidisciplinary field concerned with urban and regional phenomena. Regional Scientists apply theoretical and empirical frameworks and methods of the social and other sciences, as well as develop new ones specifically for regional analysis and policy.

Eligible students should have completed all degree requirements except for their dissertation by the time the Fellowship commences (typically on July 1). A requirement of the Fellowship is that the recipient have no duties other than dissertation research during the period of the Fellowship, although the recipient may hold other fellowships concurrently. Applications from students working in any area and any North American Ph.D. program are welcome as long as their dissertation research addresses a research question in Regional Science. Previous involvement with North American regional science organizations and journals will be looked upon favorably by the Selection Committee.

The Fellowship consists of a stipend in the amount of \$36,000 (U.S.), paid over a twelve-month period. **Applications for the 2025-2026 Fellowship should be sent electronically by the applicant to the Selection Committee Chair, Professor [Joshua Drucker](#), by the deadline of February 15, 2025.**

An application consists of the following materials:

1. A curriculum vita of no more than two pages in length. Previous involvement with North American regional science organizations and journals should be annotated.

2. A statement in ten pages or less explaining the questions and issues to be addressed, the approach to be used, and the product expected from the dissertation research, preceded by a summary (1-page maximum) describing the intellectual merit of the proposed research and the broader impacts that may result. The 10-page limit is inclusive of references but exclusive of tables and figures. This text should be in 12-point or larger font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins; references may be single-spaced.
3. Copies of the candidate's transcripts for all graduate study. Unofficial copies are acceptable.

In addition, the dissertation supervisor shall provide a confidential letter sent separately as an attachment from her/his email account with the student's name in the subject line to Professor Drucker. In the letter, the supervisor should assess the quality and significance of the proposed dissertation research, specify the current state of progress toward the candidate's degree, and provide a commitment by the dissertation supervisor to obtain a tuition waiver for the candidate for the year of the Fellowship. A condition of the Fellowship is the granting of a tuition waiver for the year of the Fellowship by the university, or an equivalent payment of the student's tuition. Questions should be emailed to Professor Joshua Drucker at jdruck@uic.edu.

Job Postings

For the most up-to-date list, check out the [position openings](#) section of NARSC webpage!

Associate/Full Professor, C. William Swank Chair in Rural-Urban Policy, The Ohio State University

The Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development (AEDE) at The Ohio State University is hiring an Associate or Full Professor to hold the C. William Swank Chair in Rural-Urban Policy. This person's research, teaching, and public service shall "focus on the economic and/or legal dimensions of the rural and urban interface, including issues relating to farming on the urban fringe, quality of life, externalities and environmental regulations, management, and the industrialization of agriculture."

This faculty member will lead the C. William Swank Program in Rural-Urban Policy. They will work as a current or emerging national leader producing scholarly research on issues at the rural/urban interface. They will teach undergraduate students and teach and advise graduate students conducting research on issues relevant to the Program. They will engage in outreach in Ohio, connecting with groups such as agricultural leaders and urban-rural policy and decision makers. Finally, they will manage resources of the Program in part to leverage the expertise of others to accomplish goals such as drawing on and supporting the expertise of others in AEDE, as well as convening meetings, events, and applied scholarship that taps the expertise of other relevant authorities nationwide.

Initial consideration will be given to applications received by January 17th, 2025, and review of applications will continue until the position has been filled. Full details and information on how to apply are available [here](#).

Assistant Professor in Sustainable Cities, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

The Department of Earth, Environmental, and Geographical Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte is hiring an Associate Professor in the area of Sustainable Cities with a 9-month tenure tract appointment. This is a joint appointment between the Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (75%) and UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science (25%). We seek a dynamic and broadly trained urban geographer who can theorize about the spatial dimensions of critical sustainability issues facing cities today, including but not limited to urban inequalities, housing affordability, transportation accessibility, clean energy/energy efficiency, and/or sustainable urbanization and land use. The successful candidate will have the ability to use mixed methods, i.e., qualitative and quantitative, including data science techniques, to address their research questions. This position will begin on August 11, 2025. **Review of applications will begin on December 2, 2024 and will continue until the position is filled.** Full details and information on how to apply are available [here](#).

Assistant Professor of Community and Rural Development, Oklahoma State University

The Department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University is hiring an Assistant Professor of Community and Rural Development. This is an 11-month, tenure-track position with a 75% Extension and 25% research responsibility. We seek a candidate that will develop a nationally recognized, integrated Extension-research program to enhance rural economic development and small business growth. The successful candidate is also expected to secure external funding, publish in peer-reviewed journals, and collaborate in Extension and research efforts with other faculty in the Department and University. **Review of applications will begin February 14, 2025**, with a start date of August 2025, or as negotiated. **Review of applications will continue until suitable candidates are selected.** Full details and information on how to apply are available [here](#).