Vol.9, no.1 ***April 2019*** ***ISSN* 1839-5988**

Contents

Foreword

The European Union (EU)'s Role in Implementating Sustainable Development Goals in Asia Pacific.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Network formalises relationships amongst researchers, policy think tanks and Non-Government Organisations who share a primary interest in enhancing the effective contribution of the EU to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Asia Pacific. By strengthening collaboration amongst researchers and policy makers, the Network promotes a more effective evidence-base for EU institutions to engage with nations in the region to implement the SDGs.

Its core questions are: how can European Union integration be more effective in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific than would be possible for individual Member States? How can this role be developed further?

The SDGs Network addresses these questions through:

- Aligning key researchers with expertise in different domains and disciplines to produce a consolidated overview and analysis of the current and prospective role of the EU.

- Strengthening capability for research in the Asia Pacific region to inform policy and program development in the EU and in nations in Asia Pacific.
- Enhancing linkages amongst researchers in Asia Pacific and the EU, so that research outputs can contribute to policy formation and to practice in specific situations.
- Establishing an online portal with resources for teaching about the EU's global role, and in particular, its interregional collaboration with Asian and Pacific institutions and nations.

For more details contact the EU Centre at RMIT University through their website at https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-education/global-outlook/european-union-eu-centre.

Commentary

From Regional Australia Institute

Australia's Regional Jobs Revolution – Change is on the way.

Media releases April 4 2019

The face of regional jobs across the country is changing rapidly and a plan to meet demand is needed now – according to the Regional Australia Institute (RAI).

For the first time, government and regional communities have been given a glimpse of the opportunities and challenges facing the regional workforce, with the release of the RAI's Future of Regional Jobs Report launched in Canberra today by Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Michael McCormack.

"What this report shows is the future is extremely bright for job opportunities for regional workers – and a career in the country has never looked so good – but we need to make some changes," Dr Houghton said.

"We know there are more than 40,000 jobs to fill across regional Australia right now and that figure is set to grow as the workforce landscape changes.

"Regional Australia needs different skills, the types of jobs will change and the role of education will be more critical than ever before," Dr Houghton said.

RAI research shows that the impact of the next round of digital automation will vary across regions – however 'high-tech', 'high-touch', and 'high-care' roles will be at the forefront.

In releasing The Future of Regional Jobs, the RAI has set out a four-point JOBS plan to help regions make the most of their changing workforce.

1. Jump in early to plan ahead to understand your local workforce;
2. Offer an attractive destination by improving regional community infrastructure, services and amenities;
3. Build the capacity of your Regional Learning System to help 'growth from within'; and
4. Support long-term migrant settlement to help meet job demand.

Automation, the dynamics of regional labour markets, matching local skills with emerging job opportunities and competition between regions for the same workers are all factors regional leaders and governments must look at now to ensure communities can grow.

“People with skills in the in-demand occupations will have plenty of options of where to work. It will be up to regional towns and cities to improve their liveability, so they can present as a great lifestyle option,” Dr Houghton said.

“One of the biggest changes to come is the shift away from primary and secondary industries to service industries – such as the healthcare and social assistance sector,” Dr Houghton said.

“By 2023, Federal Government projections are that regional Australia will need to find more than 85,000 more workers for this industry, and another 28,000 in education. This demand will be felt in most markets,” Dr Houghton said.

With long lead times in education for professionals, it’s critical that action starts now to create the skills development pathways needed.

“Our work has shown that local responses can have a big impact. Community-led efforts to influence and improve local and regional labour markets and learning systems are working,” Dr Houghton said.

“Many regions are looking to grow their own future workforces, and the quality of Regional Learning Systems will determine how well regional residents are able to tap into current and future jobs opportunities. The RAI hopes that in releasing this report Commonwealth, State and Territory governments will now mobilise the resources needed,” Dr Houghton concluded.

The Future of Jobs was a major theme of the RAI’s Intergovernmental Shared Inquiry Program in 2018 and provides the foundation for ongoing work in 2019.

To obtain a copy of the RAI’s latest work – The Future of Regional Jobs – click here,

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Lifting up South Australia’s Livestock Industry

The food processing sector in South Australia will be key to future job creation within the livestock industry – and according to the RAI’s latest submission to a state government inquiry, there are some regions where the sector is more important than others.

More than 7,500 people are employed in this sector in parts of regional SA, with an increase of 625 jobs since 2011. Across both regional and metropolitan areas in SA, 19,814 are employed in food production jobs and 18,621 in food processing roles.

Nationally, the number of jobs in food processing, or the value-add component of agribusiness which includes meat processing, has surpassed the number of jobs in food production – with 175,272 employed in that sector and 174,437 in production jobs.

The RAI recommended that the South Australian State Government’s highest investment priority should be to focus on new economic activities in areas where food processing really matters for jobs. This includes in the geographically close communities of Berri and Barmera, Renmark and Paringa, as well as Loxton and Waikerie.

The RAI submission highlighted those areas that are performing above state and industry trends. These areas include Wakefield, Port Lincoln, Naracoorte and Mallala. To find out more information, please click here to view our submission.

The inquiry is being conducted by the South Australian Parliament’s Natural Resources Committee and focuses on strategies to ensure a strong and robust South Australian livestock industry.

Sign up to our Regional Futures e-News to make sure you stay up to date with the latest news and information from us. Sign up to our Regional Futures e-News

A new approach to regional policy in Australia

Regional Australia is entering another complex period of growth and change.

Market-led investment is occurring in many regional areas off the back of tourism, agriculture and renewed mining investment, and will lead to jumps in labour demand and population. Other regions are at risk of getting stuck with a need for workers and people but without the ability to offer the wages and attractiveness to get them.

At the same time, persistent disadvantage, constraints to workforce availability, substantial industry transitions coming from changes to energy supply and challenging climatic conditions will make it difficult for many regions to truly capitalise on these opportunities.

Standard approaches to regional development (infrastructure investment and grants) are unlikely to be influential in responding effectively to these changes.

Current policy settings are dominated by a view of regions as a series of markets that can be serviced by competitive, uniform funding processes. However, regional markets are anything but uniform, and ‘thin’ regional markets are anything but competitive.

In a package of three papers (outlined below), the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) puts forward ways for governments to address these constraints, unlocking the boost to regional competitiveness needed to ride through the challenging times ahead.

1. The Case for Collaboration examines the shift by governments worldwide to more collaborative, place-based approaches to regional policy and outlines key capacities that governments need to be effective. Wider and more systematic adoption of collaborative decision-making and funding processes that work with regions rather than working on them is essential to unlocking regional growth

2. Government that works for the Bush makes a case for governments to systematically open themselves up to regional ideas.It challenges governments to embed flexibility in program design and open up government to regionally led innovation

3. Public Procurement and Regional Development Briefing Note looks at the ways that governments can and do design public procurement policy to achieve regional development outcomes.Improved use of public sector procurement alongside better policy implementation is a way in which governments can enable regional growth and competitiveness in the future

These pieces result from the RAI’s Intergovernmental Shared Inquiry Program for Regional Policy. They are evidence-based and rigorous, and we have aimed to clarify the evidence base and bring clarity to discussions about better practice.

Together, these papers constitute a bold agenda for policy reform. Fully implemented, they would provide for a regional transformation agency at the heart of government, a network of deals and collaborative initiatives responding to each regions' unique needs, and a comprehensive approach to ensuring government investment works for local economies.

Governments need to – and already are – shifting their approaches to regions, but there is room to go much further to embed different ways of engaging and investing in regions for their future prosperity.

THE CONVERSATION

Australia needs to triple its social housing by 2036. This is the best way to do it

November 15, 2018 6.05am AEDT

Julie Lawson, Honorary Associate Professor, Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University

Hal Pawson, Associate Director - City Futures - Urban Policy and Strategy, City Futures Research Centre, Housing Policy and Practice, UNSW

Laurence Troy, Research Fellow, City Futures Research Centre, UNSW

Ryan van den Nouwelant, Lecturer in Urban Management and Planning, Western Sydney University

"Australia needs to triple its small stock of social housing over the next 20 years to cover both the existing backlog and newly emerging need."

Get the full story here: https://theconversation.com/australia-needs-to-triple-its-social-housing-by-2036-this-is-the-best-way-to-do-it-105960.

From the Grattan Institute

The Commonwealth Orange Book 2019, published by the Grattan Institute is available here:

https://grattan.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/916-Commonwealth-Orange-Book-2019.pdf

Here is the Overview

"A federal election is an opportunity to take stock of how Australia is doing, where it's going, and what governments can do about it. This report sets out priorities for the next Commonwealth Government.

There are many problems. Living standards have stagnated. The Commonwealth Budget may be projected to return to surplus, but this assumes spending restraint governments have not achieved for 50 years.

On many social issues, Australia is not doing especially well compared to its peers, as the International Scorecard in this report shows.

Australia's school results are behind. There are fewer dwellings per adult, and housing costs and homelessness are relatively high.

Australia's electricity supply is more polluting, less reliable and more expensive than in comparable countries. Trust in government is falling, and too many think government is corrupt and policy making is opaque.

There are some bright spots. Australia's health system is delivering longer lives. Retirement incomes are generally sufficient, except for renters. Government is delivering on health, education and retirement at relatively low cost.

Some of the key policy reforms are primarily problems for state governments, such as planning reforms, transport infrastructure project selection, electricity network costs, public hospital costs, and school teaching. In these areas Commonwealth intervention gains headlines, but often does not improve results.

The Commonwealth is responsible for implementing a clear, credible policy to tackle climate change that will win public support. The Commonwealth needs to respond to rapidly increasing pressures on private health insurance and out-of-pocket costs, and should head towards universal dental care. It should finish the job on school funding.

It should reintroduce the demand-driven higher education system, while controlling costs by increasing repayment of HELP debt. It should abandon the planned increase in the Superannuation Guarantee from 9.5 per cent to 12 per cent, and drive down costs by adopting recommendations for 'best-in-show' default superannuation funds.

Some of our tax arrangements are a big drag on economic growth. Australia needs to reform the combination of personal income tax, means-testing of welfare benefits, and childcare costs and subsidies, which discourage many second-income earners with children from working more. Accelerated depreciation or investment allowances for large companies could attract more investment to Australia.

These changes should be funded (and other tax increases avoided) by reducing the capital gains tax discount, winding back negative gearing, limiting superannuation tax concessions (particularly the zero rate of tax on earnings in retirement), and broadening or increasing the GST.

In a range of other policy areas, we know there are problems, but don't know the answers. The Commonwealth should commission the work to define how to deliver more integrated primary health care, improve the quality of initial teacher education, manage the balance between university and vocational education, and increase the age of access to the Age Pension and superannuation given rising life expectancy.

The politics of reform is never easy. Special interest groups are vocal in protecting their interests. The next Commonwealth Government should improve checks and balances on their influence by making political donations and lobbying more visible, capping election advertising expenditure, and creating a strong integrity commission.

Many countries would be delighted to swap Australia's problems for theirs. But we can do even better. And we must make our own luck.

And some *book recommendations*: If, like me, you did not see these, here are the Grattan Institute reading recommendations:

- Factfulness, Hans Rosling (Sceptre, 2018)
- The People vs Democracy, Yascha Mounk (Harvard University Press, 2018)
- Rusted Off, Gabrielle Chan (Penguin Random House Australia, 2018)
- No Friend but the Mountains, Behrouz Boochani (Pan Macmillan Australia, 2018)
- Women & Power, Mary Beard (Profile Books, 2017)
- Flames, Robbie Arnott (Text Publishing, 2018)

https://grattan.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/913-PMs-summer-reading-list-2018.pdf

From the Cockatoo Network

By courtesy of Rod Brown

The future of shipping and ports.

The following text is an extract from a Lighthouse speech given on 4 March 2019 by Craig Carmody, CEO of the Port of Newcastle.

"…With the exception of NSW – port operators have been left to determine the infrastructure and asset needs of Australian importers and exporters into the future.

"When we talk about ports and shipping policy, we must consider:

- Water-side infrastructure – the channel and berth length, depth and width, turning basin capacity, the ease of access and egress to the port and whether the water-side infrastructure can grow or accommodate increased volumes if required.
- Land-side infrastructure – wharf infrastructure capability and capacity, rail and road connectivity, storage space (e.g. vacant land), urban congestion, last mile access easy or difficulty and whether the land-side infrastructure can grow or accommodate increased volumes if required.

- All of these considerations should be informed by global trade, transport or logistics developments or trends.

"Globalisation has taught the world that being part of global trade is critical to a nation's economic development and its population's increased quality of life.

"In the case of Australia, this is doubly so."

"…Around 98% of Australia's trade travels by sea. We are the fifth-largest maritime freight task in the world."

"The global container trade has now grown by 8.1 per cent per annum since 19802. Over the next 15 years Australia's container ports will see volume growth of 4.2 per cent per annum3.

"The growth in containerisation has seen a corresponding growth in the size of the vessels built to carry the containers. The reason for this development is easy to understand.

"Containers are about volume. The more containers on a vessel, the lower the unit cost per container. So the trend for larger vessels.

- In the 1970s, container ships carried around 2,500 twenty-foot containers or TEUs,
- In the 1980s, ships increased to around 4,500 TEUs,
- In 2006, the Maersk shipping line introduced a ship that carried around 15,000 TEUs – the Ultra Large Container Vessel (ULCV), and
- Over the past few years the shipping companies have launched container vessels of 20,000 TEUs and more.

"Today, around 45 per cent of newbuild capacity is for container vessels 15,000 TEUs and over.

"ULCVs can replace up to three conventional container ships and steeply reduce the 'slot cost' – the cost of shipping one container. In Europe, a ULCV has a slot cost 52% lower than a 5,000 TEU vessel.

"… The Ultra Large Container Vessels are not a novelty – something that is 45% of the global ship new build program cannot be called a passing phase.

"ULCVs are the way we will trade, creating significant economic benefits for the nation. Assuming they can access our ports."

"…In the first place, policy should recognise that Australia needs the capacity to trade with the large, low-cost ships, and those ships come from other countries. Trade is global.

"So a good starting point for port policy is that we – Australia – are competing or cooperating with other countries and their ports, to get the most efficient supply chains.

"If we accept that we should follow global best-practice for container shipping, then good policy would encourage greenfield sites in Australia where the infrastructure can be built without urban encroachment. This means port policy that encourages regional ports with an abundance of land and good channels, to develop secondary ports for the ULCV trade.

"My experience in government was that you would kill for a viable, private sector regional development opportunity. Our capital cities are struggling under overpopulation, urban growth and congestion issues that require billions of dollars to solve – if they can be solved at all.

"All colours of the political spectrum argue for regional development and growth. If they really care about regional development, they encourage the development of regional ports. They are great economic amplifiers and they connect the regions into the world.

"They also connect our own cities and states. Encouraging regional ports to compete for container trade would enable a coastal feeder-port system, where the very large ships come in to one port, and the smaller container vessels tranship around Australia."

Comment: This article demonstrates the importance of adapting to technological change, in this case the emergence of much larger ships generates economies of scale which require ports and land based freight to adapt or renew their facilities and services. Technological change in air and road freight will also require regional communities to adapt and improve local facilities, such as freight terminals and air services, to take advantage of the emerging technologies, or face higher costs and declining demand. Freight terminals may need to power refrigerated containers delivered by road and rail, or to invest in or improve airports.

More on Brexit from the Cockatoo Network

A factual update on Brexit:

1. The current deal between the UK and the EU is relatively favourable to the UK. The UKs' net payments are lower than other EU members' equivalent payments based on GDP, and UK benefits are relatively greater.

2. Any trade deals outside the EU will be less favourable to the UK than the current EU arrangement. This will feed through into lower economic growth over the long term.

3. Defence and security arrangements will be weaker. It is better to be a member of a club than to be outside. The US, China, and Russia welcome their good fortune of a weakened UK and a collectively weaker Europe.

4. Europe will be somewhat worse off economically and in security. Not as much as the UK but somewhat weakened. German economic strength and French political obsessions will be magnified.

5. Many parliamentary Conservative party members have been irresponsible with the future of the UK when they are not being downright silly. Rees-Mogg is the prime example with his Irish investment funds, but others are equally dishonest. Consistent silly criticism has weakened their own position, without providing viable alternatives.

6. The Labour party led by Corbyn is no better, displaying pusillanimity when facing decisions and revealing unacceptable anti-Semitism. The Marxist ideology embraced by some is clearly inoperable in 2019.

7. The “chumocracy” of Oxbridge cronies ruling the UK has run out of steam and ideas, and resorts to fantasy to cover fundamental weaknesses.

8. Health standards, labour protection and environmental protection will be weaker outside of the EU, contributing to impoverishment of a larger share of the population.

9. Lowering tariffs to zero as espoused by the trade minister and others and allowing imports without controls, will weaken UK industry. Tariffs currently are not high for the EU and it is standards and manufacturing reliability that count. Lowering tariffs to zero will have large effects in a few areas (agriculture, motor manufacturing) and throw away a negotiating chip for future trade negotiations.

10. Trade negotiations with the UK alone will not be favourable to the UK. The US will undermine what is left of health-care, financial services and do their best to close down the BBC. The US, Canada, NZ and Australia will take most of what remains of UK agriculture.

11. Foreign investors are likely to re-locate to where the market is largest; market size is the predominant driver of all investment decisions. Nissan, Honda, Toyota, and BMW have indicated this, and James Dyson has already shifted his HQ to Singapore.

12. Any feelings of humiliation of the UK are due to voters' Brexit choice and the incompetence of UK negotiations, not due to others. The EU has attempted to accommodate incoherence, poor organisation and late and repeated demands for a better deal in areas that have been painstakingly agreed.

From SA Freight

http://www.safreightcouncil.com.au/newsletter.php?id=162#sub_922 29th November 2018

New infrastructure fails to keep pace with population growth

Auditing and accounting firm KPMG has recently released analysis of state and federal government capital expenditure which shows that Australia’s investments in infrastructure are struggling to maintain pace with the nation’s population growth.

Of the 4% growth in public spending on infrastructure, more than 3.5% is needed just to cover depreciation and population growth, which leaves only a fraction for a net increase.

KPMG chief economist Brendan Rynne stated that “to stand still” Australia needs to spend about $45 billion on public sector assets each year.

Mr Rynne said that despite those larger investments, public infrastructure spending remained inadequate, with total government spending reaching $86 billion in 2017, $14 billion short of the approximately $100 billion required to maintain and create better services.

Victoria has the lowest net increase of all the eastern states due to a population boom that has seen Melbourne become one of the fastest growing cities in the developed world at close to 3% annually.

Less populated regions of the country like South Australia and the Northern Territory are spending relatively more per capita than the more populous states, but have much larger total road networks to support on a smaller revenue base.

In Infrastructure Australia's recent Future Cities document, research showed that both Melbourne's and Sydney's living standards will be crushed as their populations surge to 7.3 million and 7.4 million respectively by 2046, with worsening congestion and reduced access to jobs, hospitals, schools and green space.

In already built-out cities, the cost of retrofitting new infrastructure to accommodate greater population densities is prohibitively expensive because of the need for land buy-backs, tunnelling, as well as disruptions to existing infrastructure.

Physical constraints in major cities make the costs of expanding infrastructure more expensive, so even if a user-pays model is adopted, a higher population is very likely to impose a higher cost of living for people already residing in these major cities. Growing populations will also place pressure on already strained transport systems.

Writer for MacroBusiness, Leith van Onselen noted in his coverage of this issue that "the most obvious and least cost policy solution is to significantly dial back Australia's immigration program, reduce population growth, and forestall the need for costly new infrastructure projects in the first place … immigration and infrastructure problems are directly linked. Immigration must be halved if Australia is to maintain the liveability of its cities."

From the Productivity Commission

Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment December 2018

Inquiry Report, Overview No. 90, 19 December 2018

Key points

- The 2012 Basin Plan is a $13 billion reform to reset the balance between environmental and consumptive use of water and to establish a new sustainable water management system. Significant progress has been made.
  - About 20 percent of the water that was available for consumptive users a decade ago is now dedicated to the environment. About $6.7 billion has been spent to recover about 2000 gigalitres (GL). Water recovery is within five per cent of the July 2019 target.
  - The arrangements for managing environmental water are working well, with evidence of improved ecological outcomes at the local and system scale.
  - There is still $4.5 billion to be spent and the next phase is challenging.

- The package of supply measures to achieve equivalent environmental outcomes using 605 GL less water recovery is highly ambitious. Failure of key projects would delay environmental benefits and could cost taxpayers about half a billion dollars for further water recovery.
- To manage the risks, Basin Governments need sound governance arrangements for integrated delivery. Before implementation, projects need to be independently reviewed to give confidence that they will deliver the predicted environmental outcomes and offer value for money. For some key projects, realistic implementation timeframes are likely to extend beyond 2024.
- The Australian Government's program to achieve enhanced environmental outcomes with an extra 450 GL of water recovery through efficiency measures needs to be adaptive to new information. These outcomes are at risk as key program assumptions have changed.
- The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) should update its modelling to reflect current information. The Australian Government should recover water in line with the ability to use it effectively. The 2021 legislated review of the budget appropriation for efficiency measures should be used to check the likely environmental benefits and the cost of achieving them.
- The development and accreditation of Water Resource Plans is behind schedule. Basin Governments should agree to extend the 2019 deadline for those plans where complex changes are required and there is a material risk to the quality of the plans.
- The MDBA should substantially revise the Basin Plan Evaluation Framework and Governments should develop a monitoring strategy. This will enable the impacts of the Plan to be effectively evaluated in 2020 and 2025, and provide information for the review of the Plan in 2026.
- The complex challenges ahead have been made more difficult because of the way Basin Governments have approached the implementation of the Plan.
  - The process has lacked transparency and candour with stakeholders.
  - It has been unclear who is responsible and accountable for leading implementation.
- In the Commission's view, the significant risks to implementation cannot be managed effectively under current institutional and governance arrangements. Reform is required.
- Basin Governments (not the MDBA) should take responsibility for leading implementation.
- The Basin Officials Committee should be assigned responsibility for managing the significant risks to successful implementation, including the supply measures.
  - The MDBA has conflicting roles. It supports Basin Governments (as their agent) to implement the Plan and is also required to ensure compliance with the Plan. These conflicts will intensify in the next five years.
  - The MDBA should be split into two separate institutions — the Murray-Darling Basin Agency and the Basin Plan Regulator.

- With negotiations largely settled, Basin Governments must make important changes now to ensure effective implementation. Failing to act will be costly for the environment and taxpayers, and undermine confidence that the Basin Plan has been worthwhile.

Table 1 **Summary of progress in implementing the Basin Plan**

Element	*On schedule*	*Risk to meeting its objectives*	*Nature of risks*
Resetting the balance			
Water recovery	✘	**Low**	The 2019 target is unlikely to be met. However the consequences are minor as the gap is less than five per cent of the target.
Supply measures	✘	**High**	Compressed timelines for implementation, with a range of issues to resolve. 2024 deadline is highly ambitious, if not unrealistic for some projects. As individual projects are further developed there is no transparent process for assessing whether the project is worthwhile and provides value for money. Risk to budget is hundreds of millions of dollars.
Efficiency measures	✘	**High**	The design of the efficiency measures program is contested. Enhanced environmental outcomes from additional water recovery are unknown as key assumptions (including dependence on easing constraints) have changed. Material risk that costs are significantly larger than anticipated.
Northern Basin Toolkit	n/a	**Medium**	No firm deadlines for implementation. Not subject to the same checks and balances as supply measures (such as oversight by the MDBA).
New management arrangements			
Water Resource Plans (WRPs)	✘	**Medium**	Behind schedule. Complex issues in some WRPs yet to be resolved.
Critical human water needs	✘	**Low**	River Murray arrangements robust. WRP provisions for other areas behind schedule.
Water quality	✘	**Low**	Salinity targets largely being met. WRP provisions behind schedule.
Water trading rules	✓	**Low**	
Environmental water planning and management (including pre-requisite policy measures)	✓	**Medium**	Failure to implement pre-requisite policy measures is a low likelihood, but high consequence risk. Other risks associated with environmental water planning and management are low.
Reporting, monitoring, evaluation	✘	**Medium**	There is scope to improve the evaluation framework and there is no clear monitoring strategy to give effect to the evaluation framework for the Plan.
Compliance	ongoing	**Low**	

Note: A tick for 'on schedule' means the element is progressing in line with agreed timelines. The level of risk assigned reflects the risk to achieving the objectives of the element, after taking into account actions to manage the risk. For example, while water take compliance is fundamental to achieving the outcomes of the Plan, Basin Governments have agreed on substantial changes that, when implemented, will provide greater confidence and assurance of compliance with water take rules.

Source: Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-Year Assessment Page 14
Reference: Productivity Commission 2019, Murray-Darling Basin Plan: Five-year assessment, Final Report, Canberra. https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/basin-plan/report

CONFERENCES and STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

ANZRSAI 2019 Conference

The 2019 ANZRSAI Conference will be held in Cairns, December 4th-6th. Further details will be available in early 2019. There will be two Best Paper Awards at the conference, sponsored by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics. The first award is for the Best Paper presented at the conference. The second award is for the Best Paper presented by a Student. There is a small cash grant given to the winners. Further details can be downloaded from the ANZRSAI homepage, or by following the following links: Best Conference Paper and Best Conference Paper by a Student.

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 link is http://blog.regionalstudies.org/

Here are some current topics:

https://blog.regionalstudies.org/brexit-a-divorce-like-few-others/

https://blog.regionalstudies.org/place-based-policy-expo-enhancing-relevance-sharpening-our-understanding/

Australian Regional Development Conference

From developments through to community initiatives, the work done within our regional areas deserve to be highlighted, celebrated and shared.

The Australian Regional Development Conference will be held on the Sunshine Coast from the 16-17 September 2019. The Program Advisory Committee are currently accepting abstract and presentation submissions for our 2019 event.

Topics open for discussion include:

- Trends, Funding, Policy
- Community Initiatives, Technology, Local Leadership
- Business Attraction and Economic Growth
- Environment and Resources
- Regional Liveability
- Regional Disruption

Call for abstracts close 24th May 2019.

16 - 17 September 2019, Twin Waters Resort, Sunshine Coast
Mob: 0432 897 023 Ph: 07 5502 2068

Notice from PRSCO: 59th ERSA Congress | 27-30 August 2019, Lyon, France

Cities, regions and digital transformations: opportunities, risks and challenges

More information: http://ersa.org/events/59th-ersa-congress/

CURRENT RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Regional Science Policy and Practice

Volume 11, Issue 1 (March 2019)

Pages: 1-2 | First Published: 28 March 2019

Spatial and social justice

Budy P. Resosudarmo, Ari Kuncoro, Geoffrey J. D. Hewings

Pages: 3-4 | First Published: 28 March 2019

The last few decades have seen the world experience a decrease in between-country income inequality accompanied by an increase in within-country income inequality. This is associated with the rapid development of emerging economies. There is also pronounced variation in inequality between regions within countries. High inequality has raised the issue of social justice in many countries.

Theories explaining the increase in income inequality, particularly in emerging countries, can be found in the literature. One of the early theories was Kuznets Hypothesis arguing that there is an inverted U-shaped relationship between economic growth and income inequality. Another area of the literature has focused on social injustice as the cause of income inequality. The central argument proposes that lack of equal access to education, medical service, and energy among others, induces inequality within countries.
https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12194

Household characteristics at the bottom, the typical, and the top of the 2016 income distribution in South Korea: A quantile regression analysis

Yuri Mansury, Jae Beum Cho

Pages: 5-21 | First Published: 18 January 2019

Abstract: This paper seeks understanding how demographic characteristics affect the different quantiles of the South Korean income distribution. Findings from the 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey data suggest that, at the bottom of the distribution, households relied heavily on cash transfers from institutions and other households, while those at the top relied more on wages, suggesting that high-income households in South Korea were not members of the "propertied class." We then develop simple empirical models to measure the effect of demographic covariates on household income conditional on a number of variables commonly used in inequality studies, including lifecycle, education, gender, marital status, urban residence, job security, industry and occupation type. Quantile regression results demonstrate how a particular quantile of the conditional distribution changes with demographic characteristics. Specifically, we found an increase in gender and unemployment effects as we go from high to low quantiles. Programmes aimed at combating gender discrimination and persistent unemployment therefore are expected to be inequality reducing. This is in contrast to policies to promote higher

education or to expand public sector employment that quantile regression models indicate to be inequality enhancing. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12177

Gender inequality among urban households in South Korea

Yuri Mansury, Kyung-Heun Baek

Pages: 23-38 | First Published: 12 March 2019

Abstract: Despite female-friendly advances in the South Korean labour market, significant income differentials have persisted not only between male and female workers but also between urban male and female-led households. This study examines the link between gender and income inequality using the household survey data for South Korea. Analysis of variance reveals the dispersion effects of gender account for less than 2% of the total variations in income. While the importance of gender in explaining aggregate inequality is surprisingly small, we found robust evidence corroborating the gender gap hypothesis. Controlling for demographic characteristics, the results show that Korean men-headed households, on average, earn 30% higher income than women-headed households. At the same time, the estimated discrimination effects suggest that the observed male–female income ratio exceeds the income ratio in the absence of discrimination by 26%. Furthermore, households led by a prime-age man with 20 years of on-the-job experience earn, on average, double the income of households led by a prime-age woman with similar qualifications. The results suggest that, while gender inequality remains a formidable challenge in Korea, female household heads in the prime age categories are particularly disadvantaged by workplace barriers against women participation. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12189

Interprovincial differences in labour force distribution and utilization based on educational attainment in Indonesia, 2002–2015

Mitsuhiko Kataoka

Pages: 39-54 | First Published: 29 November 2018

Abstract: Introducing an employment variable with five levels of educational attainment per capita and employing inequality decomposition, this study addresses three questions. How does labour force vary by education and provinces? How does labour force utilization vary by education and provinces? What are the potential causes of differences? We find that the no-primary-education group is more endowed in less-developed provinces and allocated most unequally among education groups across provinces, despite past universal primary education policies. The senior-secondary-education group with the largest labour share is a growing concern due to the lower employment rate and largest interprovincial inequality. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12159

Education and expenditure inequality in Myanmar: An analysis with the 2006 and 2012 Household Income and Expenditure Survey in an urban and rural setting

Aye Thu Zar Thein, Takahiro Akita

Pages: 55-70 | First Published: 12 March 2019

Abstract: Based on the Household Income and Expenditure Surveys in 2006 and 2012, this study analyses the roles of education in expenditure inequality in Myanmar using three inequality decomposition methods. Expenditure inequality was very high among ASEAN countries and much of the inequality was due to inequalities within urban and rural areas. Expansion of secondary education is important in urban areas, while primary education needs to be strengthened in rural areas to reduce expenditure disparity between the urban and rural sectors. Since expenditure inequalities between educational groups were small in both urban and rural areas, expenditure inequalities within educational groups need to be decreased to reduce overall expenditure inequality. The government needs to strengthen income-redistribution policies and social security programmes, promote the formal sector, and enforce the minimum wage regulation to reduce expenditure inequality. Since older age groups tend to have larger expenditure inequalities in urban areas, the government needs to strengthen social safety net programmes and raise pension coverage in the urban private sector. Since a very high expenditure inequality existed among younger households in the urban tertiary educational group, the government may need to introduce policies that could promote linkages between industry and academia to remove a mismatch between the qualifications of university and college graduates and the needs of employers. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12188

Inequality of opportunity, a matter of space?

Jesus Perez-Mayo

Pages: 71-87 | First Published: 12 February 2019

Abstract: Inequality has become a very important issue in developed countries in the last decades. Among the different definitions of inequality, inequality of opportunity stands out as one of the main topics. At what extent are personal circumstances out of control the root of unequal outcomes? Space, defined as the place where people live, can constrain the set of opportunities that people face or, even, people with the same personal circumstances, excepting region, and the same set of opportunities can obtain very different outcomes depending on the region. This issue is measured in Spain by using the 2011 EU-SILC microdata.
https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12181

Are poor provinces catching-up the rich provinces in Indonesia?

Hengky Kurniawan, Henri L. F. de Groot, Peter Mulder

Pages: 89-108 | First Published: 29 January 2019

Abstract: This paper examines the dynamics of socio-economic inequalities in Indonesia over the last four decades. We apply a club convergence test to provincial panel data on four socio-economic indicators: per capita gross regional product, the Gini coefficient, the school enrolment rate, and the fertility rate. We find that there is no single equilibrium steady state path for all these indicators in Indonesia. Instead, the data suggest that there exist two groups, with provinces converging within each of these two groups, but not between these groups. Finally, we identify the provinces that are catching-up and those that are falling behind in terms of the various socio-economic indicators.
https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12160

In search of spatial justice. Towards a conceptual and operative framework for the analysis of inter- and intra-urban inequalities using a geo-demographic approach. The case of Italy

Giovanni A. Barbieri, Federico Benassi, Marianna Mantuano, M. Rosaria Prisco

Pages: 109-121 | First Published: 20 November 2018

Abstract: Although still needing a definite theoretical status, spatial justice represents an inspiring framework for geographical analysis and for planning. In this paper we try to operationalize the concept through a geo-demographic approach. By using demographic and social differences as proxy of the concept at the urban level we define five socio-territorial clusters based on the characteristics of the population residing in the enumeration area of 14 Italian local labour market areas

(LLMAs) whose capital is also the capital of a metropolitan city. The first results of the analysis show a high level of heterogeneity and the absence of compact and segregated peripheries. At the same time the analysis highlights the need for further methodological investigations to attain a better representation of social justice in its spatial dimension. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12158

A sectoral growth-income inequality nexus in Indonesia

Iván González Gordón, Budy P. Resosudarmo

Pages: 123-139 | First Published: 20 June 2018

Abstract: This paper provides evidence of strong associational effects between economic growth in the manufacturing, agriculture, mining and services sectors and income inequality, measured by an income equality variable, using panel data for Indonesian districts and cities over the period 2000 to 2010. The results show a significantly positive impact of both manufacturing and services shares of GDP on income inequality. The share of agriculture in GDP, however, shows a significantly negative impact on income inequality. The effects are robust to the incorporation of control variables, making a case for considering sectoral differences in policy targeting for achieving inclusive growth. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12125

Interpreting and understanding territorial identity

Roberta Capello

Pages: 141-158 | First Published: 07 December 2018

Abstract: Regional competitiveness has been made increasingly dependent on soft, intangible assets. One of these latter is certainly territorial identity. This concept, however, lacks a clear definition and a sound measure. The aim of this paper is to enter the debate on territorial identity. Building on the concepts of similarity and solidarity as elements essential for definition of identity, the paper elaborates on the “territorial” dimension of identity, and on the laws of accumulation and depletion of such a soft asset. Finally, starting from the definition of territorial identity as “the presence of socio-economic context conditions allowing convergence between collective and private interests, and feeding a sense of belonging and loyalty to a community”, the paper suggests a composite indicator for territorial identity, and applies it to all European NUTS 2 regions, and draws policy implications from the concept. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12166

Differential demographic transitions for Women of different ethnicities in Gauteng, South Africa, 1996–2011

Hermanus Stephanus Geyer, Nhlapo Mosidi

Pages: 159-171 | First Published: 07 January 2019

Abstract: The paper evaluates the onset of first and second demographic transitions amongst the four main ethnic subpopulations of the metropolitan areas of Tshwane, Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni in Gauteng Province, South Africa. Extracting data from the 1996 and 2011 censuses, the results indicate that Asian women experienced second demographic transitions during the study period, while White women already achieved these transitions by 1996. These subpopulations are characterized by high singulate mean ages of marriage, increasing cohabitation rates, low singles rates, below replacement fertility, and increasing fertility postponement. There is also the emergence of double-peaked fertility rates as these populations have different fertility peaks, due to female education and career decisions. Black and Coloured women show characteristics of first demographic transitions with low changes in cohabitation and singles rates, declines in fertility to replacement level fertility and low fertility postponement. Black women have very high but rapidly declining

singulate mean ages of marriage. This is evidence that Black subpopulations are replacing traditional extended marriage customs with western marriage patterns, which conforms to the modernization trends in first demographic transitions. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12171

Fiscal Decentralization – A Cautious Tale

Yizhou Zhang, Geoffrey J.D. Hewings

Pages: 173-187 | First Published: 09 January 2019

Abstract: Many subnational economies are facing severe fiscal stress often generated by the devolution of responsibilities that have been accompanied by little devolution of fiscal resources. In 2011, the Illinois state government raised individual and corporate income taxes as one contribution to easing the problem of short term and longer-term fiscal deficits; opponents of the tax increase were concerned about the impacts on labor mobility and the overall state economy, as well as the policy's effectiveness in addressing the state's financial situation. These concerns provide the foci of the present paper. Comparison of simulation results with and without the tax increase finds that although the policy increases the state government's income, it also negatively impacts the state economy in terms of greater out-migration, lower employment and Gross Regional Product, and a smaller tax base in the long run. Moreover, simulation results show that the tax increase will expedite the state's debt clearance only if the state government significantly increases its share of income spent on debt payment, at the price of enhanced negative economic impacts. The results provide a cautionary tale for subnational authorities to consider more carefully the implications of unilateral changes in tax rates. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12172

Do light rail transit investments increase employment opportunities? The case of Charlotte, North Carolina

Kristine Laura Canales, Isabelle Nilsson, Elizabeth Delmelle

Pages: 189-202 | First Published: 27 February 2019

Abstract: This paper examines whether rail transit stations tend to increase employment opportunities in nearby neighbourhoods and whether rail transit tends to be placed in neighbourhoods which connects to higher-wage jobs. The results show no significant relative increase in the level of employment in neighbourhoods near rail stations post opening of the first light rail line in Charlotte, NC. However, the line connects to areas with significantly higher shares of high-wage workers and industries. While creating accessibility to higher-skilled jobs may result in greater economic impacts, it may conflict with goals of increasing employment opportunities for transit dependent, lower-wage workers. https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12184

BOOK REVIEWS

Advanced Introduction to National Innovation Systems, Cristina Chaminade, Bengt-Åke Lundvall, Shagufa Hanneef, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, 2018

Roberta Capello

Pages: 203-204 | First Pub: 28 August 2018

The square and the tower: Networks and power, from the Freemasons to Facebook

Gordon F. Mulligan

Pages: 204-207 | 1st Published: 15 Oct 2018

The Cost–Benefit Revolution.

Cass R. Sunstein and Amitrajeet A. Batabyal

Pages: 207-209 | First Published: 22 Nov 2018

Papers in Regional Science
98(2) April 2019

Pages: 601-620 First Published: 19 April 2018

Anthony T. Flegg and Timo Tohmo

The regionalization of national input-output tables: A study of South Korean regions

Abstract: This paper uses survey-based data for 16 South Korean regions to refine the application of Flegg's location quotient (FLQ) and its variant, the sector-specific FLQ (SFLQ). These regions vary markedly in terms of size. Especial attention is paid to the problem of choosing appropriate values for the unknown parameter δ in these formulae. Alternative approaches to this problem are evaluated and tested. Our paper adds to earlier research that aims to find a cost-effective way of adapting national coefficients, so as to produce a satisfactory initial set of regional input coefficients for regions where survey-based data are unavailable.
https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12364

Pages 621-639
Maria Tsiapa

Adjustment mechanisms of Greek regions in export activity during the economic crisis of 2008–2012

Abstract: Under the deep and protracted recession that plagues the Greek regions, exports have shown some positive signs of resilience. This paper explores through a spatial econometric analysis of SUR models, first, the changes that occurred in exports by the (NUTS 3 level) regions for the period 2008–2012 to offer resistance against the crisis and to stimulate growth, which entail expansion of export demand, improvement in the quality of agricultural products, deeper specialization in broad low-technology sectors and simultaneous increases in the variety inside these sectors and second, the ability of exports to transfer their growth gains to the broader economy.
https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12367

Pages 641-677 First Published: 30 April 2018

Iolanda Lo Cascio, Fabio Mazzola and Rosalia Epifanio

Territorial determinants and NUTS 3 regional performance: A spatial analysis for Italy across the crisis

Abstract: This paper analyses the differential impact of several territorial determinants of the economic performance of Italian provinces (NUTS 3 level). as measured by per capita GDP, export and employment growth from 1999 to 2014. It covers both the pre-crisis and the crisis period and stresses the role of geographical proximity in shaping local performance over a wide set of explanatory variables. In order to do so, we employ, firstly, a spatial Durbin model which enables us to discriminate between direct and indirect effects and to highlight the possible contagion or crowding-out spatial effects for each territorial dimension affecting growth. Then, we extend the analysis by allowing for the possibility of two regimes (pre-crisis and post-crisis). The performance of the provinces before and during the crisis relates to specific territorial components and geographic proximity appears to influence differently the results and their interpretation.
https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12372

Pages 679-699 First Published: 23 May 2018

Stephen Buckman, Mara Latorre, M. Martin Bosman, Neveen Nawawy, and 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. https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12378

Pages: 701-735 First Published: 14 June 2018

Jonathan Eberle, Thomas Brenner and Timo Mitze

A look behind the curtain: Measuring the complex economic effects of regional structural funds in Germany

Abstract: This paper investigates the mutual impact channels of Germany's major regional policy instrument (GRW) on regional economic development. Different from earlier studies which have predominately focused on a partial assessment of output effects, we explicitly endogenize the factor inputs of the underlying production function. This allows us to comprehensively assess the role of the GRW in driving per capita output, employment, human and physical capital intensities as well as the region's technological growth. The results from a spatial panel vector autoregressive model show that GRW funding has significant positive effects on regional output, the employment rate and human capital intensity. https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12373

Pages: 973-994 First Published: 26 Sept 2018

Dürdane Şirin Saracoğlu and Terry L. Roe

Regional cost-of-living differentials, rural–urban migration, and the contribution to economic growth

Abstract: Using a multi-region, multi-sector dynamic model of an economy with rural–urban migration fit to Turkish data, this paper explores the evolution of each region's output and factor
allocation as well as inter-regional disparities that emerge with migration. Migration or residence decision of households is endogenous with respect to regional cost-of-living differentials. Results show that migration slows down and dampens the shift of labour from urban manufacturing to services, despite the increase in demand for urban services. It is also established that rural–urban migration contributes positively to growth while the reallocation of labour within each region proves to be unfavourable. https://doi.org/10.1111/pirs.12404

Australasian Journal of Regional Studies 24(3), 2018.

Pages 256-257

Lucas Davis and Kathryn Davidson

Planning for natural hazard resilience: An assessment of contemporary Australian disaster management policy and strategy.

Abstract: As climatic trends point to an increase in the severity of natural hazard conditions, the risk to Australian settlements is only increasing. Although these events are unavoidable, resilience management seeks to foster greater adaptive capacity through new-age policies and strategies. This paper provides an assessment of contemporary Australian disaster management policies and aims to determine how strategic plans incorporate and foster resilience through

planning interventions. A key aim is to comparatively assess, through the application of a discursive methodology of analysis, the differences that lie between these plans to gauge the current state of resilience management in an Australian context.

Pages 284-308

Jude Mannix and Michael Hefferan

New dimensions in land tenure – the current status and issues surrounding native title in regional Australia.

Abstract: The acquisition and use of real property is fundamental to practically all types of resource and infrastructure projects. The success of those activities is based, in no small way, on the reliability of the underlying tenure and land management systems operating across all Australian states and territories.

Against that background, however, the historic Mabo (1992) decision gave recognition to Indigenous land rights and the subsequent enactment of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth.) (NTA) ushered in an emerging and complex new aspect of property law. While receiving wide political and community support, these changes have had a significant effect on those long-established tenure systems. Further, it has only been over time, as diverse property dealings have been encountered, that the full implications of the new legislation and its operations have become clear.

Regional areas are more likely to encounter native title issues than are urban environments due, in part, to the presence of large scale agricultural and pastoral tenures and of significant areas of un-alienated crown land, where native title may not have been extinguished.

Despite the NTA, numerous cases have emerged where the application of legislative guidelines has proven incomplete and many of those cases remain unresolved, thus complicating property dealings for both the public and private sectors. Research leading to this paper indicates that these issues and their implications are poorly understood, even by professionals involved. This paper, drawing from recent PhD research, specific examples and court decisions, presents a summary of the nature and processes of such dealings, identifies some of the key factors that typically frustrate early resolution and calls for the urgent production of operational guidelines and professional training in these areas, so relevant to regional Australia.

Pages 309-326

Andrea Blake

New dimensions in land tenure – The current status and issues surrounding carbon sequestration in regional Australia.

Abstract: Carbon sequestration became topical following the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (United Nations, 1992) and Kyoto Protocol (United Nations, 1998) which identified emissions trading as a mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In Australia a legislative framework was established to recognise carbon in forestry as a property right to enable participation in emissions trading schemes. Carbon rights offer rural landholders .the opportunity to generate an alternative income stream on their land. However, there are considerable complexities surrounding carbon rights which are generally poorly understood, including the importance of the carbon agreement where the carbon rights are transferred to a third party. This paper builds on PhD research and provides a description of the substance and form of the carbon right in Australia and proposes a series of issues to consider for inclusion in a carbon agreement.

Pages 327-346

Michelle Esparon, Marina Farr, Silva Larson and Natalie Stoeckl

Social values and growth and their implications for ecosystem services in the long-run.

Abstract: Social values are dynamic and may change with development, potentially having severe consequences on a region's ecosystem services. These values are often inadequately captured. We consider a region rich in natural capital—the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, Australia—and examine how important a range of different factors which include, but are not limited to, ecosystem services (ES) are to people's overall quality of life. We acknowledge that people's perception of the importance of different factors vary systematically between those who are dependent upon different industries for their household income. Community values are thus shown to depend upon industry composition and demographic composition. We conclude that in small communities, rapid growth in particular sectors may start an endogenous cycle of changing values which define future economic trajectories. This will affect ecological trajectories.

Pages 347-366

Andrea Wallace and Brian Dollery

How two became one: The creation of the Armidale Regional Council.

Abstract: After the New South Wales (NSW) Fit for the Future municipal amalgamation determination in May 2016, local authorities targeted for forced merger had elected officials replaced with a state-government appointed Administrator, tenured until the next mandated local government election in September 2017. As both an officially appointed political representative and professional administrator, the role of the Administrator in post-merger councils is controversial. In this paper we examine the forced amalgamation of the Armidale Dumaresq Council (ADC) and the Guyra Shire Council (GSC) into Armidale Regional Council (ARC) through the eyes of its Administrator Dr Ian Tiley. This study provides a case study into the functions and responsibilities of the Administrator role and how it shaped the ARC merger process. While a substantial literature has considered the NSW Fit for the Future amalgamation program, to date no scholars have specifically examined the challenges confronting Administrators per se. This paper thus seeks to address this gap in the literature by way of a case study of the ARC Administrator.

Pages 367-

Edward F. Morrison

Three perspectives on regional economies: A convergence on ecosystems and platforms.

Abstract: Globalisation has given rise to a resurgence of regional economies. Scholars trying to understand this emergence have explored the phenomenon from different perspectives. It only makes sense that scholars write for different audiences. This preliminary systematic review examines the rise of the regional economy literature by examining different research streams. These streams are directed toward three different audiences: business managers, regional policy makers and university leaders. The review suggests that these three streams are beginning to converge on two key concepts: ecosystems and platforms. By pursuing this convergence, scholars can benefit from the different perspectives and develop tighter integration across these research streams. This integration will likely yield more valuable insights.

ABOUT ANZRSAI

Conference Awards

Congratulations to our top scholars

Awards given at the 2018 Conference of the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association International (Inc)

The ANZRSAI Award for Best Conference Paper 2018

Awarded to:

Abbas Ziafati Bafarasat and Lee Pugalis

For their paper:

'*The Governance of Metropolitan Regions: Governmental Business Interactions*'

The ANZRSAI Award for Best Conference Paper by a Current or Recent Student, 2018

Awarded to:

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For their paper:

'*Assessing the impacts of extreme weather events on selected fruit production in Central Queensland, Australia: A relational analysis using flood data*'

Highly Commended Award for a Conference Paper by a Current or Recent Student, 2018,

Awarded to:

Fuseini Inusah, Parves Sultan, Delwar Akbar and John Rolfe

For their paper:

'Can Social License Theory Explain the Relationship between Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Community Engagement (CE)? The New Ghanaian Petrochemical Industry Context'

Highly Commended Award for a Conference Paper by a Current or Recent Student, 2018

Awarded to:

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For their paper:

'Government Business Programs and Regional Business Knowledge Transmission by Professional Business Advisors'

The John Dickinson Memorial Award for best article in the Australasian Journal of Regional Studies, 2018

Awarded to:

Joe Branigan and Fariba Ramezani

For their paper:

Assessing the Value of Public Infrastructure at a Regional Level: Cost Benefit Analysis Supplemented by Economic Impact Analysis

ANZRSAI Council Notes

ANZRSAI Conferences

The annual conference and AJRS are the foundations of ANZRSAI.

The small conference attracts new members to ANZRSAI because our senior members generously offer support, encouragement, relevant experience and information, and AJRS offers an opportunity for early publication.

Council noted that the conference is our principal source of funds and that the organization returned a small profit in 2018.

International Conferences

The RSAI policy is to host its World Congress in a city of a developing country. Australasia city would not be chosen for this event. We might be accepted to host a future *Pacific Regional Science Conference (PRSCO).* We have been asked to start thinking about this for 2024. Traditionally we locate international conferences on the Gold Coast, since that is easily accessed from Asia and North America.

Proposed Roles of Council Members

Membership Secretary: Delwar Akbar

Council Secretary: Rolf Gerritsen

Correspondence Secretary: Yogi Vidyattama

Publications Secretary: Vince Mangioni or Lee Pugalis. (Within the UTS/editors group.)

Conference Secretary: Paul Dalziel

Webmaster: Paul Dalziel

Convenor: Conference Awards Committee. Volunteer required.

Convenor: Contributed Papers sessions: Paul Dalziel

Editors:

- *Conference Proceedings*: Megan Wood, assisted by Rolf Gerritsen.
- *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*: Bligh Grant (Executive Editor), Rolf Gerritsen, Khorshed Alam and Vincent Mangioni
- *Sustaining Regions* - Tony O'Malley assisted by Megan Woods

Accounts – Greg Jones

Abstract circulation - a new function which Joseph Drew will initiate in the near future.

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