



Editorial

Progress in Regional Science

A main objective of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) is promoting regional science scholarship. Between 2000 and 2007, this involved annual publication of 600 pages of peer-reviewed scholarly articles in *Papers in Regional Science*. Beginning with the 2009 Volume 88 of *Papers in Regional Science*, we will expand the number of pages published from 600 to 900. The increased number of pages in conjunction with a change in the page format introduced in 2008 will result in a near doubling of the number of words published in *Papers in Regional Science* over the last two years. The growth of the *Papers* journal together with the recent launch of the policy and practice journal *Regional Science Policy & Practice* (RSPP) in November 2008 points to growing interest in regional science scholarship that spans an audience of regional scientists, professional policy-makers and practitioners in a number of disciplines.

In addition to expanded size, the audience for the scholarship in *Papers* has expanded beyond conventional library access to free online access for RSAI members to the most recent issue and to forthcoming articles using Early View available on the RSAI-website. The most downloaded article from those published in 2007 was 'Spatial and sectoral composition effects of agglomeration economies in the Netherlands' by Frank G. van Oort (2007), and the article most downloaded by RSAI members using the RSAI website was 'Do geographical agglomeration, growth and equity conflict?' by Vincent Dupont (2007).

The article that was most downloaded during the year 2007 was a 2004 manuscript by Masahisa Fujita and Paul Krugman entitled 'The New Economic Geography: Past, present and the future'. It is likely that this and other works addressing New Economic Geography issues will attract more attention in the aftermath of Krugman's 2008 Nobel Prize award for his work in this area. *Papers in Regional Science* will introduce a new feature that we have labelled Virtual Special Issues using work in this area. The first Virtual Special Issue will be titled 'Further thoughts on Paul Krugman's NEG model in *Papers in Regional Science*', and will consist of an introduction by Kristian Behrens and Frédéric Robert-Nicoud followed by a selection of papers published in *Papers in Regional Science* in recent years that deal with NEG-issues. The introductory article will also appear as an article in issue 2 of Volume 88.

Articles accepted for publication are now available online in advance of their appearance in a print issue using the Early View feature of the Wiley InterScience website for *Papers in Regional Science*. This allowed articles to appear online one-half year after acceptance, with appearance in print around one year after acceptance. The articles in Early View are the same as those that appear later in print, but lack page numbers and volume/issue details. For most purposes, these have been treated as published articles from the date they first appear online. This date is shown with the article in the online table of contents, and these articles can be cited using their Digital Object Identifier (DOI) numbers that uniquely identify both the printed and online versions of the article.

At the 55th North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association in New York November 2008, the second Martin Beckmann Award was awarded to: J. Paul Elhorst and Annette S. Zeilstra (2007) for their article 'Labour force participation rates at the regional and

national levels of the European Union: An integrated analysis', with the award decided by a jury comprised of Jouke van Dijk (Chair), Masahisa Fujita, Jean H. Paelinck, and John M. Quigley.

The citation impact factor for *Papers in Regional Science* rose by 10 percent in 2007 from 0.524 to 0.576. This shows that *Papers in Regional Science* is increasing in both the quantity of pages as well as quality. A further increase of the impact factor towards a value of 1 is an important goal of the editorial team. High quality special issues contribute substantially to the number of citations, and we are fortunate to have Guiseppe Arbia and Bernard Fingleton (2008) as guest-editors for issue #3 of 2008 on 'New spatial econometric techniques and applications in regional sciences'. For 2009, a special issue will be edited by Antonio Páez on 'Developments in spatial hedonic analysis with applications to real estate analyses', scheduled as issue #2 of Volume 88. Another special issue edited by Michaela Trippel and Gunther Maier on 'Knowledge Spillover Agents and Regional Development' is planned for 2010.

The editorial team continues the policy of rotating Editorial Board membership. This policy allows us to express our appreciation to past Board members for their service and gives us the opportunity to engage additional scholars in the peer-reviewing burdens of the journal. It also allows us to adjust the composition of the Editorial Board to better reflect submissions to *Papers in Regional Science* in emerging fields such as new economic geography and spatial econometrics. We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to those Board members who recently completed their service to the journal. Their support in promoting the journal and reviewing manuscripts has been extremely important for operation of the journal and is greatly appreciated. The current Editorial Board members beginning with Volume 88 of 2009 can be found in the preliminary pages of this issue.

In concluding this editorial, the editors would like to thank all authors and reviewers for their cooperation. Timely responses from reviewers allowed the editors to reduce the average time for a first decision on manuscript submissions from nearly six months to three months. In addition, we would like to thank our publishers for allowing a wider dissemination of regional science scholarship. We hope that more rapid decision times and large audiences will encourage authors to submit their best work to *Papers in Regional Science*, further enhancing 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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