



October 2009



Women in Regional Science

The newsletter of the RSAI

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1. Introduction

1.1. Hello from the President

Roberta Capello



Since I started my Presidency in January this year, I have already experienced an enlargement of the Association, with new members from all over the world joining RSAI.

New associations in Latin America have been created and will soon join our community. The presence of new talented scholars is also witnessed by a growing number of young people at our conferences, and this bodes well for the future of our Association. Within our community, women have also played an important scientific role. Many landmark theoretical developments have come from women scientists. It is true, however, that despite the scientific importance that women have always played in regional science, the recognition in terms of institutional positions has been limited. In its 50 years of existence, RSAI has not previously elected any woman as President or Executive Director. However, change is occurring; my election as President of RSAI is an example in this respect. I feel a responsibility to demonstrate that women have a capacity to lead and are able to cope as well with institutional roles as men. I am sure that the situation for women will change in the near future, and I invite all my female colleagues in regional science to trust in this change.

1.2. A warm welcome from the Editors

*Graham Clarke and
Eveline van Leeuwen*



Welcome to this second newsletter in the revamped RSAI newsletter series. The theme of this edition is Women in Regional Science, a very important issue. It is great to hear news of how more women are taking part and there are very interesting contributions from women around the world. We really hope more women will come into the regional science community both as researchers and as administrators.

In addition, it is nice to profile the new President Elect of RSAI – Yoshiro Higano. Yoshiro has done excellent work for the Japanese Section and for PRSCO over many years. We are delighted he will become the next President in 2011. We would really welcome ideas and stories to include in future editions. Please do not hesitate to get in touch and send us material. Read on and enjoy!

As we were writing this introduction distressing news came in from our colleagues and friends in the Mexican Section. On the 12th August Dr Carlos Bustamante, Dr Salvador Rodriguez and Mr Ivan Sanchez were held up at gunpoint whilst undertaking transactions at the bank. Shots were fired and Dr Salvador Rodriguez was fatally wounded. He died instantly. Dr Bustamante was also badly wounded

and he is now making a slow recovery in hospital. All at RSAI send their condolences to Dr Rodriguez's family and friends at this very sad time, and we wish Dr Bustamante a full and speedy recovery.



2. Women in Regional Science (1): Young talents

Alessandra Faggian is a reader in Economic Geography at the University of Southampton, UK



I became a regional scientist by 'accident' ten years ago. After completing my BSc in Economics at Bocconi University in Milan – my native city – I was contacted by Roberta Capello

who asked me whether I was interested in a research position at the Politecnico. I had never thought of becoming an academic before, but her description of the academic life fascinated me. Doing research, travelling, attending conferences . . . I was 'sold' in the first five minutes of our conversation!

My work did allow me to travel around the world more than I could have imagined and, after a few years in Italy, I eventually decided to move to the UK where I started a PhD with Philip McCann at the University of Reading. One year later, I was offered a Lectureship position at the same University and later on – after completing my PhD – a Readership at the University of Southampton. I now consider the UK as my 'adopted country' (despite still cooking Italian food at home

and complaining about the English weather!).

Over the years, I have attended many conferences and met an incredible number of regional scientists, most of them men. I have always wondered, however, how many women were sharing my profession and whether there were substantial geographical differences in the percentage of women across countries and/or continents. I often discussed this with colleagues, but I have never gained a clear view of how many women are in our scientific community.

So this summer, when I was asked to write an article for this newsletter, I took the opportunity to do what I have always wanted to do: count the number of women in regional science. It was not an easy task. I had to familiarise myself with some quite unusual names, but with the help of technology (i.e. Google images) I managed to identify genders with a sufficient degree of confidence . . . I admit it, it was not the best way of spending my one-week holiday on a lake in Italy (*I know, now you don't know whether to feel sorry for me because I was doing quite a boring and tedious job or to be envious because I was doing it on a balcony facing the lake!*), but it served the purpose of satisfying my curiosity (and maybe that of some other colleagues).

I wish I had time to do a proper 'time-series' analysis, but since this article is not refereed (luckily!) and I had a 'constraint' on the amount of vacations to 'invest' in this, I limited myself to counting the proportion of women in the most recent regional science conferences around the world. The list of conferences is also by no means exhaustive, as I picked the conferences whose programs were most readily accessible online. The outcome of my effort is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Percentage of women in major regional science conferences (2008–2009)

	Participants	Discussants	Chairs	Young Scientists
NARSC 08 (New York)	19%	22%	18%	N/A
WRSA 09 (Napa Valley)	23%	25%	22%	N/A
SRSA 09 (San Antonio)	22%	18%	20%	N/A
ERSA 08 (Liverpool)	30%	N/A	24%	30%
RSAIBIS 09 (Limerick)	30%	N/A	33%	20%
PRSCO 09 (Gold Coast)	23%	N/A	21%	N/A

In 2008/09 there seemed to be some geographical differences in the percentage of women attending regional science conferences, with Europe leading the way with an incredible 30%. It is worth noting, however, that women only chaired around 24% of sessions at ERSA. Regional science is a younger discipline in Europe so there might still be a stronger generational effect. While in North America the percentage of women attendees is lower, they do tend to be more senior and hence more likely to be discussants and/or chairing sessions.

It would be interesting to see if this pattern will persist in the future. If so, this would be first of all a testament to how far women have progressed in our field (30% is hardly a ‘minority’ anymore), but it would also require some more serious thinking about the reasons why Europe seems more successful in recruiting younger female researchers.

Studies, University of Lisbon, are pleased to announce that on the 1st of June 2009, Professor Antoine Bailly, University of Geneva, was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Lisbon.

Antoine Bailly is the first Professor to be conferred the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the new Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning of the University of Lisbon.

It is an honour for all members of the Lisbon School of Geography academic community to celebrate the establishment of the new Institute by awarding the highest distinction given by the University of Lisbon to such a leading figure of world geography and regional science.

3.2. First conference of the RSAmericas in Colombia

As you may know, RSAI recently decided to extend the spatial coverage of the North American Supra-regional Section to include Latin America. The simplest way to do this seemed to be to create a new supra-regional Section called Regional Science Americas (or RSAmericas). NARSC became a member of the RSAmericas. The new President to be elected was Eduardo Haddad. Below, he details the first conference organized by RSAmericas.



3. News and recent events

3.1. Professor Antoine Bailly awarded with the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Lisbon



The Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning and the Centre for Geographical

Eduardo Haddad, Council President of RSAmericas writes:



The aim of this Conference was to gather a group of specialists from around 17 countries to submit research papers on regional science and regional economics and exchange ideas and knowledge on important issues concerning regional and local economies.

The Conference took place in Cartagena, Colombia, on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 February 2009, in the Hotel Almirante Estelar. The event was

organized by the Center for Regional Economic Studies CEER of Banco de la República, Sucursal Cartagena and the North American Regional Science Council.

During the program, attendees had the opportunity to witness concurrent sessions with papers on various topics of regional economy, such as public policy, network analysis, growth and institutions, regional development, income inequalities and poverty, quality of life, input product analysis, growth and evolution of cities, free trade and growth, spatial econometrics, local government and decentralization, migration, research and development, and productivity, as well as case studies in Latin America.

The event was attended by 69 participants, of whom 16 were from Colombia and other countries such as Japan, Korea, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Holland, Canada and the United States. We had the presence of renowned scholars such as Geoffrey Hewings, Eduardo Haddad, Roberta Capello, Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Carlos Azzoni, Joaquim Guilhoto, among others.

A number of parallel sessions took place, as well as 2 plenary sessions with Geoffrey Hewings and Juan Cuadrado-Roura as keynote speakers.





Right: Eduardo Haddad, Roberta Capello and Geoff Hewings are enjoying proceedings!

3.3. Professor Mike Batty has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for 2009



Professor Mike Batty, Director of the UCL Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA) and UCL Bartlett Professor of Planning, has been elected as one on 44 new Fellows of

the Royal Society for 2009 (The UK's National Academy of Science). Mike was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2001 and awarded a CBE by the Queen in 2004 for 'services to geography'. The election was for significant contributions to urban planning and design using mathematical models of cities.

3.4. The 1st Cape Verde Congress of Regional Development

Tomaz Ponce Dentinho



The 1st Cape Verde Congress of Regional Development took place in Praia, Santiago Island, Cape Verde, from the 6th to the 11th July 2009. The meeting, which

was also the 2nd Portuguese-Speaking Regional Science Conference and the 15th Portuguese Regional Science Conference, was organized into four parallel sessions with over two hundred regional scientists from Cape Verde (30), Portugal (120), Brasil (20), Spain (15), Angola (5) and other countries such as Guiné-Bissau, Italy, France, Mexico and the United States.

The President of the Republic of Cape Verde, Comandante Pedro Pires, attended the Closing Session and presented an important message, reinforcing the role of science in regional development and highlighting the responsibility of Cape Verdean scientists

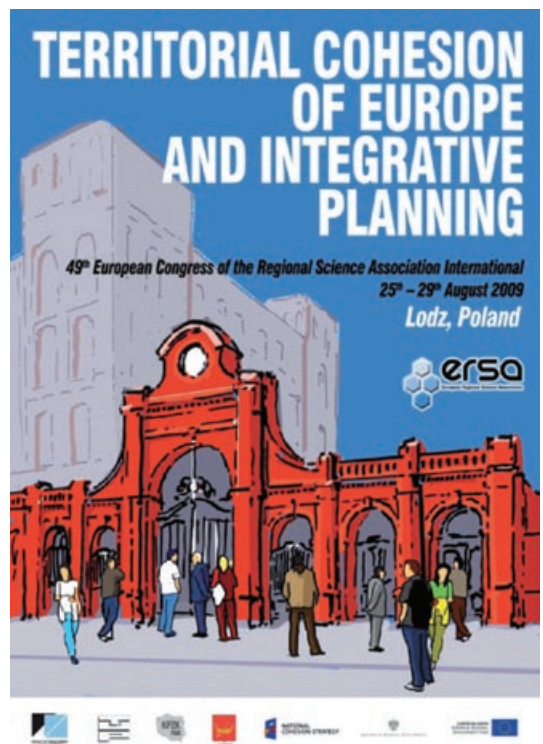


in regional development in the country and in Africa. The speech of the Ministry for Regional Development Issues, by Dra Sara Duarte Lopes, offered a challenging question: 'What can Cape Verde do for Africa and for the World?' The coordinator of the Conference – Prof. Jorge Sousa Brito – announced the desire in the future to create a Cape Verdean section of the Regional Science Association International.

One interesting aspect of the Conference was the discussion of the Reports of the Study Visits to São Vicente, Santo Antão and Santiago islands in a special session on Cape Verdean Regional Development. This allowed not only an improved interaction between the scientists and the regional development stakeholders but also a more profound reflection of the regional development issues in Cape Verde. The three best aspects of the Conference were the involvement of the Cape Verdean institutions at all levels, the quality of the participants and their presentations and the various aspects of the organization, including the financial ones.

3.5. ERSA 2009

This year, the ERSA conference took place in the city of Lodz, located in



Poland. It was a very successful and pleasant meeting, with around 450 participants coming from 38 different countries.

After 447 presentations in 127 topic sessions the congress formal dinner took place at the Andels Hotel, one of the most beautiful interiors in Lodz. The

hotel is located in a former textile mill, carefully renovated under strict adherence to the guidelines of historic building preservation. It is a unique place where you can see and feel the history of Polish textile magnate Izrael Poznański's empire, combined with a modern and unique design.

We would like to congratulate the EPAINOS prize winners for their excellent papers (EPAINOS is open to young scholars under 33 years). The first prize went to both Theresa Grafeneder-Weissteiner and Klaus Prettnner. Two second prizes were awarded to Patricia Melo and Guilherme Mendes Resende.

3.6. Happy Birthday to the Italian section

Giovanni Rabino



On the first week of September 2009, AISRe (the Italian section of RSAI) celebrated its 30th birthday at its 30th annual conference. During the conference, held at the Faculty

of Economics of Florence, all the past presidents, secretaries and treasurers, many of whom attended the first meeting, were awarded by Gianluigi Gorla and Laura Resmini (respectively, president and secretary) with a silver pin reproducing the logo of the Italian association. A similar brass pin was distributed to all members.

Moreover, as part of the celebration, a plenary session (Fig. 1) was chaired by Roberta Capello on the theme of the

role of Italian regional scientists within the international arena. The session included a panel of distinguished foreign colleagues: C. Courlet (Université Pierre Mendès France), P. Njikamp (Free University, Amsterdam), D. Pumain (Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne) and R. Stimson (The University of Queensland, Australia).

In another plenary session Riccardo Cappellin, a founder member and the first secretary, described to younger people the complex process leading to its foundation: the early contact with Walter Isard, the suspicions of the mainstream academic body over the 'innovative' nature of regional science, etc.

In the same session, Giovanni Rabino recalled the first conference in Rome, showing some old pictures: Fig. 2 shows a young David Boyce, the invited international speaker, in action at the podium. Rabino also explained the meaning of the AISRe logo, its history unknown to many members. This was proposed by the late Giuliano Bianchi, organizer of the 4th conference (Florence, 1983) giving to each participant a poster (Fig. 3), a stylized representation of the 'isolated state' of J. H. von Thünen, as it appears in table four of his famous book (Fig. 4).

Finally, a set of parallel sessions called 'retrospect and prospects of Italian regional science' addressed different domains of regional science (regional economic planning, models in planning, regional growth, knowledge economy, etc.). These issues were discussed by several authors (R. Camagni, L. Diappi, A. Calafati, E. Ciciotti, R. Cappellin, R. Capello, A. Bruzzo). These position papers are going to be published in the journal 'Scienze Regionali'.



Fig. 1: Roberta Capello chairs a plenary discussion



Fig. 2: David Boyce, keynote speaker in Rome 1980



Fig. 3: Poster given to members in Florence 1983

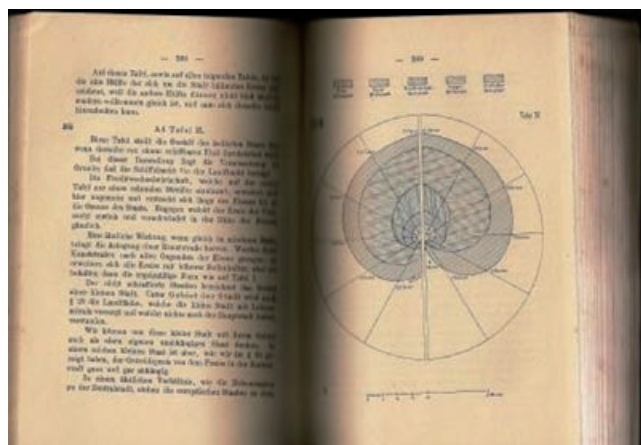


Fig. 4: Copy of Von Thunen's original sketch of the isolated State



4. Women in Regional Science (2): A success story

Brigitte Waldorf is professor of Agricultural Economics at the department of Agricultural Economics from Purdue University.



They exist; their numbers are increasing; and, with Roberta Capello from Politecnico di Milano the Regional Association International now

has a woman serving as its president. A success story.

Indeed, had I written this piece in the late 1980s, when I first attended a regional science conference (Baltimore 1987), I would have started by saying that encountering another woman in regional science is a rare event. To me, the absence of women was not a surprise given that I had studied mathematics in the conservative, hierarchically organized male-dominated German university system of the 1970s and 1980s, where glass ceilings and the deliberate steering away of women from certain fields could barely remain unnoticed. Later, in the early 1990s, when I was in charge of the regional science newsletter, men almost exclusively dominated the news. They were the ones (s)electd for key positions in the organization, who took the lead in conference presentations and publications in our flagship journals, and the ones who won the prizes and awards.

There are many reasons why women may account for such a small share of the Association's membership and activities. The disciplines feeding into regional science, e.g., agricultural economics, economics, quantitative geography, planning and civil

engineering, were/are notorious for being male dominated. All of these disciplines have their own debates on the root causes of female under-representation: exclusion, discrimination, self-selection, and – not to forget – Larry Summers' infamous argument of a gender gap in intrinsic aptitude.

In fact, women were – for a long time – entirely absent from the field. Using citation data, Isserman (2004) identified the intellectual leaders of regional science by generation and time period. For each generation, he identifies some 100 intellectual leaders. There is no woman in what Isserman calls the *pioneering generation* (1955 to 1968) or the *take-off generation* (1969–76). The first women appear in the so-called *spread generation* (1977 to 1989), namely¹ Anna Nagurney, Erica Schoenberger, and Carol West. In the *nineties generation* (1990–1999), the number of female intellectual leaders more than tripled and included Ayse Can, Helen Couclelis, Nancy Ettlinger, Cindy Fan, Barnali Gupta, Maureen Kilkenny, Ann Markusen, Valerie Preston, Christiane von Reichert and myself.

Today, almost a quarter of a century since Baltimore, the female presence in the Association has become quite noticeable. Yet, there are not that many women in star positions, although it is difficult to assess what a 'fair share' could be. The Golden Anniversary issue of *Papers in Regional Science*, which 'consists of a compendium of "thought" papers, authored by a representative sample of the field's leading scholars' (Batey, 2004, p. 1), is a prime example. The selected representative sample of the field's leading scholars is made up of 42 (co-)authors; only two of them are women (less than 5%). Similarly, it took almost 50 years before the Association's

¹ Throughout this article, women may be undercounted as the gender was not always identifiable by a person's name.

Table 2: Women's Representation on Editorial Boards, ranked by % female board members^{a)}

Journal	Number of Board Members	Female Board Members	%
<i>Annals of Regional Science</i>	44	Roberta Capello Janet Kohlhasse Anna Nagurney Karen Polensky Jessie Poon Brigitte Waldorf	14%
<i>Papers in Regional Science</i>	48	S. Chang Alessandra Faggian Kara Kockelman Julie LeGallo Jessie Poon Brigitte Waldorf	12%
<i>International Regional Science Review</i>	40	Patricia Beeson Amy Glasmeyer Ann Markusen Carol West	10%
<i>Journal of Regional Science</i>	56 ^{b)}	Maureen Kilkenny Kara Kockelman Janet Kohlhasse Therese McGuire Carol West	9%
<i>Letters in Spatial and Resource Sciences</i>	57	Anna Alberini Amy Ando Elena Irwin Julie Le Gallo Brigitte Waldorf	9%
<i>Journal of Geographical Systems</i>	30	Suzana Dragicevic Aura Reggiani	7%
<i>Regional Science Policy and Practice</i>	17	—	0%

^{a)} As reported on journals' websites on 17 July 2009

^{b)} Includes advisory board of former editors.

flagship journal, *Papers in Regional Science*, had a female co-editor (Jessie Poon) and a female book review editor (myself), and other regional science journals still do not have a fair share of women serving as editors: Roberta Capello being a co-editor of *Letters in Spatial and Resources Sciences*, Laurie Schintler serving as the book review editor for the *Annals*, and Christine Tamasy as one of the two Asia-Pacific editors of the new journal *Regional Science Policy and Practice* are the exceptions. Women are, however, represented on editorial/advisory boards of all regional science journals, albeit in

very small numbers. In general, the percentages of female board members in the regional science journals listed in Table 2 do not exceed 15%.

Moreover, women are utterly absent from the list of prize winners and recognitions in some competitions, for example the *David Boyce award for Service to Regional Science* and the *RSAI Founders Medal*. These tend to be awards for life time achievements and have, so far, been given to those who have long been members of the Association, thus to members of the *pioneering* and *take-off generations*. It is

Table 3: Women's Representation among Award Winners, ranked by % female recipients^{a)}

Award	Number of recipients	Female recipients	% female recipients
RSAl Dissertation Award (2002 to 2006)	5	Ikuho Yamada Adelheid Holl	40%
Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science	10	Rachel Franklin Alison Davis Xiaokun Wang Elizabeth Mack	40%
Geoffrey J. D. Hewings Award	15	Brigitte Waldorf Ayse Can Talen Maureen Kilkenny Kara Kokelman Elena Irwin	33%
Epainos Award for Young Regional Scientist	28	Sari Pekkala Adelheid Holl Claudia Stirboeck Elke Amend Nicola Coniglio Eveline van Leeuwen Theresa Grafeneder-Weissteiner Patricia Melo Annette S. Zeilstra	29%
Martin Beckmann RSAl Annual Award for the best Paper in <i>Papers in Regional Science</i>	5	Alessandra Faggian	20%
Moss Madden Memorial Medal	5	Ann Markusen	20%
William Alonso Memorial Prize for Innovative Work In Regional Science	5		20%
Special Recognition Award	5	Beth Carbonneau	20%
Walter Isard Award for Scholarly Achievement	24	Karen Polenske Ann Markusen Carol Taylor-West	13%
RSAl Fellows Awards	60	Karen R. Polenske Ann Markusen Anna Nagurney Janice Madden	7%
RSAl Founder's Medal	7	—	0%
European Prize in Regional Science	3	—	0%
David Boyce Award for Service to Regional Science	23	—	0%
RSAmericas Graduate Student Paper Award	2	—	0%

^{a)} As reported at <http://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/Competitions-and-Awards/> and http://www.narsc.org/newsite/?page_id=30 on 17 July 2009. Other competitions such as the Hirotsada Kohno Award for Outstanding Service to the RSAl and the Peter Nijkamp RSAl Research Encouragement Award for an Early Career Scholar from a Developing Country were only recently established and no information on award winners has been published. The list excludes awards of regional RSAl sections, such as WRSA's Tiebout prize.

reassuring, though, that women are well represented among the recipients of awards that are specifically geared towards young scholars, such as the *Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Junior Scholar Award*, the *Epainos Award*, and the *Ben Stevens Fellowship* (Table 3). These patterns suggest that much of women's under-representation may be a generational issue.

Now that we see an increasing number of women who can function as role models, the process of women participating and excelling in the discipline may accelerate. Some of us who have been with regional science for many years have engaged in activities geared towards retaining women. Maureen Kilkenny has, for several years now, organized the 'Women's Happy Hour' during the North American meetings. During the 1990s, the North American meetings also featured the Early Bird Sessions that served as an excellent vehicle to give exposure to young scholars – male and female. And the Europeans have done an excellent job with their *Epainos* sessions at the *ERSA* meetings where young scholars, among them a large number of women, present their work. Moreover, many disciplines now have a much more gender-balanced undergraduate and graduate student population than in the past. Recruiting women into regional science will thus become easier over time.

If the female under-representation is indeed a generational phenomenon, then it has a good chance of disappearing with the younger generations. Being involved in regional science for almost a quarter of a century now, I have seen enormous changes since Baltimore 1987. The membership became so much more diverse – at least with respect to gender composition. I am curious to see the effects of this increased diversity. Will it affect the culture of 'doing business' in regional science? Will it have an impact on the

substantive issues being researched by regional scientists? My gut feeling is that it already has and that the field as a whole has benefited tremendously.

Too bad that I will most likely not witness those changes in the 100th anniversary issue of *Papers in Regional Science*. My prediction is that women will make up about one third of the membership: after all, self-selection is very powerful and is likely to persist, i.e., even in the 2050s, women's self-selection into regional science will be weaker than their self-selection into, for example, art history. Maybe the Association can begin tracking members by age and sex so that we can monitor compositional changes more accurately. I also predict that women will have a strong impact on the topics being researched; if the papers presented at the last North American meetings (Brooklyn 2008) are any indication, then women will be a driving force in people-oriented research centered on migration and immigration, transportation, and health.

References

- Batey, P. 2004. Preface. *Papers in Regional Science* 83: 3–4.
- Isserman, A. 2004. Intellectual Leaders of Regional Science: A Half-century Citation Study. *Papers in Regional Science* 83: 91–126.



5. Meet the Fellows: Karen Polenske

Karen Polenske is Professor of Regional Political Economy and Planning at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Some of us have wondered why more U.S. and European women are not attracted to the sciences and engineering as well as economics, regional science, and other disciplines that require mathematics.

Encouragement to do mathematics (and statistics) is needed early from parents and teachers while girls are still in grade school and high school. Often young girls are discouraged from taking it beyond the required subjects, although the use of the computer may be changing this. I never gave much thought as to taking or not taking mathematics when I was in high school. I enjoyed maths and also enjoyed teaching other students about how to do the problem sets.

In high school, when I took geometry, I was the only girl out of about 200 in my class who was still attending the mathematics class. I was planning to be an extension agent, and my teachers could not understand why I wanted to learn maths. In graduate school, I was part of the first class in the economics department at Harvard University where we had the option of taking either a language or a mathematics examination. Until then, graduates were only required to pass the language examination. I took the maths option.

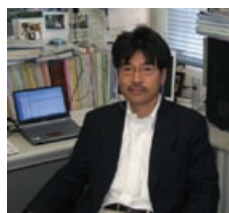
Look at the early issues (before 1960) of *The American Economic Review*, and you will find that articles were mostly devoid of equations, and authors used tables only to review historical or current data descriptively. Times have changed. Mathematics is now a regular part of most economic and regional science articles. Also many women attend the regional science meetings. Most do not realize how few women attended the early meetings. I remember one meeting in Chicago many years ago where Anna Nagurny and I were the only women in a group of over 100 men. Now, many women attend the annual meetings, and we have a get-together each year at the

meetings, so that we become much better acquainted with one another (see Maureen Kilkeny's article below).

I definitely think that having more women attend the meetings, becoming Fellows of the Regional Science Association International, and playing an active role in the Regional Science Association is a move in the right direction. I am not as sanguine about the current emphasis on mathematics and econometrics, partly because I see too many articles where the authors do not understand the underlying economic concerns – their focus on the econometrics often obscures the importance of the underlying issues.



6. Centres of Regional Science: Regional Science at Tsukuba



Professor Yoshiro Higano is currently the Executive Director of the Pacific Regional Science Conference

Organization (PRSCO) of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI). In 2011 he will begin a two year period of Presidency of RSAI. In this article we introduce him and his research institute in Japan.

Professor Higano was born in Nagano Prefecture, Japan. He received a PhD in Environmental Science from Hokkaido University. He is now Professor of Environmental Policy, and leads the Doctoral Program in Sustainable Environmental Studies in the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba. He has been a member of the Doctoral Examination Committee of Free

University, Amsterdam, and another four universities. He is a member of the Human Development Program (HDP) Committee of the Science Council of Japan, is Executive Director of the Japan Section of the RSAI, and is a member of the Japan Association of Planning Administration, the Japan Association of Real Estate Sciences and the Japan Association of Human Symbiosis (JAHEs), where he is now President. He is one of the editors-in-Chief of *Letters in Spatial and Resource Sciences*, Managing Editor of *Studies in Regional Science*, and an editorial member of *Papers in Regional Science*. He has served as a member of the Screening Committee for Research Grants in the Ministry of Environment, NEDO (The New Energy and Industrial Technology Development) and the JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science). Professor Higano has published more than 100 papers in refereed journals and books, and made more than 20 invited lectures abroad. He has received the JSRSAI Association Award for the best article of the year in 2000 along with many other similar awards. He works in the areas of Comprehensive Environmental

Evaluation, Environmental Remediation Technology Assessment, and Environmental Policy.

Professor Yoshiro Higano writes:

The University of Tsukuba is a leading centre of regional science in Japan. The Secretariat of Japan Section RSAI was located in the office of Prof. H. Kohno until 1983 and has been run from my office since 1997. All the Association's activities are firstly handled and managed through the Secretariat in order to increase and improve membership services, and thus we have contributed much to the development of JSRSAI. Many internationally leading regional scientists have been based here. Those to whom I must mention are Prof. H. Kohno, my teacher, also Past RSAI and JSRSAI President, who works on dynamic Interregional Input-output Analysis; Prof. K. Mera, urban and regional planning; Prof. T. Fukuchi, Past JSRSAI President, regional econometric analysis; Prof. Y. Sakai, Past JSRSAI President, risk assessment and regional economy; Prof. N. Sakashita, Past RSA President, regional economic analysis and location theory; Prof. Y. Kanemoto,

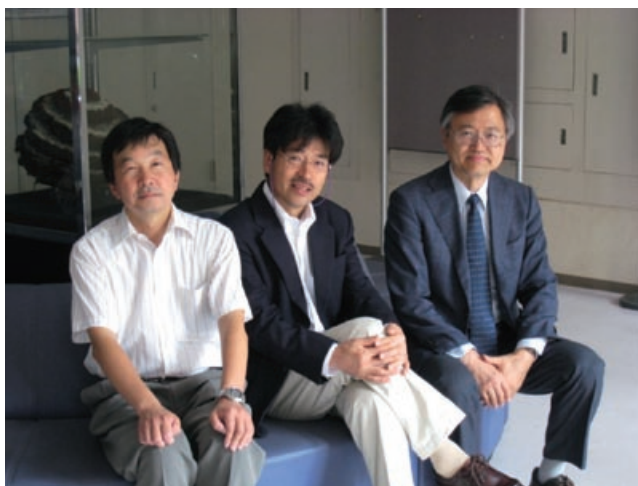


RSAI Fellow, New Urban Economics and location theory, T. Miyao, urban economics; Prof. A. Okabe, urban and regional statistical analysis; Prof. T. Tabuchi, RSAI Fellow, New Economic Geography, and so on. Also, many international regional scientists such as Jacques Poot, Phil McCann and Lars Lundqvist have stayed at this university as visiting professors and have undertaken collaborative work with faculty members.

Many regional scientists have graduated from this university and they are now active members in JSRSAI and therefore in RSAI. Due to the space limit I cannot mention all of them. However, I would just mention those who are now faculty members of this university. Roughly speaking, we have three main research fields of regional science. They are led by Dr. S. Tokunaga, Dr. Y. Osawa and myself. Dr. Tokunaga and his laboratory group now mainly study econometric analysis of regional economies, industrial agglomeration, and the location of firms in the tradition of New Economic Geography. Dr. Y. Osawa and his group study urban planning and spatial competition. My research field

mainly includes three aspects of regional science: (1) space, information and telecommunications; (2) regional and urban analysis with large-scale simulation models; (3) comprehensive evaluation of environmental policy. In recent years I, and my group, have focused on comprehensive basin management and dynamic simulation analysis for optimal environmental policies, which includes the introduction of advanced environmental remediation technologies through large-scale modeling. In these studies, policies are analyzed which could control both the total ecological system of the basin and socio-economic situational changes over a certain period of time, in order to decrease the emission of water pollutants and green house gases while keeping the level of socio-economic activities as high as possible. These techniques were applied to not only regional environmental problems within Japan but also those in rural areas and cities of China, Korea, Turkey, and so on.

I greatly look forward to taking up the Presidency of RSAI in 2011 and look forward to working with you all.



Professor Yoshiro Higano with Dr Tokunaga (right) and Dr Osawa



7. RSAI prize winners 2009



During the ERSA 2009 meeting, the chairman of RSAI, Roberta Capello, handed over the RSAI Fellows Award to Piet Rietveld (left) and Keith Ihlanfeldt (right) to honour their important scholarly and research contributions to the field of regional science. More Fellows will be honoured during the NARSC meeting in November in San Francisco.



8. Women in Regional Science (3): Happy Hour

Maureen Kilkenny is Professor at the Department of Resource Economics of the University of Nevada



If there was just one other woman in your session at the NA-RSAI meetings twenty years ago, you considered yourself lucky. The first time I tabulated the

participant list, 92% of the authors, co-authors, presenters, and session chairs at the NA-RSAI meeting were male. You had to really go out of your way to find another female. Which is what Janice Madden, Janet Kohlhasse, and I finally did in 1999. After the Awards Banquet I introduced myself to Janet and she introduced me to Janice. The three of us enjoyed beers in the convention hotel bar. That was the first 'Women in Regional Science (WRS) Happy Hour.'

The 2000 NA-RSAI Program Committee met our request for a 'hospitality room' more generously than we ever dreamed. One meeting room on the most accessible floor of the conference hotel in Chicago was set aside for 'Women in Regional Science' all day, every day. As I (lower case) wrote Aura Reggiani (in CAPS):

We did a fun thing at the Chicago conference: we got one conference room dedicated to 'Women in Regional Science' with a big table and lots of chairs. We served coffee, tea, and rolls all morning. Women (and men) came in, met each other and chatted and so on. We discussed our research and talked about the conference papers.

COULD THIS BE A STARTING POINT FOR A WOMEN-RSAI? MAY BE . . . !! IT COULD BE INTERESTING.

Also, grad students got to ask questions like, 'What do you say about your husband when they are interviewing you for a faculty job?' and 'How do you handle being the only woman on the faculty?' and so on. It was good to meet the others and I'm sure it was helpful for the young women. You would've enjoyed it! It was such a success that we will do it annually at the NA-RSAI meetings. We found a way to help women achieve critical mass in one place, at one time! And there is another pay-off. It was nice.

It was nice. But we did not actually 'achieve critical mass in one place at one time.'

Almost every time I went to the 'WRS Room' it was empty. Spatial economists should have known better. 'Women in Regional Science' finally achieved critical mass during our two sessions at the 2001 meetings in Charleston. One was a hospitality hour, the other was a round-table discussion with the Director of the NSF Geography and Regional Science Program.

At the 2002 NA-RSAI meetings in San Juan, Puerto Rico, we had a big 'Happy Hour' at one of the conference hotel bars. We've met in bars ever since. The WRS Happy Hour is always the last Friday, right after the paper sessions end that day.

The location of the WRS Happy Hour is not usually listed on the NA-RSAI program. We choose the venue after we get there. The one good thing about not being on the program is that it gives each of us a pretext to go up to other women – especially a woman we don't yet know – to introduce ourselves, and say 'Do you know where the WRS Happy Hour will be?' This method has been quite effective. There were 44 women listed as speakers on the 2004 Seattle NA-RSAI meeting program. 38 of them were at the WRS Happy Hour. And every year the proportion of females on the NA-RSAI program increases.

Soon after the 2004 meetings, Becky Zerlentes, a real bright light among WRS, sent her opinion about whether we should go back to a hospitality room with the location listed on the program, or stick with the unlisted WRS Happy Hour in a bar. Becky wrote, 'I like the informality of a happy hour rather than a "reception". . . or session, for that matter. And it was so nice to see you again! I hope you have a wonderful 2005!' Becky died a few months after she wrote that e-mail. We dedicated the 2005 WRS Happy Hour at the 2005 NA-RSAI meetings in Las Vegas to her, and have toasted Becky Zerlentes every year since.

Now here we are, looking forward to the 2009 NA-RSAI meetings in San Francisco. We will meet in some bar on Friday about 5pm, as usual. We'll toast Becky Zerlentes and we will toast the tenth anniversary of 'Women in Regional Science.' We don't know what bar it will be in yet. But just ask any woman regional scientist and she will help you find it.



9. Future Events

For an extensive overview of all future events, please visit the RSAI calendar at www.regionalscience.org

56th North American Regional Science Association International Conference

Join us in San Francisco, California for the 56th North American Regional Science Association International (RSAI) Conference sponsored by the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC) and the Western Regional Science Association (WRSA). The conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt in Union Square, from Wednesday, November 18 to Saturday, November 21 2009.

2012 World Congress

Please make an early note of the next World Congress to be held at the West University of Timisoara. The provisional dates are 2–5th May. The area is well known for a great deal of Foreign Direct Investment (especially from Italy).



10. RSAI Future Prizes

10.1. Dissertation prize

The Association invites the submission of dissertations completed in 2009–2010 in the field of Regional Science to the annual competition. To apply, send an executive summary electronically no later than June 1, 2010 to rsai-dissertation@wu-wien.ac.at. This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it

Two copies of the dissertation and a letter of nomination from the research supervisor should follow by regular mail, to be received no later than July 1, 2010. Send all submissions to Professor Gunther Maier, gunther.maier@wu-wien.ac.at

For further information about the RSAI Dissertation Competition, please contact Prof. Maier at: This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it

This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript

enabled to view it Regional Development and Environment, Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Augasse 2–6, A-1090 Vienna, Austria. The dissertations should be in finished form and professionally presented. A CD with a PDF copy of the dissertation may be included.

10.2. Fellows award

RSAI members are invited to nominate distinguished scholars for consideration to become 2010 Fellows of RSAI. The nomination process can be initiated by any member of RSAI and consists of a letter of nomination, detailing the scientific merit and contribution of the nominee and an up to date curriculum vitae. Current Fellows are not allowed to submit nominations. To ensure full consideration by the committee, these materials should be provided in electronic format (pdf preferred) by January 31, 2010 to Geoffrey Hewings, Chair 2010 Fellows Election Committee at: hewings@illinois.edu.



11. Next Issue theme

The Theme of the next issue will be 'The Economic Crisis and Regional Science'. Please send any contributions directly to Eveline van Leeuwen Eleeuwen@feweb.vu.nl or Graham Clarke G.P.Clarke@Leeds.ac.uk.