



## More Papers in Regional Science

Readers of *Papers in Regional Science* who still receive hard copies will have noticed immediately that the page size of the journal has increased when they put this copy on the bookshelf. With this increase the 2008 volume 87 of *Papers in Regional Science* will become the volume in which more articles about regional science will be published than ever before in the history of the journal.

To enhance the further development and success of *Papers in Regional Science* several new features that were announced last year have now become effective (see Van Dijk 2007). As of December 2006 *Papers in Regional Science* started using the internet based online submission and administration system Manuscript Central for manuscript handling and management of the review process. Already in 2007 this system proved to be much more efficient than the old paper trail based system. For instance, the average time to first decision on a new submission has almost been halved to less than three months in 2007! Also the number of submissions increased substantially: through November 2007 there were 132 new submissions compared to an average of 80 during the last five years. In order to publish papers within one year of acceptance, the size of *Papers in Regional Science* needed to expand. The increase in page size by almost 25% was chosen as a first solution, because it can be implemented quickly and allows for an increase in the number of published articles in 2008. Over the period 1962 through 2000 the average volume size has been approximately 450 pages, and after 2000 the annual page budget was increased to 600 pages. The larger page size of this volume is equal to 750 pages of the old format. If the number of submissions continues to increase, a further expansion in the number of pages or issues of *Papers in Regional Science* will be necessary in the future.

Since the second issue of volume 86 of 2007, online issues at the Blackwell Synergy website, contains abstracts in Spanish and Japanese that complement the English abstracts, and this should increase accessibility of the journal worldwide. Since the third issue of volume 86, articles are published online in the Online Early section of *Papers in Regional Science*. This makes them available on the website as soon as final versions have been accepted and prepared for publication by Blackwell, and preceding the formal appearance of the issues they are scheduled to appear in. Access to *Papers in Regional Science* has increased substantially in recent years mainly due to the large increase in readers who have online access. Over 3,500 members of RSAI have free online access to *Papers in Regional Science* (including the most recently published issue and the Online Early articles) through the RSAI-website. In 2006 more than 27,000 articles from *Papers in Regional Science* were downloaded, three times the number of downloads in 2005. The most frequently downloaded article was 'Frontiers of the New Economic Geography' (Fujita and Mori 2005), and of the articles published in 2006 'Industrial clusters in Denmark: Theory and empirical evidence' (Engelstoft et al. 2006) topped the list of downloads.

At the 54th North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association in Savannah November 2007, the first *Martin Beckmann Award* for the best article published in *Papers in Regional Science* in 2006 was awarded to Bernard Fingleton and Enrique López-Bazo (2006)

for their article ‘Empirical growth models with spatial effects,’ with the award decided by a jury comprised of Raymond J.G.M. Florax (chair), Masahisa Fujita, Jean H. Paelinck, and John M. Quigley.

In 2006, the citation impact factor for the journal rose from 0.475 to 0.524. An editorial goal is a further increase of the impact factor to a value near 1, and publication of high quality special issues is expected to contribute to that goal. Therefore we are happy that Corinne Autant-Bernard, Jacques Mairesse and Nadine Massard (2007) prepared a special issue on ‘Spatial knowledge diffusion through collaborative networks’, which appeared as issue #3 of 2007. Guiseppa Arbia and Bernard Fingleton will act as guest-editors for a special issue on ‘Spatial econometrics’ that will appear as issue #3 of 2008, containing a selection of papers presented at the First World Conference of the Spatial Econometrics Association in Cambridge (UK) in July 2007. A special issue edited by Antonio Páez is planned for 2009 on the topic ‘Developments in spatial hedonic analysis with applications to real estate analysis’, based in part on papers presented at the NARSC Savannah meetings in November 2007.

In concluding this editorial, I would like to thank all authors and reviewers for their cooperation. Submission by authors of their best work to *Papers in Regional Science* and timely responses from reviewers allows the editors to give both timely and informative feedback to authors, providing a good experience for all involved. This should result in scholarly contributions that will further enhance the quality and reputation of *Papers in Regional Science* as the flagship journal of the Regional Science Association International.

**Jouke van Dijk**

Editor-in-Chief,

also on behalf of the editorial team

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