

*Contents*

**FOREWORD:**

President of RSAI – Associate Professor Budy Resosudarmo	2
President of ANZRSAI – Robyn Eversole	4

**THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL BUDGET**

The regions in the Australian Federal Budget	4
Regions 2030: Unlocking Opportunity in Regional Australia	5
Towards 2030 Agenda	6

**COMMENTARY**

From the Regional Australia Institute	7
From the Regional Universities Network	8
From the Conversation	9
From Food Innovation Australia Limited	9
From the Cockatoo Network	10
From the Productivity Commission	11

**CONFERENCES and STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

ANZRSAI 2017 Conference First Call for Papers	12
Regional Studies Association Australasian Conference	13
Nicolas Baudin Travel Grant 2017-2018	13

**CURRENT RESEARCH ABSTRACTS**

Regional Science Policy and Practice 9(1)	14
Papers in Regional Science	15
International Journal of Qualitative Methods	16
Australasian Journal of Regional Studies (Notes from the Editors)	17

**ABOUT ANZRSAI**

ANZRSAI Council Notes	18
ANZRSAI Conference News	18
ANZRSAI Council 2017	19

## *Foreword*

*President of RSAI: Associate Professor Budy Resosudarmo*

Associate Professor Budy P. Resosudarmo, member of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics at the Australian National University, Australia, was elected by the RSAI Council of Tainan (19th May 2017) as President of RSAI for the term 2017-2018. Budy Resosudarmo has impressive academic accomplishments, a large practice in organizing successful conferences, an extensive experience with professional organizations and have successfully reinvigorated new regional science sections namely in Indonesia. This RSAI choice brings the sound hope of an enlarged, better and global scientific organization targeted to the study of human interaction in space for the sustainable development of persons and places.

The motivation to be the leader of RSAI is to significantly expand RSAI organizations and programs in Asia, particularly Southeast Asia, and South America, whilst maintaining the size and programs in North America, Europe and Australia. I would also lay down further foundations for possible future development of RSAI in Africa. In achieving this goal, I would like to do, among others, the following:

*1. Promoting organization models and strategies that could work for founding and developing RSAI sections in developing countries.*

In 1997 when Indonesia's GDP was approximately US\$1,000 per capita, with some initial guidance from Professors Geoffrey Hewings and Yoshiro Higano, I co-founded the Indonesian section of RSAI (i.e. Indonesian Regional Science Association or IRSA). IRSA's first annual meeting was held in 2000.

Since 2000, IRSA conducts an annual meeting every year without fail and continues to grow as an organization. In 2000, we only had 14 papers submitted for our conference. In 2016, we received more than 400 paper submissions of which 220 papers were accepted for presentation. In the last 5 years, more than 300 people annually participated in our conference. By now the IRSA annual conference, which holds the only annual English-spoken academic conference in Indonesia with a call-for-papers program, is the main development policy conference in the country. IRSA itself has become one of the very few independent professional associations in Indonesia with strong orientation toward research and policy analysis. The organization does so by encouraging researchers to produce research papers and engage in a network of researchers through their participation in the annual IRSA conference.

Furthermore, within countries with the current level of Indonesia's GDP per capita (almost \$4,000), not many independent academic associations are as well-established as IRSA. Since its inception, I have acted as a key figure in the organization of the conference and publication, and for a long time I have been the vice president of IRSA. With this experience, I am confident that I can provide extensive advice to academics in developing countries on how to create independent academic associations there. I can work with them on models of organizations and strategies that would suit their respective country situations. In any opportunity, for example, I will discuss my experiences with academics from developing countries, via one-on-one meetings or by creating sessions where we will thoroughly discuss how to establish an association in a developing country.

*2. Developing programs encouraging inter-RSAI section collaboration, particularly between RSAI sections in developed and developing countries.*

Since 2011 I have been the head of ANU Indonesia Project, a Project funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade aimed, among others, at encouraging collaborative activities between Australia and Indonesian institutions. When I took this position, Australian related academic activities were restricted in a few Javanese major cities; i.e. Jakarta, Bogor, Bandung and Yogyakarta.

These activities were limited to collaborations between Australian institutions and a small number of Indonesian institutions. Under my leadership, ANU Indonesia Project then successfully implemented several programs that resulted in the dissemination of Australian-Indonesian collaboration throughout Indonesia. Now Australian related academic activities are present in numerous cities around Indonesia and are conducted in collaboration with local institutions within those cities. Recently, some of our programs have been adopted by similar projects funded by other countries' aid institutions. Based on this experience, I should be able to propose several programs that RSAI could adopt.

*3. Directing some of the RSAI related publications/journals so they become the main development policy journals for developing countries.*

My vision is for RSAI to not have the developing world as merely the subject of some of its publications and journals, but rather also provide more opportunities for academics from developing countries to publish their research in these publications/journals. For more than 15 years, I have been involved in the management of an Australian based economic journal on Indonesia. Since 2011 I have become the head of ANU Indonesia Project, where I guide the editorial team in determining the direction of the journal. Up until the early 2000s it was common for various issues of this journals to be published without a single Indonesian author. We developed activities and programs to encourage Indonesian authors to submit their work to this journal and to improve the quality of these submissions. This has resulted in at least one Indonesian author being published in almost every issue.

*4. Creating a situation to encourage young academics from developing countries to pursue higher education at graduate programs in developed countries, where the presence of regional scientists is prominent.*

In the last 15 years I have been living in Australia, I have observed the country was able to significant increase the numbers of its graduate students from Southeast Asia. These 15 years of insight will provide the basis for me in advising graduate programs in developed countries on attracting students from developing countries, particularly Southeast Asia. I will also develop programs encouraging young academics in developing countries to enrol to these programs.

*5. Help acquiring for funding from both international and domestic sources to support RSAI activities in developing countries.*

In the last 15 years, I have successfully attracted funds from aid agencies to support IRSA and several other organizations in Southeast Asia. Currently, it is quite challenging to raise funds from international donors due to the global economy. Even with the right strategy and persistence, resources from aid agencies to fund RSAI's activities in the developing world will be limited. My knowledge of the relevance of local associations such as the local sections of RSAI to aid agencies can help to put them in perspective and priorities of these agencies.

To develop RSAI organizations and activities in developing countries, maintaining RSAI sections in developed countries as centres of excellence in regional science is absolutely crucial. I would like to see the strength of these centres of excellence maintained and continuously affirmed.

I certainly understand that there are serious challenges in developing RSAI organizations in developing countries. Implementing the above mentioned programs will involve a lot of hard work on my part. I hope to strengthen my networks with other colleagues in RSAI and to gain their support to help me achieve these tasks, if elected.

Yours sincerely,

Budy P. Resosudarmo

Sourced from RSAI website:

[https://www.regionalscience.org/~r111cegonalh/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=1909:announcement-of-the-election-of-professor-budy-resosudarmo-as-president-of-the-regional-science-association-international-for-the-period-2017-2018&Itemid=646](https://www.regionalscience.org/~r111cegonalh/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1909:announcement-of-the-election-of-professor-budy-resosudarmo-as-president-of-the-regional-science-association-international-for-the-period-2017-2018&Itemid=646)

*President of ANZRSAI – Professor Robyn Eversole*

I am delighted to welcome Associate Professor Budy Resosudarmo as our new President of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI). RSAI is the global association of which our own Australia and New Zealand Association (ANZRSAI) forms a part. It is fantastic that Budy is not only based here but brings a significant global focus and vision to this role, following on from the excellent leadership of Professor Jacques Poot. Budy's leadership in developing linkages with research colleagues in Indonesia and South East Asia is inspiring; it reminds us that the work of regional analysis is globally significant. Strengthening our networks with colleagues in other countries provides important opportunities for comparative research and mutual learning.

Our own ANZRSAI has been actively forging scholarly networks with South America with a particular focus on linking up applied Regional Research Centres to support practical impacts in rural and resource-based regions. With the support of RSAI and DFAT through the Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR), and working with SOCHER–Chile and SAER–Argentina (ANZRSAI's sister organisations) we have developed the Sustainable Regions Applied Research Network. This new Network is bringing together over two dozen Regional Research Centres in three countries that are working to build capability and innovation in rural and resource-based regions. There is significant potential to expand this work.

I believe that regional research has the potential to make a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by reminding policy makers why and how 'place matters' for creating positive change, and bringing our various disciplinary lenses to bear to understand the economic, social, and environmental dynamics of regions – wherever they are in the world.

### ***The Australian Federal Budget***

*The regions in the Australian Federal Budget*

“The centrepiece of the Federal Budget is a \$20 billion long-term investment in passenger and freight rail comprising a \$10 billion National Rail Program for urban and regional passenger rail; an additional \$8.4 billion to deliver the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail; and more than \$1.3 billion for regional rail projects in Victoria, the Perth Metronet and faster city-regional connections.”

“Another key Budget outcome is \$5.3 billion to build a new airport for Western Sydney.”

Source <https://infrastructure.gov.au/>

*Regions 2030: Unlocking Opportunity in Regional Australia (Fiona Nash)*

“The Regions 2030: Unlocking Opportunity regional policy statement ...sets out the Government's agenda for regional Australia towards 2030—working to make regional Australia an even better place to live, work and invest.

“The Regions 2030 agenda encompasses the five key focus areas of Jobs and Economic Development; Infrastructure; Health; Education; and Communications.

“Regional Australia is a key driver of the Australian economy.

“Minister for Regional Development Fiona Nash has launched the Coalition Government's vision statement for rural, regional and remote Australia: Regions 2030: Unlocking Opportunity in Broken Hill today (17 May 2017).

“The Regions 2030 statement outlines the government's vision for regional Australia and the key initiatives helping to achieve that vision.

“Regional development is about having a vision for what we want regional communities to look like in 20 years. It's about making sure we create both careers and jobs in our communities so our children and grandchildren can lead fulfilling lives. It's about developing ways our young people can receive an excellent education without leaving the community they grew up in.

“It's about building the kinds of communities our children and grandchildren either want to stay in or come back to.

“Regional development is about much more than just grants programs.

“It's also about lifting the profile of regional Australia and creating awareness of the fact every Australian owes their lifestyle to regional Australia.

“Regional Australia provides the water city people drink, the milk on their breakfast, the meat and vegetables for dinner, the gas to cook dinner and heat water, and the electricity which powers their households.

“Investing in our regions is essential for Australia—strong regions mean a strong nation.

“A ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to developing regional policy does not work. Regions 2030 focuses on working with communities to meet their economic and social needs, which will help to improve life for rural, regional and remote Australians.”

This commitment is being delivered through investment and activity across five focus areas across Government:

- Jobs and economic development;
- Infrastructure;
- Health;
- Education; and
- Communications.

“Regions 2030 and the Regional Australia Ministerial Taskforce, chaired by the Prime Minister, will continue to consider policies which take advantage of the opportunities available and tackle the challenges facing regional Australia,” Minister Nash said.

Minister Nash said the announcement follows the release of the 2017–18 Federal Budget ...reinforcing the Coalition Government's commitment to unlock the potential of Australia's regions, including measures such as:

- An additional \$8.4 billion in new equity funding to construct Inland Rail.
- An extra \$200 million for the Building Better Regions Fund, bringing the total amount in the fund to almost \$500 million.
- \$272 million to provide grants of \$10 million or more for major projects to unlock the potential of regions, helping take advantage of new opportunities and potentially spur new industries.
- Lower taxes for small business.
- The structured decentralisation of Australian Government jobs from Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.
- Increased access for rural and remote Australians to psychological services via telehealth.
- Expanding community-owned university training hubs, which will allow students to study any university course in Australia from the region they grew up in.

The Coalition Government continues to think years ahead as it plans for regional Australia through initiatives including:

- Expanding community-owned university training hubs, which will allow students to study any university course in Australia from the region they grew up in.
- the Review of Medical Training in Australia, which will assess the number and distribution of medical places and medical schools in Australia as we aim to get more medical professionals to the regions.
- The Independent Review into Regional, Remote and Rural Education.
- Our process to assess which Australian Government departments, agencies and their parts could be suitable for decentralisation, to create local jobs and career paths and stimulate of economic growth in Australia's regions.

To view a copy of Regions 2030: Unlocking Opportunity, visit [http://regional.gov.au/regional/publications/regions\\_2030/](http://regional.gov.au/regional/publications/regions_2030/)

The concluding section follows:

*“Towards 2030 Agenda*

“This document has introduced the Australian Government's Regions 2030 agenda: putting the aspirations of regional Australians at the heart of Government decision making.

“Through significant investments across the five key focus areas of Jobs and Economic Development; Infrastructure; Health; Education; and Communications, Regions 2030 outlines the Australian Government's commitment to regional Australia and its future. Additionally, this Government's establishment of the Regional Australia Ministerial Taskforce to drive the Regions 2030 agenda demonstrates the priority we are placing on regional Australia across government.

“The Regions 2030 agenda signals a marked shift in the Government's approach to regional development. It is a recognition that ‘one-size-fits-all’ initiatives will not work in all regions; that local communities often have better solutions than government; and that when communities and government work in partnership, we can achieve long lasting and great outcomes.

“Communities, businesses and families across regional Australia will increasingly benefit from the Regions 2030 agenda over coming years. For example, towards 2030 Commonwealth funding for students in regional and remote Australia will increase by 84 per cent between 2017 and 2027. Towards 2030 regional businesses will receive a further boost as the first instalment of the Government's Tax Plan reduces the business tax rate for companies with a turnover less than \$50 million to 25 per cent by 2026–27.

“While the measures outlined here are a great start, there remains more that we can do to make regional Australia an even better place to live, work and invest.

“The Australian Government will continue to deliver faster and more reliable broadband, building transport links to better connect our regions with our cities and the world, enhance access to health services and improve education attainment rates.

“To support this work, the Australian Government has initiated a range of reviews and reforms that will ensure the momentum of our agenda continues towards 2030.

“One example is the Review of Medical Training in Australia, which in 2017 will assess the number and distribution of medical places and medical schools in Australia in the context of workforce modelling, the expansion of higher education places, and the Government's priorities to address maldistribution of medical professionals across Australia.

“We are also undertaking the Independent Review into Regional, Remote and Rural Education, which will consider the challenges that impact on the learning outcomes of students in regional, rural and remote communities. It will also identify innovative ways to help these students succeed at school and in their transition to further study, training and employment. The Independent Review is due to report by the end of 2017.

“Australia is largely driven by the contribution of its regions. The Australian Government's implementation of the Regions 2030 agenda recognises—and more importantly respects—this contribution. As we work towards 2030, let's embrace the challenges, seize the opportunities and make regional Australia an even better place in which to live, work and invest.”

[http://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/nash/releases/2017/May/fn071\\_2017.aspx](http://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/nash/releases/2017/May/fn071_2017.aspx)

Ed: The Regions 2030 agenda offers funding across education, transport and communications infrastructure, regional medical practitioners, and taxation. This is welcome. However, it lacks a functional definition of regions and a clear and enforceable evaluation framework leaving it subject to local capture.

## *Commentary*

### *From the Regional Australia Institute*

#### *Human Capital: Insight, Tools and products*

[http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HumanCapital-Talking-Point\\_final.pdf](http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HumanCapital-Talking-Point_final.pdf)

The skills and capabilities within people – their Human Capital – are critical for securing the economic prosperity of a region.

The latest Talking Point from the Regional Australia Institute and Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, *Human Capital: Learning Culture in Regional Australia*, identifies lifelong education, and bridging the education divide, as the key to securing the skills and capabilities needed to help our regions prosper. Doing so will build a more agile and technologically savvy workforce.

***From the Regional Universities Network***

*Some Support for Regional Students in Budget*

The 2017 Budget higher education reforms announced on 1 May have some positive measures for regional students.

The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, welcomed the announcement that the Government will provide \$15.2 million to support the establishment of up to eight new regional study hubs.

“More study hubs in regional Australia to support external students will facilitate student success and aspiration for university study,” Professor Hill said.

“In addition, the University of the Sunshine Coast has received a concessional loan to finance the construction of the foundation facilities for a new Morton Bay university campus in Queensland.

“The Government has restated its election commitment to provide \$24 million over four years from 2017-18 to establish a Regional and Remote Enterprise Scholarship Program. This will help improve educational attainment, skills development and employment opportunities for rural and regional students studying STEM and health subjects. This welcome initiative will provide at least 1,200 scholarships.

“RUN is disappointed that the funding cut to the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program announced in last year’s budget has not been reversed. This program helps support student success and outreach activities to schools and communities.

“Other 2017 budget initiatives relevant to regional Australia include: the refocusing of the existing incubator support element of the Entrepreneurs Program to provide additional support for regional businesses; \$20 million to the La Trobe Valley under the Regional Jobs and Investment package; continued Government support for the Regional Australia Institute to the end of 2017; continued funding of Regional Development Australia Committees to 2020-21; and more support for delivery of the National Cities Agenda,” Professor Hill said.

“We look forward in future budgets to increased funding for City Deals and other place-based policies which bring together all local stakeholders in a collaborative and strategic vision for the future.”

Contact: Dr Caroline Perkins

Executive Director, Regional Universities Network, 0408 482 736

Find out more about the Regional Universities Network at [www.run.edu.au](http://www.run.edu.au)

Follow us on: Twitter: @RegUniNet

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RegionalUniversitiesNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/RegionalUniversitiesNetwork)

## THE CONVERSATION

### *Cities are complex systems – let's start looking at them that way*

Nicholas Stevens, University of the Sunshine Coast; Paul Salmon, University of the Sunshine Coast

There are very few approaches that examine all aspects of the complexity of urban design and development. Ergonomics, human factors and sociotechnical systems methods offer a way forward.

Higher-density cities need greening to stay healthy and liveable. Access to high-quality public open space is a key ingredient of [healthy, liveable cities](#). This has long been recognised in government planning policy, based on a large body of academic research showing that accessible green spaces [lead to better health outcomes](#). However, cities are home to more than just people. We also need to [accommodate the critters and plants](#) who live in them. This includes the species who called our cities home before we did.

<http://theconversation.com/cities-are-complex-systems-lets-start-looking-at-them-that-way-72665>.

### *The government should pick towns, not industries, to fund*

Richard Holden and Rosalind Dixon, UNSW

Rather than propping up failing industries, what if government instead provided incentives like tax breaks for expanding firms to locate in regional centres? This would help policymakers avoid a retreat to protectionism while also going some of the way to addressing rising inequality in Australia.

So far in response to failing industries, policymakers have often tried to prop those industries up. They have also spent some money on retraining, provided some small subsidies for relocation, and tried to make education of young people a little more suited to the globalised economy. In short, that's not enough.

<http://theconversation.com/the-government-should-pick-towns-not-industries-to-fund-78464>.

### *From Food Innovation Australia Limited*

Overview of Food Innovation Australia Ltd European Cluster Visit (27th October – 11th November 2016) By Peter Schutz and Mirjana Prica

“Executive Summary

Clusters are groups of similar and related businesses in a defined geographic area that share common markets, technologies and worker skill needs. Europe has a strong cluster approach to operating their economy and there are many examples across the continent that shows the improved economic activity resulting from the agglomeration of like-minded or related businesses in a region. Clustering tends to increase the productivity of companies in the cluster, drive innovation in the field, and can also stimulate new businesses in the sector. The European Commission has developed a cluster platform that outlines a framework for cluster management and a range of services to support their activities.

Most countries have academics and departments assessing the economic impact of their government's regional and national innovation policies, and they use this information to shape and inform future policies.

A partnership between industry, government and knowledge institutes is essential in the design and direction of a cluster. There are some key attributes of a successful model but it is evident that one model does not fit all clusters. One of the key drivers of cluster success is derived from the burning platform or necessity to work on a common purpose or challenge, which businesses cannot resolve on their own. This forces and drives them to work cooperatively and collaboratively. Being open to change and having the agility to respond quickly is also critical. Connection to the market and having the strong market focus / pull is also very important in establishing relevance to the sector and impact.

The issue of sustainability is a challenge for all the clusters in Europe and there are no clusters that do not receive government support. The partnership between the different players: industry, government and knowledge institutes, is vital in aligning initiatives and providing income to support the different activities of a cluster. Having a long-term perspective and investment is important to allow the momentum to build and results to be achieved. There are many countries that have established a national cluster competition where cluster consortiums bid for funding. This approach ensures clusters are well-designed based on the needs of the industry, ultimately delivering tangible and compounding results for both the sector and country.

The cluster lessons from Europe should be used to inform a national cluster approach for Australia.”

Mr Peter Schutz Dr Mirjana Prica  
Chairman, FIAL Managing Director, FIAL

For the full report go to: [info@fial.com.au](mailto:info@fial.com.au) | [www.fial.com.au](http://www.fial.com.au)

### ***From the Cockatoo Network***

Dear Colleagues

Tracy Scott-Rimington in Brisbane has kindly forwarded this link to a recent ABC radio program on clusters.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/themoney/economic-clusters:-how-they-work-and-what-theyre-good-for/8579570>

It is worth a listen (runs for 28 minutes) – Roy Green (Cockatoo member) is at his usual best, Richard Florida is on his usual bandwagon, and Allan O’Connor provides some good angles on SA clusters.

The only shortcoming is the emphasis on high technology and the role of universities, to the exclusion of any real discussion on rural clusters and the role of hard/soft infrastructure. Roy outlines the role for government.

PS – Rod Brown is currently trying to rev-up the federal Industry Minister’s office on the subject.

Forwarded by Rod Brown

*From the Productivity Commission*

*Inquiry on Transitioning Regional Economies*

The Productivity Commission has published the Initial Report of the Inquiry on Transitioning Regional Economies. It has requested responses to several questions. Extracts from the Initial Report follow.

“FINDINGS:

“INITIAL FINDING 4.1 A single metric of relative adaptive capacity cannot capture the unique attributes of each regional community, nor can it be used with any precision to rank regions. There is significant uncertainty about the index values estimated for each region. Moreover, adaptive capacity does not identify whether a region will be successful in transition following a disruption. The metric can be used to explore some broad themes and patterns of adaptive capacity across broad classes of regions. p32

“INITIAL FINDING 4.2 The main factors shaping the index value of relative adaptive capacity for each region relate to:

- people-related factors (including education achievement, employment rates, skill levels, personal incomes and community cohesion)
- the degree of remoteness and accessibility to infrastructure and services
- natural endowments, such as agricultural land
- industry diversity.

“Data from the 2016 Census and other sources of data not available for the initial report are likely to change the regional rankings of adaptive capacity in the final report. p32

“INITIAL FINDING 4.3 Regions with an economic base concentrated in manufacturing tend to have lower employment growth and relatively low adaptive capacity. Many of these regions are located in the greater metropolitan areas of capital cities. p33

“INFORMATION REQUEST 4.1

“The Commission is seeking feedback on:

- the methodology that has been used to construct the index of adaptive capacity, including whether other methods might be superior for the purpose
- the factors (variables) that have been included in the index and whether there are other variables and data sources that could be used. p33

[Ed: The Commission has examined *de jure* regions rather than functional regions and so reaches conclusions which may not be sound.]

“INITIAL FINDINGS 5.1

“There is no single approach that will facilitate adaptation and sustainable development in all regions. It is unclear if strategies for adaptation and development have been successful as evaluation is usually not attempted. Strategies that focus on supporting people in regional communities to adjust to changing economic circumstances appear more likely to be successful. The best strategies are those that:

- are identified and led by the regional community itself, in partnership with all levels of government
- remove barriers to people or businesses relocating, both within or to other regions
- are aligned with the region's relative strengths and inherent advantages
- are supported by targeted investment in developing the capability of the people to deal with adjustment and the connectivity of the region to other regions and markets
- facilitate private economic activity that is not dependent on ongoing government financial support (beyond general government transfers). p33

“INFORMATION REQUEST 5.1

“The Commission invites participants to comment on the relevance and applicability of the policy framework set out in this chapter. Where practicable, participants are asked to support their views with evidence of effective and/or ineffective approaches that have been used to facilitate transition and development following disruptive events or ongoing pressures in regional areas (in Australia or overseas). p33.

“INITIAL FINDING 5.2 Governments can facilitate successful transition and development across all regions by removing regulatory barriers that impede people and businesses from taking advantage of economic opportunities, where such regulations are unjustified by the benefits they provide. Expediting regulatory reforms previously recommended by the Commission would assist in this regard.

“This would benefit all regions, regardless of their circumstances or adaptive capacity, and helps to improve the operation of the economy generally — making it a ‘win-win’ or ‘no-regrets’ way of supporting regional communities. However, it is particularly important to regions that do not have the advantages and range of opportunities found in capital cities and major regional centres. p34

“INFORMATION REQUEST 5.2

“The Commission invites participants to comment on where a regional community could benefit from a trial exemption from regulations that are unnecessarily inhibiting transition or development. p35

***CONFERENCES and STUDY OPPORTUNITIES***

***ANZRSAI 2017 Conference First Call for Papers***

We are pleased to advise that the First Call for Papers for this year's conference has been published, and submissions and registrations are now being accepted.

The conference will be held at the Toowoomba campus of USQ, from December 6th to December 8th with the theme "Fostering Regional Resilience, Engagement and Innovation".

Full details of the conference can be found at the 2017 Conference website.

We encourage all members to submit abstracts, take advantage of the Early Bird registration rates and also ask that you share this notice widely with your colleagues.

We hope to see you there.

***Regional Studies Association Australasian Conference***

You will be interested to know that the Regional Studies Association is hosting an Australasian conference, 3-5 July 2017 at the University of Sydney on the theme "Fragmented Regional Worlds: Inequality and Populism in a Globalising World".

The Academic Organisers are Prof. Bill Pritchard (University of Sydney), Prof. Phil McManus (University of Sydney), Prof. Andrew Beer (University of South Australia Business School), Prof. Lee Pugalis (University of Technology, Sydney) and Dr Amanda Tatersall (University of Sydney).

To read more please visit the conference website at [www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-australia-2017](http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-australia-2017).

***Applications for the 2017-2018 Nicolas Baudin Travel Grant are now open!***

The Embassy of France in Australia is pleased to announce that the applications for the 2017-2018 Nicolas Baudin Travel Grant are now open. The Nicolas Baudin Travel Grant is designed to encourage students to undertake study, research or professional development in France. The grant consists in a return flight ticket between Australia and France. For students undertaking an internship in a French laboratory or company, social insurance is also provided for a period of up to six months.

The Higher Education section has made some exciting new changes to the program from previous years, notably to include cotutelle candidates, students undertaking an internship in France, and students participating in a short course. By broadening the list of eligible candidates, we hope to receive an increased number of applications from a diverse range of students wishing to experience the benefits of studying in France. Additionally, applications must now be completed and submitted online to allow for a simpler and clearer process for students.

For this new version of the program, students are eligible to apply through the following frameworks:

- 1) Students seeking to undertake a research internship in a French laboratory or undertake an internship within a French company.
- 2) Students seeking to undertake research in France as part of a cotutelle joint-PhD established between an Australian university and a French university. The student will obtain an Australian degree and a French degree at the end of their studies.
- 3) Students enrolled at an Australian university seeking to take part in a study abroad/ exchange program at a French establishment.
- 4) Student seeking to pursue a full degree at a French university (students will obtain a French degree at the end of their studies), including double degrees jointly offered by a French and an Australian university.
- 5) Students seeking to undertake a short term program at a French establishment. This includes summer and winter school programs.

Applications from research, internship and cotutelle students will be given special consideration. Applications close 30 June 2017.

To apply for the grant, students will need to visit the Embassy's Grants and Opportunities page and follow the dedicated link to the online application platform.

For more information, students can visit the Nicolas Baudin Grants page or contact the Higher Education team at [education.canberra-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:education.canberra-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

Ms Phoebe Smith, Centre Coordinator  
Hawke EU Centre for Mobilities, Migrations and Cultural Transformations  
University of South Australia, GPO Box 2471, Adelaide SA 5001  
T: +61 8 830 22949| F: +61 8 830 22973| E: [phoebe.smith@unisa.edu.au](mailto:phoebe.smith@unisa.edu.au)  
W: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkeEUcentre> | [HawkeEUcentre\\_EuStars\\_14\\_01](#)

## ***CURRENT RESEARCH ABSTRACTS***

### ***Regional Science Policy and Practice***

9(1)

Pages 7–23

William M. Bowen and Haifeng Qian

#### ***State spending for higher education: Does it improve economic performance?***

Abstract: Increases in regional spending for higher education are conventionally believed to cause increases in economic performance. However, while some empirical evidence directly or indirectly confirms this belief, some research also brings it into question and even contradicts it. This research uses panel Granger causal models to consider not only the conventional belief but also the opposite possibility – that increases in economic performance cause increases in US state spending for higher education. It examines state spending for higher education in relation to educational attainment, per capita income and gross domestic product within the fifty states of the United States for the period 1989–2014. The results show that while increases in the share of a state's population with a bachelor degree Granger causes improved economic performance, in the short term of four years or less the direction of causality goes in the opposite direction from the one conventionally believed. Implications of this reverse causality are discussed from the policy perspective.

Version of Record online: 20 APR 2017 | DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12086

pages 25–37

Thomas E. Lambert, Gary A. Mattson and Kyle Dorriere

#### ***The impact of growth and innovation clusters on unemployment in US metro regions***

Abstract: Much has been written by various scholars and practitioners over the years about the benefits of industrial clustering. The benefits of such clustering or local agglomeration economies supposedly include greater regional exports, greater employment growth, greater payroll growth, and greater new business establishment creation, among other impacts. However, the work for this article has not uncovered much if any literature on how agglomeration affects United States regional unemployment rates. Additionally, most growing industrial and innovation clusters over the last two decades or so require highly educated and skilled workers. Since most of the unemployed at any given time tend to be less educated and less skilled than most workers on average, any local and state economic development policies that focus on clustering must be careful in targeting lower unemployment rates as a policy goal or outcome. From a theoretical point of view, if greater clustering leads to greater employment growth and employment levels then greater clustering in

a US metro area should yield lower unemployment rates than those which have lesser degrees of industry clustering on average. On the other hand, greater clustering and greater industry concentration in either declining industries or in those industries not in decline but at the same time not immune to bad cyclical downturns could yield greater unemployment rates and levels in metro areas which have these types of industries. Therefore, before pursuing any policies which promote greater industry clustering, it would be useful for policy-makers to know whether greater industry clustering or greater industry diversity makes a difference when it comes to unemployment rates for metro areas, which are usually defined as local job markets for most workers. This paper finds that, in general, greater clustering for 'growth and innovation' industries leads to lower unemployment rates in US metro areas, on average, after controlling for other factors which may impact local unemployment rates. Version of Record online: 5 APR 2017 | DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12087

Pages 39–59

Jeremy L. Sage and Vicki A. McCracken

*Mitigating food deserts: Do farmers' markets break from the status quo?*

Abstract: This paper revisits the previously developed rationale for periodic market placement under the contemporary lens of farmers' markets. The number average size rule is first employed to question whether the 'centre' level that can sustain a grocery store is climbing, and creating disadvantaged access. This is extended to the farmers' market system that is portrayed as an alternative ethic to the conventional system. This effort examines whether the discourse of local matches the actions, or whether farmers' markets location decisions mirror that of conventional distribution. The results from bivariate spatial

point pattern analyses reinforce notions of the retail system, as leaving areas of effective food deserts, and further suggest farmers' markets have a tendency to locate close to those retail outlets. Version of Record online: 15 MAY 2017 | DOI: 10.1111/rsp3.12088

*Papers in Regional Science*

96(1) March 2017

Pages 3–12

Peter A.G. van Bergeijk, Steven Brakman and Charles van Marrewijk

*Heterogeneous economic resilience and the great recession's world trade collapse*

Abstract: This special section aims to fill a gap in the regional resilience literature and to stimulate future spatial studies of resilience to include the international dimension in empirical analyses. It demonstrates the do-ability and relevance by the natural experience of the global trade collapse that allows us to separate the effect of collapse upon event and ex post recovery because no ex ante resilience measures were taken. This is a great methodological advantage with respect to the literature on natural disasters and financial crises that is confronted with the difficulty of identifying resilience because of ex ante measures (prevention or inherent resilience measures) and ex post measures (recovery or adaptive resilience measures). DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12279

Pages 13-32

Marcel van den Berg, Marjolijn Jaarsma

*What drives heterogeneity in the resilience of trade: Firm-specific versus regional characteristics?*

Abstract: Employing micro-data of Dutch local business units, we show that firm characteristics such as size, economic activity, the traded product portfolio, the focus of trade involvement

and the geographic pattern of trade are important determinants of recovery following the trade collapse of 2008–2009, both in terms of speed and depth. Our findings suggest that post-crisis growth is faster for trade in goods further downstream of the value chain and thus closer to the final consumer. Trade recovery at the firm-level does not crucially hinge on locational factors such as the province in which a firm is located or regional revealed comparative advantages in particular product groups. First published: 22 May 2016 Full publication history DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12233

Pages 33–59  
Saara Tamminen

*Regional effects or none? Firms' profitability during the Great Recession in Finland*

Abstract: We analyse the effects of the Great Recession (GR) on the profitability of firms located in the main cities versus in the rest of Finland. Based on earlier literature, various regional factors could affect firms' profitability in urban areas in comparison to periphery during a major export demand shock, such as what the GR was in Finland. Yet, there are both negative and positive location specific factors in play. We use micro-data from 2005 to 2010, and employ different profitability indicators and fixed effects panel regressions. Our results indicate that firm and sector level factors affected the profitability changes the most. Regional differences seem to stem mainly from a composition of firm and sector level factors. Version of Record online: 21 APR 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12222

Pages 61–92  
Steven Brakman and Charles Van Marrewijk

*A closer look at revealed comparative advantage: Gross-versus value-added trade flows*

Abstract: The improved availability of value-added trade data allows us to identify more clearly what fragment in the production chain is internationally competitive in a particular country. Rather than focusing on particular sectors or examples, we determine the distributions of revealed comparative advantage (RCA) in terms of both gross exports and value-added for 40 countries. Systematically comparing these distributions reveals significant differences for RCA based on gross exports versus value-added data. Using data on the Great Recession as an example, we argue that value-added RCA is more informative regarding the workings of the real economy than gross sector RCA. Version of Record online: 18 JAN 2016 | DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12208

*International Journal of Qualitative Methods*  
14(2) April 2015

Pages: 92-103  
Zawadi Rucks-Ahidiana and Ariel H. Bierbaum

*Qualitative Spaces: Integrating Spatial Analysis for a Mixed Methods Approach*

Abstract: Spatial context matters for qualitative social science inquiry. Yet, the explicit and consistent integration of these analyses has largely been segregated to the spatial sciences, geography and urban planning. In this article, we present a theoretical argument for integrating spatial data in qualitative inquiry and strategies for how to triangulate spatial and qualitative data. We argue that including spatial analyses in inquiries of social phenomena enhances depth and rigor to qualitative work across the social sciences. DOI:  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/160940691501400208>

*Australasian Journal of Regional Studies,*

Vol. 23, No. 1, 2017

From Professor Paul Dalziel,  
Executive Officer, ANZRSAI

The latest issue of AJRS (Volume 23, Issue 1) has now been published and is available to members and subscribers via the journal website. Remember that you will need your username (email that this notice has been sent to) and your password to access the articles in this latest issue.

This issue contains six papers:

PERCEIVED RISKS TO HOUSING  
UNAFFORDABILITY IN RESOURCE-LED  
REGIONAL COMMUNITIES: LESSONS FOR  
AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL CITIES

PLACE BRANDING: VIABLE  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OR  
PRACTITIONER PLACEBO

ACCESSIBILITY OF ANBESSA CITY BUS  
SERVICE IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA: AN  
ANALYSIS OF STAKEHOLDER'S  
OPINIONS

THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT PARADOX: ATTEMPTING  
POLICY ORDER IN THE FACE OF  
SOCIETAL COMPLEXITY

GOING OFF THE BEATEN TRACK:  
EXPLORING CHINESE INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS' MOTIVATIONS IN SELECTING  
A REGIONAL AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY

CREATIVITY IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIAN  
ACCOUNTING FIRMS

I take this opportunity to thank again the journal editors, Mike Hefferan and Bruce Wilson.

*Notes from the Editors*

'Towards the Future: Emerging Priorities in Regional Policy and Practice' in 2016, the Australian and New Zealand Regional Science Association International (ANZRSAI) set this as the focus for its annual conference, held in Melbourne in December 2016. In conjunction with its partner, the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), the Association wanted to identify the key issues would become the focus of regional research and policy in the next five years or more.

The articles in this issue, bar one, were presented at the Conference, and provide a picture of the diversity of emerging priorities that were raised. They come from different parts of Australia; most focus on non-metropolitan Australia except for two. One of these looks at a transport in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, while the other focuses on place branding in the United States. The sixth, by Meredith and Baxter, was submitted separately, and adds to our understanding of the characteristics of accounting firms in non-metropolitan city-regions.

The collection reflects the pattern of the broader conference, revealing a field of study with very broad research interests and quite diverse methodologies. The papers evoke again questions about how concepts such as 'region' and 'place' are understood and applied across disciplines and national boundaries. Some projects focus on very specific empirical topics, others address key policy questions, while yet others are interested in more systemic approaches. These papers are written also by researchers working from different disciplinary perspectives, adding further to the apparent complexity of regional studies.

Each of these papers, notwithstanding the diversity, is very timely, in that it addresses a topic that has significant policy implications: urban transport, the international student experience, housing affordability, innovation, regional economic strategies, and policy formulation itself. Achieving relevance was a key objective of the ANZRSAI Conference; did it succeed also in highlighting emerging priorities in regional policy and practice?

The various topics covered here might be seen as current priorities, pointing to issues which need to be addressed in the next few years. The challenge remains, perhaps, to identify the priorities for policy attention that will be focusing decision-makers' minds in 5-10 years. Contributions to this challenge would be welcome in future issues of this Journal.

Professor Bruce Wilson  
on behalf the editors

## **ABOUT ANZRSAI**

### *ANZRSAI Council Notes*

ANZRSAI Council has been discussing the strengthening links with members of RSAI in South America, the Pacific (particularly Papua New Guinea and Indonesia) and Africa.

### *ANZRSAI Annual Conference News*

University of Southern Queensland,  
Toowoomba 6-8 December 2017.

The 41st annual conference of ANZRSAI is being hosted by the Institute for Resilient Regions at the University of Southern Queensland. The venue is the Toowoomba campus of USQ, the heart of a rapidly growing region with key enabling infrastructure.

The conference theme is “Fostering Regional Resilience, Engagement and Innovation” and abstracts and proposals for themed panels or special sessions on particular topics are due on September 29.

Abstracts for the conference can be submitted through the following web page:

<https://www.anzrsai.org/conference/conference-2017/>

We are delighted that the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics in the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has again agreed to be the major sponsor of our conference.

Among other publication opportunities, participants are welcome to submit their paper presented at the conference for a forthcoming special edition of the Australasian Journal of Regional Studies on “Policy and Practice Supporting Regional Resilience”.

More information on the conference and other relevant material is available from the ANZRSAI website at [www.anzrsai.org](http://www.anzrsai.org).

**ANZRSAI Council 2015-16**

**President**

Robyn Eversole  
Swinburne University of Technology

**Vice President (Australia)**

Rolf Gerritsen  
Charles Darwin University

**Vice President (New Zealand)**

James Rowe  
Napier Town Council

**Secretary**

Delwar Akbar  
Central Queensland University

**Treasurer**

Greg Jones  
University of Southern Queensland

**Public Officer**

Tony Sorensen  
University of New England

**Council Member**

Bligh Grant  
University of Technology Sydney

**Council Member**

Mike Hefferan  
USC Queensland

**Council Member**

John Martin  
Latrobe University

**Council Member**

Tony O'Malley  
University of South Australia

**Council Member**

Lee Pugalís  
University of Technology Sydney

**Council Member**

Yogi Vidyattama  
NATSEM, University of Canberra

**Council Member**

Bruce Wilson  
RMIT University

**Ex-officio**

Bob Stimson  
University of Melbourne

**Editors *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies***

Mike Hefferan, University of Sunshine Coast  
Bruce Wilson, RMIT University

**Immediate Past President**

Paul Collits  
New Zealand

**Contact details**

Paul Dalziel,  
Executive Officer ANZRSAI  
PO Box 236,  
Darling Heights QLD 4350  
Email: [anzrsai@anzrsai.org](mailto:anzrsai@anzrsai.org)  
Website: [www.anzrsai.org](http://www.anzrsai.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/anzrsai>