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Foreword

ANZRSAI 42nd Annual Conference, ANU Canberra, 5-7 December 2018

“Regional Development: Policy, Research and Engagement”

First Call for Papers

For more than forty years, the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association has brought together researchers across academic and policy fields to explore the cutting edge of regional development and regional analysis in Australia, New Zealand and around the world.

If your work involves regions, please join us for our 42nd Annual Conference in Canberra. ANZRSAI welcomes proposals for contributed papers, for themed panels, or for special sessions, on any topic related to regions.

This year’s conference is hosted by the Institute of Governance and Policy Analysis (IGPA), University of Canberra, in collaboration with the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, Australian National University. The venue is the Australian National University. To register, and for more information on the conference, visit the ANZRSAI website at:

www.anzrsai.org

TIMETABLE

28 September 2018  Final date for submission of abstracts and proposals for themed panels or special sessions on particular topics.

31 October 2018    Final date for early bird registration. Draft conference program on website.

2 November 2018    Final date for submission of full paper by authors wanting their contribution to be peer reviewed for the conference proceedings or considered for the best paper Awards.

9 November 2018    Final date for conference registration for paper presenters, for their paper to be confirmed in the programme.

23 November 2018   Final program published on the conference website.

5 December 2018    Conference opens at 9am on Wednesday

Further details are located below in About ANZRSAI. For the full story go to http://anzrsai.org/assets/Conferences/ANZRSAI-2018-First-Call-for-Papers.pdf

The Australian Budget

Regional Australia Institute’s top five new regional initiatives in Budget 2018-19

The Treasurer Scott Morrison has brought down the Budget in Canberra. Here are the five new initiatives for regions that our team noted in tonight’s Budget:
Regional Employment Trials Program

This new program will see 10 selected regional trial sites get help so that they can better respond to their particular employment challenges. Communities in these trial sites will develop tailored employment solutions at a local level.

The program should also deliver key evidence and lessons to help regions better access localised employment services. Additionally, employment facilitators will be engaged to work with Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees to generate projects and connect with local stakeholders which extends the role of the RDAs in regional issues following recent reforms.

It’s not the biggest new initiative in cash terms, but we really like this because it is a place-based approach that acknowledges the importance of local knowledge in developing solutions that solve the different challenges regions face in shifting persistent employment issues. It would be great to see more initiatives like this to solve entrenched issues across other portfolios that exist in regions around Australia.

Additional Infrastructure Funding

The Budget announced a series of new regional projects as part of its on-going $75 billion National Infrastructure Pipeline, building on the commitments made in the last Budget.

A new Roads of Strategic Importance initiative will target upgrades to key regional roads and freight routes.

An additional $200 million was announced for a third round of Building Better Regions Fund.

Stronger Rural Health Strategy and Regional Aged Care Investment

An $83.3 million Stronger Rural Health Strategy will help align the distribution of health workforce to areas of greatest need and build the capacity of medical practitioner workforce. This includes a few initiatives including the establishment of five regional medical schools, workforce incentive programs, additional vocational training places and training programs. Importantly, the role of nurses and allied health workers will also feature in the strategy. It was also good to see the Royal Flying Doctor Service receive an additional $84 million to improve access to dental and mental health services in remote areas.

Aged care in rural, regional and remote areas got a boost with $146 million over the next four years to help improve the access to aged care services for people in these areas. This funding will focus on building improvement and urgent maintenance, and expanding culturally appropriate aged care in Indigenous communities.

Education

This Budget outlined the first aspects of the Government’s response to the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education.

The Budget allocated $28.2 million over four years to expanded higher education places for sub-bachelor students from remote and regional areas. There will be an additional 185 commencing Commonwealth supported bachelor places from 2019 for students studying in regional study hubs. The Budget also improved their access to the Youth Allowance through changes in family income thresholds for regional students.
Commonwealth Commitment to the Regional Australia Institute

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) welcomes the Commonwealth’s on-going support for national regional policy research through a three year commitment to the RAI’s national Shared Inquiry Program in the Budget.

With all of the States and Territories with regional responsibilities on board as well, for the first time we have all governments around the table investing in better regional policy for the future. See our media release with additional comments here.

Finally, it didn’t make the top five, but given the prominent public discussion on this issue it is important to note that the government has announced a new phase in its decentralisation agenda with the relocation six more Australian Government entities. The most significant for regions are small agency moves to Darwin and Shepparton.

Commentary

Also From the Regional Australia Institute

Jack Archer via the New York Times

Australia’s Immigration Solution: Small-Town Living

“There’s a real network of people who know how to make this work, who make it work in their community and can share it with others,” said Jack Archer, the chief executive of the Regional Australia Institute, a government research organization. ...  


Forcing immigrants to work in regional areas will not boost regional economies in the long run

Professor James Giesecke and Senior Research Fellow Nhi Tran, Victoria University


May 23, 2018

Even if policies could be found to bind new immigrants to living in regional areas, other regional workers will experience a decline in wages and will commute to or move to other regions, thus weakening the long-run impact on regional populations and economies.

Note, however, that this paper is based on modelling while the previous article by Jack Archer gives a local view.
Growing cities face challenges of keeping the masses moving up, down and across

Andrea Connor, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney Uni. 
Donald McNeill, Professor of Urban and Cultural Geography, Western Sydney University 

“…many large cities face the twin challenges of ageing infrastructure and increased volumes of people flowing through transport hubs. Problems of congestion, overcrowding, delays and even lockouts are becoming more common.

[link]

From the Grattan Institute

In January 2018 the Grattan Institute published regional patterns maps based on Taxation Statistics, Department of Employment Small Area Labour Markets, and Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. [Your editor missed these. If you also missed them, have a look.]

These maps deliver interesting results:

- “People in mining areas and the cities have higher average incomes.
- “Cities and regions have areas of high income growth
- “Areas with high incomes tend to be the most unequal
- “Both cities and regions have pockets of high unemployment
- “Unemployment is not increasing more rapidly in the regions
- “Unemployment in some regional areas and city suburbs has got worse since 2011
- “Australia’s population is concentrated in the major cities and surrounding suburbs
- “Population growth is highest in capitals, the regions around them, mining areas, and along the coast
- “Immigrants tend to settle in the cities and the mining areas
- “European and English-speaking immigrants move to regional areas as well as cities
- “Asian communities are very concentrated in some capital city suburbs
- “People born in Africa and the Middle East are concentrated in a small number of capital city suburbs
- “Cities have a higher proportion of tertiary educated people
- “Regional NSW and Victoria have older populations than the rest of the country.”

[link]

From CEDA


In order to reduce Australia’s pockets of concentrated geographical disadvantage, a concerted effort will need to be made across all levels of government, the community sector and business. This will require:

- Implementation of place-based initiatives;
- A more targeted approach to the most vulnerable through a dedicated agency and navigators as we have seen proposed in New Zealand;
- Adjusting the level of Newstart payments to a more appropriate benchmark and indexation arrangement to ensure adequacy over time;
- More effectively tailored job search assistance for the long term unemployed; and
- Better availability and access to public datasets on disadvantaged populations, drawing on recommendations 6.1 to 6.17 of the Productivity Commission’s inquiry into data availability and use.


**From Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**

Canada’s new $900m Innovation Supercluster Initiative

The Innovation Superclusters Initiative (ISI) is a new program to strengthen Canada's most promising clusters and accelerate economic growth in highly innovative industries, while positioning firms for global leadership.

The ISI will invite industry-led consortia to lead and to invest in bold and ambitious proposals that will supercharge their regional innovation ecosystems. By pulling in large firms, innovative small and medium-sized enterprises, industry-relevant research institutions and business leaders will come together - with partners and in new ways - to build business-led innovation superclusters at scale.

Their plans must build on shared private sector commitment - demonstrated through matched industry funding - to leverage strengths, address gaps and incentivise innovation ecosystem players to work together more strategically for the collective benefit of their clusters.


**From the Cockatoo Network**

*By courtesy of Rod Brown*

Decentralisation done on the hop

Last month’s federal Budget explained that six more federal agencies are on the move as part of the push towards decentralisation. This follows the troubled move of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority from Canberra to Armidale. The authority had 198 staff in mid-2016, but some 110 of these have reportedly since left its employ.

The six agencies involved are:

- Inland Rail Unit - from Canberra to Toowoomba, Dubbo and Wodonga.
- Indian Ocean Territories Unit – from Canberra to Perth.
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations – from Canberra to Darwin.
- Unique Student Identifier Registrar - from Canberra to Adelaide.
• Indigenous Affairs Group Regional Network - from Sydney/Melbourne to Parramatta/Shepparton respectively.
• A new Office of the National Rural Health Commissioner in Adelaide.

More haste, less speed.

From the Productivity Commission

Trade and Assistance Review 2016-17

Gross Industry Assistance: In 2016-17 Australian industry assistance rose to $19.3 billion gross assistance, an increase of 24 per cent or $3.7 billion since 2015-16.

Gross assistance consisted of:
• Tariff Assistance $6.8 billion
• Budgetary Outlays $5.3 billion
• Tax concessions $7.2 billion

Net Industry Assistance was $13.4 Billion

Net assistance takes into account the cost penalty of tariffs on inputs. Tariffs protect some businesses but penalise most others.

New concessional finance schemes lack transparency
• NORTHERN AUSTRALIA INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY $5 billion
• DEFENCE EXPORT FACILITY $3.8 Billion
• REGIONAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION $4 Billion

Read the Trade and Assistance Review 2016-17 at www.pc.gov.au

National Water Reform: Productivity Commission Inquiry Report No. 87, 9 December 2017

Overview and Recommendations

Key points

• It is crucial that Australia persists in managing its water resources well, given our dry and highly variable climate, and the importance of water to our economy. Some jurisdictions have become complacent.

• Since its creation in 2004, the National Water Initiative (NWI) has made a significant contribution to this objective.

• While much of the attention has been on reform within the Murray-Darling Basin, the NWI remains nationally relevant and the principles it contains are sound.

• There has generally been good progress by States and Territories in implementing the NWI, and most of its objectives and outcomes have been met.

  − Legislative and policy frameworks are in place for water entitlements, planning, trading, accounting and the provision of water for the environment in most jurisdictions.
Urban water and irrigation infrastructure services have been improved through institutional and pricing reforms.

• Water reform has delivered substantial benefits to irrigators, other water users and the broader community.
  – The expansion of water trading has provided irrigators with greater flexibility to manage change and has encouraged greater efficiency.
  – There is emerging evidence of improved ecological outcomes from increased environmental water, but it will take time for the full benefits to be realised.

• However, there remains further work to do. Governments need to:
  – complete unfinished business from the NWI, including fully implementing entitlement and planning reforms, and economic regulation in some jurisdictions
  – respond to the challenges posed by population growth, climate change and changing community expectations.

• Reform priorities include:
  – maintaining the key foundations of water management, preventing the re-emergence of outdated policies and avoiding the erosion of hard-won reforms through backsliding
  – revising national policy settings in a range of areas, including entitlement and planning arrangements for extractive industries, and the water needs of Indigenous Australians
  – significantly enhancing national policy settings in:
    ▪ urban water management, including clearer roles and responsibilities for supply augmentation planning, improving economic regulation, enabling decentralised solutions and more outcomes-focused environmental regulation
    ▪ environmental water management, including better integration with waterway management, strengthened and streamlined institutional, governance and management arrangements, and improved monitoring and evaluation for adaptive management
    ▪ new infrastructure, where the focus needs to be on ensuring environmental sustainability and financial viability before any government resources are committed for construction.

• Water reform requires perseverance, continuity and long-term commitment from governments. To ensure that Australia’s water resources are managed sustainably to meet changing community needs, the priorities above should be incorporated into a renewed NWI by 2020.

• Failure to act now risks the gains made to date and means opportunities for greater efficiency, improved liveability and more sustainable environments would be lost.

Access the report here:

Rural and Regional Mobilities Final Report, Conclusion

“The Workshop considered the way mobilities in its various forms are transforming rural and regional communities highlighting the challenges and opportunities that are being faced. We were reminded that mobilities involve complex internal and external dynamics that include intra/inter-regional and international mobilities as well as rural to urban and urban to rural mobilities.

Professor Birgit Glorius, in her keynote presentation on recent migration challenges in Germany, emphasised the importance of understanding the historical, political and economic factors that impact on local stakeholder reception of international migration. Other presenters spoke of the need to develop long-term policies and plans related to employment, education, English language learning, health and migrant service provision and that this required contributions across several sectors including government, employers, and community organisations. Mayor Erika Vickery, from the Naracoorte-Lucindale LGA, expressed the felt-need of rural and regional communities to both attract and retain permanently those who move to their localities.

Reception for new arrivals across all levels of the community was viewed as essential for creating a welcoming environment. Practical recommendations were given including the importance of strong, positive local leadership, cross-organisation coordination of services, the development of intercultural competencies for long-term residents and new arrivals, and the effective engagement of local awareness with migrant needs, aspirations and skills.

The executive summaries found in this report provide a valuable resource for those interested in the pressing issue of regional and rural mobilities and the challenges and opportunities these have brought.

The report has further underscored the importance of bringing together the contributions of researchers from different academic disciplines, in this case, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, together with key local regional leaders and stakeholders.”

Radford, D., Wilding, R., Moran, A., Boese, M., 'Rural and Regional Mobilities: Exploring the Impact of (Im)Mobilities in Rural & Regional Communities' 2018 (Download)

CONFERENCES and STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Regional Studies Blog

Professor Paul Dalziel, Executive Officer, ANZRSAI has recommended the Regional Studies Association Blog, which has been running since 2010.

Each post is an easy-to-read piece between 500 and 750 words on a topical issue in regional studies.

The site is currently featuring an Australasian Blog Tour, with a series of posts by Amma Buckley, Melissa Nursey-Bray, Tiffany Morrison, Lee Pugalis and Paul Dalziel. The first two have been published and the last three will appear over the next three weeks.

The link is http://blog.regionalstudies.org/
Notices from PRSCO

We have received notices from Hiroyuki Shibusawa, who is the Executive Officer of the Pacific Regional Science Conference Organisation (PRSCO).


**Special Issue: Regional Economic Development in Australia**

*Economic Papers*: A journal of applied economics and policy Pages: 1-2 First published: 1 March 2018

*Economic Papers*, in partnership with the Centre for Economic and Regional Development, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, is calling for papers for a special issue on Regional Economic Development in Australia. This partnership represents an important collaborative effort at the academia-policy nexus to promote further understanding of an important economic policy topic through robust research analysis.

The special issue will be co-edited by Professor Rachel Ong (Editor of the Economic Papers) and Dr Andrew Stoeckel (Chief Economist of the Centre for Economic and Regional Development).

**Scope**

The special issue aims to attract submissions from both academics and practitioners on the major opportunities and challenges facing Australia at a regional level. Contributions in the form of research articles and reviews will be considered.

We are particularly interested in papers with a focus on Australia but will also consider papers on other regions as long as the papers offer findings that provide useful lessons for Australia.

In discussion with authors, selected papers in this special issue will be made available to readers free-of-charge to promote the widest readership possible.

Some of the topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Measurement of regional economic performance
- Regional workforce development needs
- Enablers and barriers to regional economic growth
- Regional economic inequalities
- Agglomeration, cluster and regional economies
- Innovation and entrepreneurship in regional economies
- Regional economic development and wellbeing outcomes
- Decision-making by households to relocate to regional areas
• Evaluations of policies and programs that influence regional development
• Review of successes and failures in regional development policies and programs.

Practical Information

All papers will be reviewed as per the journal policy. Manuscripts should be submitted at http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1759-3441/homepage/ForAuthors.html, following the author guideline. The deadline for submission of papers is 30 June 2018. Any inquiries may be directed to Rachel Ong at r.ong@curtin.edu.au.

CURRENT RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Regional Science Policy and Practice
10(1) March 2018
Pages: 3-14
Nicolaas Philippus Geyer

Counterurbanization in South Africa: Measuring migration significance

Abstract: Historically there has been an understandable bias toward main-stream migration, equating dominance with significance. But counterurbanization research has shown that small migration streams can become significant when taken cumulatively. However, due to their inherent diversity it is unrealistic to attempt to analyse all migrants individually. Therefore, a discriminatory principle is needed to distinguish significant migration. The paper explores this concept within the main theoretical paradigms of migration research and develops the hypothesis that migration significance is a property of its larger effect on the specific targeted populations. The paper hypothesizes that migration significance is a property of the resultant divergence from sedentary population growth expectations, in other words, the population stresses placed on a location due to population influx or loss. The definition is then applied to 2001 and 2011 South African census migration data to assess the significance of sub-stream migration. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12105

Pages: 15-23
Anele Horn and Amanda Van Eeden

Measuring sprawl in the Western Cape Province, South Africa: An urban sprawl index for comparative purposes

Abstract: This research proposes an urban sprawl index as a tool to comparatively analyse the extent of urban sprawl between cities and towns of different sizes, making use of cadastre, land use and population data over time. The Urban Sprawl Index (USI) for the Western Cape put forward by this research will enable the comparative measurement of the extent of urban sprawl proportionately between the Metropolitan and local municipalities in the province and thereby aid in understanding trends in formal and informal development processes, as well as the spatial planning instruments applied to guide development. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12109

Pages: 37-47
Patricia C. Melo Daniel J. Graham

Transport-induced agglomeration effects: Evidence for US metropolitan areas

Abstract: While the interaction between transport and agglomeration economies is widely accepted, there is insufficient research attempting at a direct empirical quantification.
Using a balanced panel dataset for US metropolitan areas, we estimate a system of simultaneous equations to measure the indirect effect of urban agglomeration economies which arises through transport provision. Our findings suggest that public transit reinforces the effect of urban agglomeration, whereas road lane miles appear to weaken it. The results highlight the importance of public transit in supporting positive urban agglomeration externalities. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12116

Pages: 49-63
Zahra Dehghan Shabani Sima Safaie

*Do transport infrastructure spillovers matter for economic growth? Evidence on road and railway transport infrastructure in Iranian provinces*

Abstract: This study analysed the spatial spillover effects of road and railway transport infrastructure on economic growth in the provinces of Iran. More specifically, it examined the direct, indirect (spatial spillover), and total effects of such infrastructure on the output growth of the provinces. To this end, maximum likelihood was used to estimate a spatial Durbin model for the provinces over the period 2001 to 2011. The results showed that main road and railway transport frameworks exert a positive and significant direct effect on the economic growth of the provinces. The main road and railway transport infrastructure in each province has a significant and positive indirect effect on the economic growth of the other provinces, indicating that improvements to individual infrastructure have spatial spillover effects on the economic growth of the other provinces. The conclusion drawn from these findings is that diffusion effects overcome agglomeration effects. Finally, total railway length has a positive spatial spillover effect on regional economic growth. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12114

Pages: 65-66
Daniela-Luminita Constantin


Review: This edited volume is a commendable result of the 17th edition (2014) of the well-known Uddevalla Symposium, all selected papers – authored by contributors from Sweden, Denmark, Austria, the Netherlands and the United States – having been presented and discussed in the stimulating environment created by this meeting. From the very beginning the reader’s attention is attracted by the striking title, which proposes not just a “geography,” but “geographies” of growth and offers, indeed, three geographies focused on: (i) structural change, employment and productivity; (ii) entrepreneurship and business dynamics; and (iii) innovations, cooperation and growth. The volume has internal coherence and is well-articulated around “information, knowledge, motivation and entrepreneurship,” seen as “hubs and gateways in a global urban network (…) as well as a habitat for international migrants” (p. 1). It is also very successful in bringing a fresh perspective on the specific drivers of growth in various spatial contexts, with interesting highlights on the differences between these contexts. The editors have organized the 14 chapters in four parts that are briefly discussed in the next paragraphs.

Part I deals with the geography of structural change, employment and productivity, pointing out the association of growth with qualitative changes and the entailed shifts in the relative demand for various types of skills and competences. The main topics addressed in this part refer to: the regional variations in the
capacity to absorb displacements, which shows considerable differences from this viewpoint in Sweden between the regions affected by high rates of unemployment and the prosperous regions; productivity and cross-border accessibility to human capital, with a comparison between Norwegian and Swedish border regions indicating a “statistically significant influence” of the inter-regional cross-border accessibility on “both gross pay per employee generated by foreign workers and gross pay per employee earned abroad” (p. 67) and, thus, suggesting the possibility for functional regions to extend beyond national border; inter and intra-regional balance, with emphasis on the drivers of change and development, holding that the enhancement in technology and strengthening of endogenous potential of the regional economy are crucial for the disadvantaged regions and it is these regions that will prove whether “the smart growth vision will meet the test in practice” (p. 90); the question of convergence debate, asserting that it is still open and suggesting to deepen the concept of structural change and develop the analysis by considering the heterogeneity at country and industry-specific levels.

Part II concentrates on the geography of entrepreneurship and business dynamics as core drivers of structural change, proposing challenging topics such as: the local perspective on entrepreneurship and informal institutions, pointing to the role of new people that move into a given area and the mission of universities in this respect as well as to the challenges exerted by entrepreneurial activities in the institutional foundation; the issue of new firm dynamics in relation to the growth of broadband provision in the US, drawing the policy makers’ attention to lessons which demonstrate that “simply increasing broadband availability/access does not necessarily attract entrepreneurial ventures” (p. 98); the impact of individual characteristics and regional agglomeration on the survival of self-employed firms, with very thoughtful conclusions supporting the idea of encouraging the well-settled firms able to face the competition rather than the creation of new ones; the variations in new firm life duration in the specific case of immigrant and native entrepreneurs acting in the Netherlands, which reveal that the firms established by immigrants from non-western countries have lower survival chances; international outsourcing in the context of the increasing influence of global value chains that aims to analyse, in the case of Sweden, the degree of domestic production dependence on the value-added obtained abroad.

Going further, Part III addresses the geography of innovation, co-operation and growth, bringing into discussion exciting issues as follows: knowledge absorption in the development of export products, investigating how the firm's efforts to introduce new products for external markets are affecting its knowledge intensity and proximity to local and regional supply of “Knowledge-Intensive Business Services” (p. 299); the patterns of selecting the innovation partners in the cross-border co-operation and the influence of firm specific factors in the case of Denmark; creative class versus individual creativity, proposing a multi-level approach to the “geography of creativity” (p. 354).

Finally, Part IV examines the barriers and challenges to university spin-offs, understood as “the creation of new businesses whose scientific or technological bases grew out of university research projects” (p. 411). The empirical approach has used Vienna as case study and has identified among the most important barriers to spin-off generation the lack of business or entrepreneurial skills, lack of angel and potential early-stage investors, lack of business training opportunities for faculty researchers, low awareness of researcher’ commercialization potential, etc.
As an overarching remark, each paper is based on deep, solid research, which has made it possible the formulation of valuable conclusions for both academics, researchers, suggesting them new, timely directions of investigation, and policy makers, who may find inspirational ideas for future decision-making. Consequently, the book is highly recommended to all of them, with the promise of a rewarding reading. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12118

**Papers in Regional Science**

97(2) June 2018

Pages NA

Stephen Buckman, Mara Latorre, M. Martin Bosman, Neveen Nawawy, Bomin Koh

*A qualitative exploration of arts-based neighbourhood revitalization: The case of ‘The Space at 2106 Main’ in West Tampa, Florida*

Abstract: As cities are compelled to compete for new sources of investment and revenue, arts-based economic development strategies have become the norm. The purpose of this paper is to revisit and reevaluate some of the conventional claims about the arts as an important economic development strategy by exploring a case study called “The Space at 2106 Main” in a rapidly gentrifying neighbourhood called West Tampa. The results of this study suggest that the arts are indeed assuming a greater role in economic policy under the auspices of West Tampa community redevelopment areas (CRA) and the direct actions of various arts related entrepreneurs. The results however, point to a mixed picture that raises difficult questions about the medium to long-term effects of this urban redevelopment strategy, especially on the poor and mostly minority residents of West Tampa. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12378

Pages NA

Barbara Ermini, Luca Papi, Francesca Scaturro

*Wage returns to interregional mobility among Ph.D graduates: Do occupations matter?*

Abstract: This paper addresses the wage returns to interregional mobility among Italian Ph.D workers. We control for selection bias in both migration and occupation choice by estimating a double sample selection model. While OLS estimates indicate a positive wage premium of mobility across all types of occupations examined, wage equations estimated by correcting for double sample selection evidence a wage penalty for movers within academia, no effects for movers carrying out R&D activities but positive returns if they work within the industry sector. The selection process appears to be stronger when mobility choice is considered in comparison to the choice of occupation. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12375

Pages NA

Giulio Cainelli, Roberto Ganau, Marco Modica

*Industrial relatedness and regional resilience in the European Union*

Abstract: The 2008 Great Recession prompted interest in the concept of regional resilience. This paper discusses and empirically investigates the relationship between industrial relatedness and economic resilience across European Union regions over the 2008–2012 crisis period. The analysis focuses on two types of industrial relatedness: technological and vertical (i.e., market-based). The empirical analysis is performed on a sample of 209 NUTS 2 regions in 16 countries. Our results highlight a positive effect of technological relatedness on the probability of resilience in the very short run (i.e., the 2008–2009 period), while the negative effect of vertical relatedness seems to persist for longer. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12377
The determinants of elderly migration in France

Abstract: The aim of this paper is to study elderly migration in France. First, it analyses whether the decision to migrate relies upon individual characteristics. Second, it examines the ways in which the economic, social and environmental characteristics of the French territories determine the retirees’ choice of localization. The paper draws upon a unique database of 12.67 million French inhabitants, with information about their personal attributes and locational choices from 2003 to 2008. It also uses an original database with locational characteristics for the French territories at the level of the 364 zones d’emploi. This is the only study on regional migration in France which builds upon such a thin spatial level of analysis. The paper builds empirical probit and Heckman models dealing with selection bias and endogeneity bias issues. The paper shows that retirees usually leave large agglomerations and old industrial areas in Northern France and the Paris agglomeration and relocate to socially and environmentally attractive zones with preferable climates. When studying the migration patterns within the zones d’emploi, it appears that the most vulnerable zones, which display a lower quality of collective services as well as higher income disparities and crime rates, feature lower elderly residential mobility. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12374

Australasian Journal of Regional Studies

Modelling endogenous employment performance across Australia’s functional economic regions over the decade 2001 to 2011

Abstract: Patterns of spatial differentiation in endogenous regional employment performance across Australia’s Functional Regions over the decade 2001 to 2011 are mapped and analysed. A range of spatial econometric models taking account of the spatial autocorrelation issue are used to investigate the factors which might explain that variation in performance, using the same approach as in previous studies of decadal inter-census periods. Implications for regional development policy are canvassed.

Pages 35-61
Delwar Akbar, Susan Kinnear, Prem Chhetri and Phillip Smith

Assessing mining impacts on road travel conditions in an intensive coal mining region in Australia: A case study of the Northern Bowen Basin.

Abstract: Road transport networks are essential for the sustainability of mining activities as well as the liveability of mining communities. This paper examined the impacts of mining activity on road travel conditions in the Bowen Basin region. A pressure-state-impact-response (PSIR) framework was used to identify the impacts of mining activity. Pressure (i.e., development), state (i.e., change) and impacts (i.e., effects) were identified by reviewing environmental impact assessments of selected coal mines’ travel trips and commodities flow modelling. Following this a household travel survey was distributed to residents of the Moranbah and Emerald townships in order to explore mining communities’ level of satisfaction with their road travel experiences. The study found that the poor pavement condition, safety and congestion was associated with over-dimensional vehicles. Other issues raised included perceptions of poor
driver behaviour, particularly in regard to speed, inattention and fatigue. The research identified road user’s support for confining the movement of wide loads to low-traffic periods (such as overnight), and introducing carpooling arrangements to reduce congestion and addressing the issues of accidents and driver fatigue. These findings have planning implications to future transport planning in the Bowen Basin region as well as other inland and intensive mining regions.

Pages 62-77
Andrea Wallace and Brian Dollery

Merging big and small: A cautionary tale from Barraba.

Abstract: Structural reform through compulsory municipal mergers has been a recurring theme in the history of Australian local government. However, the results of numerous episodes of council amalgamation, especially in rural and remote Australian communities, have largely been ignored by both the architects of structural reform programs and the broader scholarly community. The present paper seeks to remedy this neglect by examining the consequences of compulsory council consolidation through the lens of the ‘lived experience’ of the small rural community of Barraba, which was forced to merge with much larger Tamworth in 2004.

Pages 78-95
Mike Hefferan and Andrew Fern

Questioning the value of government support for start-up, knowledge intensive companies: Emerging evidence and future options.

Abstract: Australian governments at all levels have identified the opportunity to broaden the economy through the support of entrepreneurial activity within knowledge-intensive business sectors. Many such enterprises were in an early, start-up phase. While much of this activity was initially focused in the capital cities, government regional support schemes were also introduced. A particular feature of many of those schemes was an uncharacteristic willingness by government to become involved in the direct financial and other firm-specific support for small, largely untested companies. It is recognised that these sectors require different models of government support. Further, it would be naïve to believe that simple input–output relationships fully reflect the value of such economic and regional development programs. Nevertheless, given that many of these schemes have been in operation for some years, it is reasonable to ask if this type of government support, that particularly targets those start-up level firms, is well placed. This paper represents the first publication from wider PhD and other investigations into these areas. Surprisingly perhaps, the research has found no truly comprehensive, longitudinal studies on the impact of such schemes anywhere in Australia. However, the recent emergence of significant research from elsewhere in the OECD now questions many of the underlying assumptions that have driven these types of initiatives as regional economic development tools. This paper, based on those studies and consultation with key informants, concludes that some reappraisal and re-alignment of these types of programs in Australia is now both timely and opportune.

Pages 96-121
Samanthala Hettihew and Christopher S. Wright

Nature and importance of small business in regional Australia, with a contrast to studies of urban small businesses.

Abstract: Regional small businesses (Regional-SBs) are considered important to sustaining
regional socio-economic viability. However, the presence, nature, and causes of differences between Regional-SBs and Urban-SBs are often overlooked in the literature and in the development of regional policy. This study shows the presence and import of such differences by applying theory and statistically contrasting a sample from 2,195 Regional-SBs with published average-Australian-SB data. It was found that, on average, Regional-SBs are profoundly more durable and, hence, creditworthy than average Australian-SBs, but may be at risk because they are slower in applying new technology. The durability/survivorship of Regional-SBs is strongly influenced by their attributes, including size. More studies on the extent and causes of variability in SB durability are needed.

ABOUT ANZRSAI

Conference Registration

The 42nd Annual Conference of ANZRSAI will open at 9am on Wednesday 5th December at Australian National University. There will be three days of stimulating plenary addresses, panels of expert speakers and parallel sessions of submitted papers.

This is an opportunity for ANZRSAI members and others interested in regional issues to share experiences and network with each other, to keep up-to-date with latest developments in regional research and to address important issues in regional planning.

Once the program of plenary speakers is finalised, details will be published on the conference website at http://www.anzrsai.org.

Registration for the conference includes morning tea, lunches and afternoon tea as well as admission to all plenary and parallel sessions. It also includes complimentary membership of ANZRSAI for 2019.

There are two social events: a reception hosted by the President of ANZRSAI at the conclusion of the first day on the evening of Wednesday 5 December; and the ANZRSAI Awards Dinner on Thursday 6 December.

Fees

Early Bird Standard Registration (paid before 31 October) $600.00

Standard Registration for full conference (paid after 31 October) $700.00

Student or Emeritus Registration for full conference $325.00

Registration for one day of the conference $325.00

President’s Reception (Wednesday 5 December, 6pm) $30.00

ANZRSAI Awards Dinner (Thursday 6 December, 7pm) $120.00

To register for the conference, please go to:

https://www.anzrsai.org/conference/conference-2018/

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.

Council thanks Yogi Vidyattama for his excellent work on arrangements for the 2018 Conference.

ANZRSAI Council Notes

The 2019 ANZRSAI conference is to be held in Cairns in the first week of December.

Editors of AJRS

At its meeting on 28 May 2018, Council noted that Bruce Wilson and Mike Hefferan are retiring as editors of AJRS, and thanked them for their excellent work. Council noted that a request for expressions of interest has been issued and there is interest among Council
members and others. Megan Woods suggested developing job descriptions and a succession plan for the new editorial team, particularly the editor-in-chief, co-editors and an editor-in-training. An editor-in-training position would offer training for a younger academic who might become a future editor-in-chief. The retiring editors will be asked to describe their current work and Council Member Megan Woods kindly offered to develop job descriptions for editor-in-chief, co-editors and proposed an editor-in-training. Council members will be approached to act as referees or book reviewers.

Future of ANZRSAI

The annual conference and AJRS are the foundations of ANZRSAI. The conference is small but attracts new members because it gives new members access to our generous senior members who readily offer support, encouragement, relevant experience and information. AJRS offers an opportunity for early publication. Some new members become members of Council.

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