



Never change a winning team?

Papers in Regional Science (PiRS) has a long history as the official journal of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI). In the 1950s the journal started as conference proceedings with a very informal selection procedure of the papers that were published. In 1990 PiRS became a refereed journal with the aim of becoming the flagship journal attracting the best regional science papers worldwide. At that time PiRS was still published as an in-house publication outlet of the University of Illinois Press. It took about another decade before RSAI Council decided that Papers in Regional Science should take advantage of the logistic, production and marketing expertise of a renowned publishing house. Once this decision was taken it had to be implemented

This implementation was carried out with excellence by a small group of people who served as members of the editorial team under Editor-in-Chief Raymond Florax (now at Purdue University, West Lafayette, U.S.A., and before at the Free University in Amsterdam, The Netherlands). During the last decade, Raymond guided the transition process to Springer and later to Blackwell, the current publisher of PiRS. Contrary to the notion that one should 'never change a winning team', the current editorial group has decided to pass on editorial responsibilities to a new group of colleagues, which was formally approved by RSAI Council in 2006 who appointed a new editorial team. Beginning with this volume, the composition of the editorial team of Papers in Regional Science has changed entirely after a stable period of 10 years. After serving two years as European editor, I will take over the Editor-in-Chief and European editor responsibilities from Raymond Florax. During the transition of Raymond from Europe to the US, and the change from Springer to Blackwell the editorial team temporarily had an extra member with me taking over from Raymond the position as European editor. From now on, the editorial team will again consist of four members: the Book Review Editor plus three editors with a base in each of the three superregional organisations of RSAI in North America, Europe and the Pacific. Philip McCann (University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand) has his base in the Pacific and is the successor of Jacques Poot (also at University of Waikato) who served for almost a decade as Pacific Editor. James LeSage (Texas State University–San Marcos, U.S.A.) has been appointed as the new editor with a base in North America and replaces Jessie Poon (University at Buffalo–SUNY, Buffalo, U.S.A.) who served as North American Editor for five years. The geographical base of the editors in no way implies that they represent the superregional organisation or they

deal exclusively with papers from that part of the world. All submissions are to the Editor-in-Chief who distributes manuscripts to the editorial team based on areas of scholarly expertise. The introduction of a Book Review section in *Papers in Regional Science* during the last decade benefited from the efficient management skills of book review editor Brigitte Waldorf (Purdue University, West Lafayette, U.S.A) for eight years. Charlie Karlsson (Jönköping International Business School, Sweden) has been appointed as the new book review editor. Last but not least, Sophia Klaassen (Groningen) will take over from Joy L. May (West Lafayette) as editorial assistant. The formation of the new editorial team was easy since my first choices agreed to join the team without any hesitation, in my view implying that I have an ideal team with expertise that covers a large part of the regional science discipline.

On behalf of all readers, referees and authors of *Papers of Regional Science* and the association, I would like to thank the outgoing editors and especially, Raymond Florax as the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, for their excellent service to the association and to *Papers in Regional Science* in particular. They transformed the journal from an in-house publication that appeared sometimes with a delay into a very professional, visible and high-quality journal with new elements like shorter research papers, book reviews as well as more pages and more submission than ever before. It is a great pleasure for me to announce that all outgoing editors have been appointed members of the Editorial Board by RSAI Council, allowing them to maintain their relationship with the journal. Due to their new editorial roles, Philip McCann and Jim LeSage will no longer be part of the Editorial Board.

Due to the excellent job of the outgoing editors the new editorial team has the good fortune to begin with a truly global, successful journal that will continue to contribute to a prosperous future for regional science as a discipline and a profession. We intend a continuation of the successful policies of the outgoing editorial team, and hope to add some new elements. For example, this issue is the first in which abstracts are also published in Spanish and Japanese. The tradition of publishing special issues will also be continued, with a forthcoming special issue focusing on spatial knowledge diffusion through collaborative networks, delivered by the guest-editors Corinne Autant-Bernard (University of Saint-Etienne, France), Jacques Mairesse (CREST-ENSAE, France and NBER, U.S.A.) and Nadine Massard (University of Saint-Etienne, France). A major technical innovation for the journal will be the usage by the new editors of the electronic submission and tracking system, Manuscript Central, to manage the submission and reviewing process. In addition to increased efficiency for the editors, this system will also add to the transparency of the reviewing process for authors and referees. One of my goals is to reduce the turnaround time from submission to publication of PiRS substantially. My hope is that this will have a positive effect on the impact factor of the journal, and that it will further increase the number of submissions.

I am honoured that RSAI Council has appointed me as Editor-in-Chief for the flagship journal of RSAI and I hope that no one will regret the change of the winning team. Together with the other editors, the Editorial Board, the professional support of the people from Blackwell Publishers and the support of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences of the University of Groningen, I will do my utmost to

make the journal even better. However, I can only succeed if authors and referees continue to be as cooperative as in the past. I cordially invite you to submit your best work to *Papers in Regional Science* and trust that you will also respond quickly to requests for reviews, thereby making it possible for the editors to provide both timely feedback to authors as well as informed judgements regarding your scholarly contributions. The final goal was clearly formulated in 1990 when PiRS transitioned from publishing conference proceedings to a refereed journal format: PiRS is expected to figure at the top of the list when it comes to selecting a publication outlet for important new work in our field.

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