



Editorial

Impact in Regional Science

Increasing the journal impact factor of *Papers in Regional Science* was an important goal of the editorial team as indicated in the January 2009 editorial. We are pleased to report that the impact factor rose to 1.265 for the year 2008, implying a substantial increase in the scientific impact of articles published in *Papers in Regional Science*. High quality special issues contributed substantially to increasing citations to *Papers in Regional Science*, as evidenced by the fact that 58% of the 2008 citations were to articles that appeared in 2006 and 2007 special issues. We anticipate the 2009 impact factor will benefit from citations to articles in the special issues: 'Spatial knowledge diffusion through collaborative networks' edited by Corinne Autant-Bernard, Jacques Mairesse and Nadine Massard (2007) and 'New spatial econometric techniques and applications in regional science' edited by Giuseppe Arbia and Bernard Fingleton (2008). Publication of accepted papers in Early View prior to their appearance in print should also have a positive effect on the impact factor, which we predict will remain at the 2008 level during 2009.

In 2008 there were over 25,000 downloads of articles published in *Papers in Regional Science*, with the most downloaded article being a 2005 article entitled: 'Agglomeration, economic geography and regional growth' by Philip McCann and Daniel Shefer. Of the articles published in 2008 the most frequently downloaded was 'Spatial data analysis of regional development in Greater Beijing, China, in a GIS environment' by Danlin Yu and Yehua Dennis Wei (2008).

The 2009 volume 88 of *Papers in Regional Science* was the first volume in our new expanded size format containing 900 pages rather than our previous 600 page format. For 2009 the special issue: 'Spatial analysis of economic systems and land use change' edited by Antonio Páez (2009) is already in print and another special issue edited by Michaela Trippel and Gunther Maier (Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Austria) on 'Knowledge spillover agents and regional development' is scheduled for publication in issue 2. In 2011, a special issue on 'Mechanisms, developments and policy in regional innovation systems and clusters' is in preparation by guest editor Thomas Brenner (Philipps-University Marburg, Germany).

Papers in Regional Science published the first 'Virtual Issue' in 2009 which was devoted to the impact of 2008 Nobel Prize winner Paul Krugman's New Trade Theory (NTT) and New Economic Geography (NEG) on regional science. A virtual issue consists of an introduction followed by a selection of articles from past volumes of *Papers in Regional Science*, in this case NEG-related articles. The introductory article 'Krugman's Papers in Regional Science: The 100 dollar bill on the sidewalk is gone and the 2008 Nobel Prize well-deserved' was also published as a regular article in issue 2 of volume 88 (Behrens and Robert-Nicoud 2009). Virtual issues start with a topical review that relates ideas from articles previously published in *Papers in Regional Science* over the years to produce an online-only issue that brings together themed material for scholars and students. The editorial team welcomes proposals for future virtual issues dealing with topics that would be of interest to our readers.

The third Martin Beckmann prize for the best article published in 2008 in *Papers in Regional Science* was awarded to Fabien Candau (2008) for his article 'Good governance, trade and

agglomeration', with the award decided by a jury comprised of Masahisa Fujita, Jean H. Paelinck, John M. Quigley and Jouke van Dijk (chair).

Terms of the current editorial team ended in December 2009, but RSAI Council appointed the team for another three year term. In addition, the council agreed to enlarge the team to include Takatoshi Tabuchi (University of Tokyo) who specializes in the field of urban economics and New Economic Geography models and Yoshitsugu Hayashi (Nagoya University) who adds expertise in transportation and environmental fields. The added expertise of our two new editors allows the editorial team to cover a broad range of regional science topics of interest and geographical areas to our readers. The combination of timely responses from reviewers and enlargement of the editorial team should help keep the average time for first decisions on submitted manuscripts less than three months.

Future improvement in the quality and scientific impact of *Papers in Regional Science* is of course our editorial goal for the flagship journal of the Regional Science Association International. We felt that the first article of this new decennium by Luc Anselin who shares his personal views on the development of spatial econometrics during the past thirty years is a good start.

Jouke van Dijk

Editor-in-Chief, also on behalf of the editorial team

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