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Foreword

2017 has brought several changes in ANZRSAI. Our president, Professor Robyn Eversole has been appointed Professor, Centre for Social Impact at Swinburne University. The Annual Conference brought an opportunity to strengthen the links between ANZRSAI and policy makers in the development of research projects and we have an early trial under way. Our 41st Annual Conference will be in Toowoomba, Queensland.



Some Conference Highlights

ANZRSAI Annual Conference, 5-7 December 2016, Towards the Future: Emerging Priorities in Regional Policy and Practice was a great success. The conference was hosted by the European Union Centre at RMIT and the RMIT Social Change Enabling Platform. The conference venue was the Swanston Academic Building, RMIT University city campus, Melbourne.

Key note speakers included:

John Daley, Chief Executive Officer of the Grattan Institute spoke on the topic of Regionalism and the changing economic, social, and political geography of Australia. The following is a summary of the main points drawn from early in the presentation.

The global economy is shifting to services (This is also a finding of Sassen, 2000). Services are driving the growth of cities, especially central business districts.

Grattan Institute research shows that since about 1978, services have accounted for a larger share of Australia's household income than have goods. Australia's economy is now dominated by 5 big cities, reflecting a century-long shift. Economic and employment growth is now focused on the centre of big cities, while the fringes have fewer opportunities. Information technology accelerates these trends.

Almost everywhere business is leaving the city edges and moving toward city centres. The driver is personal proximity to other services businesses, with personal interactions then facilitated by improving communications technology.

These changes in the geography of the services economy have an impact on politics and on the geography of government spending. The larger parties are urban but regions often have important swing votes, which put political pressure on governments to invest in regions.

Governments have responded with infrastructure spending, but this is often not in the right places [i.e. growing cities] and is not always subject to rigorous cost-benefit analysis. Spending on new transport infrastructure has jumped, but was weighted to regional areas. Government services spending have also been weighted away from large capital cities reflecting higher costs.

This weighting is politically driven as illustrated by the last election. Despite higher spending on regions, regional voters are turning away from the established parties. This Australian pattern reflects international political trends such as Brexit and Trump.

Reference: Sassen, Saskia. 2000. *Cities in a World Economy*, Second edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. ISBN 0-7619-8666-9.

Professor Karel Williams of the University of Manchester, UK, spoke on the topic of the foundational economy.

The foundational economy provides adequate and reasonably priced foundational goods and services which are material basics for the whole population, such as necessary services of health care, education, welfare and retail banking, and connecting services such as water, sewer, power, housing, social insurance and communications. Outsourcing of these material basics extracts value from the foundations and monopolises public goods, including essential infrastructure, leaving citizens worse off and under-serviced.

Adam Leaver and Karel Williams. 2014. After the 30-year experiment - The future of the 'foundational economy.' *Juncture*, 21(3), pp. 215-221.

Andrew Bowman, Julie Froud, Sukhdev Johal, John Law, Adam Leaver, Mick Moran and Karel Williams. 2014, *The End of the Experiment? From Competition to the Foundational Economy*. Manchester University Press, ISBN: 978-0-7190-9633-4.

For more go to: <http://www.manchestercapitalism.co.uk/foundational-economy>.

The Latrobe Valley: An Information Exchange

Regional Development Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning and RMIT University provided valuable exchange of information on the Latrobe Valley providing a sound basis for the response to the closure of ...Power Station. It included presentations by Professor Peter Fairbrother of RMIT University.

Fiona McKenzie, Senior Researcher in the Land Use & Population Research Team at DELWP presented information about the Latrobe Valley: population change and projections; current and future age structures; house price and land development trends; and findings from recent research studies on population attraction and retention.

Professor Peter Fairbrother, Professor of International Employment Relations and Deputy Director, Centre for People, Organisation and Work, RMIT, presented his work from the project 'Transition and Transformation in City-Regions, which focuses on the Gippsland Region with particular focus on the Latrobe Valley Sub-Region. Part of a set of broader regionally focused studies in Australia, this project seeks to critically apply theories and methodology of 'smart specialisation' and the political economy of regional development. The latter makes a distinction between foundational economy and the competitive one. It aims to assist Australian city-regions to develop new models of regional development based on value-adding, sustainable and inclusive growth which serves community and promotes livelihoods.

Commentary:

From the Regional Australia Institute

The future of regional Australia: Change on our terms

RAI Publications Library Knowledge November 27, 2015 (From someone we know!)

The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) has been working with government, researchers, development practitioners and the community to consider the central questions about the future of regional Australia.

It has become evident that no true consensus exists as to how to develop regions. Yet there is a growing agreement that the approaches pursued in the past, whilst well-intended, were failing to yield the desired outcomes.

This led the RAI to consider the wider history around regional development theory and practice and its relevance to the broader regional context. The intent of this paper is to start a discussion that reshapes the way we think, plan and act in our regions.

The RAI recognises that many of the themes in this paper may challenge traditional policy practice and discourse. The nature of the discussion is based on the future being increasingly divergent from the past and that traditional practice may need to be challenged.

The RAI has prepared this paper in conjunction with Adjunct Professor Tony Sorensen. It explores the frustration felt by many with regard to outcomes of regional policy and considers a shift in thinking about the future of regional development – for the benefit of all Australians.

Read the full report at www.regionalaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Change-on-our-terms-FINAL-20151126.pdf.

[Bridging the Education Divide: Building a Culture of Learning across the Lifecycle in Regional Australia](#)

Media, Media releases// Bendigo Bank, Education, Human Capital, Insight// March 30 2017

“Whether you’re 8 or 88, if you’re in a regional area we want you to be engaged in learning,” is the key message from Regional Australia Institute CEO Jack Archer in light of the government’s announcement of an Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education.

Australia is on track to have the most segregated education system in the OECD: where a person lives is now second only to socioeconomic status as a determinant for success.

In order to bridge the education divide, Archer believes that Australia will need to radically lift access to learning opportunities in regions, supporting educators and other leaders to solve key local challenges to “build a culture of learning led from within our towns and communities. If we want to shift things we need a leap frog strategy founded in national ambition.

“We won’t win this battle with one-time national reforms on systemic issues, the answer is to go all in. The outcome we want most is that in regions, every person is engaged in education in some way.”

Building a life-long culture of learning in regional Australia is critical to not only bridging the educational divide but to the economic prosperity of regional Australia. Not only will investing in learning across the lifecycle build a more skilled and agile workforce, it is imperative to keeping up with technological change.

“Technology change and job mobility means the concept of one-time education completed early in life is fast becoming obsolete.

“Australia cannot afford a two-speed education system which compounds existing health, opportunity and income gaps in regional areas.”

The Regional Australia Institute's [In]Sight-Human Capital Index, launched with Bendigo and Adelaide Bank on Tuesday, 28 March, looks at educational development across ages and stages on a region by region basis.

Key data from the Index shows that as it stands:

- Based on NAPLAN results, regional areas perform significantly lower than their metropolitan neighbours in both primary and secondary numeracy and literacy;
- The proportion of young regional Australians (aged 15-24) not engaged in either education or employment is 44% higher than metropolitan areas; and
- This divide carries through to post-secondary education too, with 9% fewer Australians in regional areas university qualified.

But it is not all bad news. Some regions performed well in specific educational segments like primary numeracy and literacy and 'learning or earning'. However while these regions performed highly against select indicators, against other measures they did not do so well.

"The diversity of regional strengths and weaknesses means that while our standard schools funding debate, VET or university reform options can contribute, on their own each will fail to solve the problem of the regional divide."

For more information please refer to the following websites:

www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/2015/11/human-capital/ and
www.regionalaustralia.org.au/home/tools-and-products/insight/.

From Regional Development Australia

The Australian Government has released the Start-up Muster 2016 Annual Report on Australia's start up sector. 16 March 2017

Startup Muster has released its latest report, Startup Muster 2016, surveying thousands of founders, potential founders and businesses like accelerators, incubators and educators.

Startup Muster, a not-for-profit organisation, completes the survey each year with support from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and Google.

The report looks at the 'who, why and where' of Australian startups with over 2,700 respondents to the Startup Muster survey across Australia. Almost 2,000 of the respondents were startups or potential startups.

While most startups are located in capital cities, the report revealed that over 23% of startups are outside of capital cities.

High speed internet connectivity was of high benefit for 24% of respondents and it was reported that reliable access to fast connectivity is likely to be a key enabler for regional startups.

The report also revealed a high level of co-working amongst startups with 72% using co-working and over 50% of these using co-working full time.

View the full report here: <https://www.startupmuster.com/Startup-Muster-2016-Report.pdf>

From the Cockatoo Network

Our thanks go to The Cockatoo Network for extending this courtesy to ANZRSIAI. In this issue we include material from recent issues of the Cockatoo. You can contact The Cockatoo Network at email apdcockatoo@iprimus.com.au. P.S. ANZRSIAI member contributions are welcomed. From February 2017.

Lessons from Stronger Regions

In the last funding round of the Stronger Regions Program, there were 67 projects in receipt of \$126 million.

Finding 1 - 14 projects were health-related e.g. residential aged care, family services, people with disabilities, Ronald McDonald accommodation. Probably wonderful projects, but Stronger Regions was supposed to fund wealth-creating projects for disadvantage regions – not for the disadvantaged folk within them. Clearly there was a different interpretation of the Stronger Regions guidelines, and the Abbott-Hockey cuts to health/social programs created a vacuum that had to be filled. This isn't right at a number of levels, and the new BRR Fund is no solution.

Finding 2 - the continuing low success rate (15%) of applications. Federal officials' response is usually that it's a competitive process and the government is obliged to fund only the quality proposals. The same officials sometimes admit that the smaller councils may not have the resources to prepare quality proposals, nor the patience to put up with the rigmarole involved. This means the small councils in the most deserving regions opt out of the process.

Finding 3 - the relative lack of transformational projects i.e. helping to transform the local economy, or at least kick it onto a higher plane. Those that meet this objective are:

- Margaret River Entertainment & Tourism Hub (\$1.8 million) – key plank in its diversification agenda.
- Upper Murray Events Centre (\$800k) – to leverage the success of the Man from Snowy River and associated cultural tourism strengths of Corryong, Towong etc.
- Derby Airport terminal upgrade (\$5.1m) – long overdue.
- Queenscliff Precinct Revitalisation (\$3.5m) – to stimulate investment and jobs.
- Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton (\$8m) – to elevate the region's bush tourism credentials and to leverage its Qantas connection.
- Peterborough waste water (\$8.6m) – to address a major growth impediment in this interesting SA town.
- Dubbo Airport & Aeromedical facilities (\$6.7m) – to sustain the regional transport hub.

It's these type of productivity-enhancing projects that I thought that the Stronger Regions Program was about, and now the new lean BRR Fund is a step backwards.

Where to now? The most attractive option might be to forget the feds, and instead create the conditions to attract private sector investment in transformational projects. If you can get traction with super funds, overseas or local investors etc., you then lobby the state and/or feds to fund small parts of the project with a public benefit dimension. The rise of independent politicians may provide you with allies.

A past example is the impressive Logic industrial estate outside Wodonga. It evolved with Wodonga City Council and the private sector, and the Victorian Government then chimed in. Other examples are Scone's equine agenda, the Honeysuckle urban development (Newcastle) and

Port Lincoln's seafood cluster. The proposals met a real need, had best practice features and private sector buy-in. The federal/state governments chimed in.

The Cockatoo Network is currently assisting councils to identify and realise transformational projects. Please contact us if this interests you.

Churchill Fellowships

By courtesy we reproduce a note on Churchill Fellowships prepared by the Cockatoo.

Long-time Cockatoo Mark Bell (Riverland, SA) has kindly advised that the 2017 Churchill Fellowship application period starts soon. There are Information Sessions in various places starting soon – see the Churchill Trust website. Interestingly, we are advised that

1. There has been a significant under-representation of applicants from rural and remote regions, small business and culturally and linguistically diverse community groups. If you have links to these groups, you might make an effort to put them in the loop.

2. Out of the 40 sponsored Churchill Fellowship on offer in 2016, eight failed to attract any suitable applicants. They were:

- National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC) – to research Improvement in Rapid International Disaster Medical Response.
- The Mr & Mrs Gerald Frank New Churchill Fellowship - strategies which support and encourage role model behavior for Australia's elite athletes domestically and overseas.
- Bob and June Prickett to examine methods which mitigate the impact of natural disasters such as fire, flood and cyclones on the Australian community.
- Dame Roma Mitchell – excellence in the performing arts.
- Dr Iain C Medgett – study of classical strings.
- Dr Dorothea Sanders & Irene Lee – enhancement of the delivery of palliative care.
- Samuel & Eileen Gluyas – tropical pastoral industry
- Leslie (Les) Fleming – oncology and cancer research

The Fellowship website explains that the funding is a minimum \$25k to cover travel and associated costs. There is no age limit.

Mark Bell studied industry clusters on his Churchill Fellowship and various Cockatoos helped him. His report can be found at <http://www.churchilltrust.com.au/fellows/detail/3773/Mark+Bell>

Developing a research program on inland ports

The Cockatoo is assisting Delwar Akbar and his team on their search for funding and other support for a study of inland ports in northern Australia.

From the Productivity Commission

Inquiry on Transitioning Regional Economies

The task of the review is to study "...the geographic impacts of the transition of the Australian economy following the resources investment boom" (TOR). The Terms of Reference for this study note that "The different impacts across the geographic regions of the Australian economy occur because of variable

factors such as endowments of natural resources and demographics. Some regions may also have limited capacity to respond to changes in economic conditions; for example, due to different policy or institutional settings.”

The Commission has been directed to submit an initial report to the Australian Government in April 2017. The report is due in December 2017.

Given the deadline, the Commission did not release an issues paper, however it did invite public submissions by 15 February 2017. The Inquiry has received 36 submissions. [One from your editor.]

www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/transitioning-regions.

Regulation of Australian Agriculture

The Final Report has been forwarded to the Australian Government and is not yet available.

The Draft Report is headed with: The Regulatory Burden on Farmers Must Be Reduced

“Farmers are straining under a heavy burden of regulation. They face complex regulations at every stage of the supply chain — from land acquisition to marketing. These are imposed by multiple agencies across three levels of government,' said Commissioner Paul Lindwall.

'The resulting duplication, inconsistency and redundancy this creates in areas such as heavy vehicle and road use regulation should be addressed promptly,' said Commissioner Paul Lindwall.

The Commission is also calling for regulation to be better informed by the evidence.

'Some regulation is simply not supported by the evidence, such as bans on genetically modified crops in some states. The recent tightening of the foreign investment regime for agriculture by the Australian Government also lacks a sound policy justification. These regulations are not in the public interest and should be unwound,' said Commissioner Paul Lindwall.

'Farm animal welfare standards also need to be consistent and based on the evidence, including the scientific evidence on animal welfare and community values. A national, independent body should be created to deal effectively and comprehensively with the evidence in this area and develop nationally consistent farm animal welfare standards,' said Commissioner Ken Baxter.

'International evidence should be used more when assessing agricultural and veterinary chemicals. This would reduce the cost and time taken to grant domestic registration,' said Commissioner Ken Baxter.

Native vegetation and biodiversity conservation regulations need improving.

'Conservation of the natural environment is important to the community, but regulations must give due weight to economic and social factors, and be proportionate to the risks posed,' said Commissioner Ken Baxter.”

www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/agriculture/draft.

From the Grattan Institute

John Daley, Chief Executive Officer of the Grattan Institute, spoke at the 40th ANZRSI Annual Conference in Melbourne in December 2016. His presentation is summarized earlier in this newsletter. The link below provides more insights into the place of regions in the Australian economy.

<https://grattan.edu.au/news/bush-may-not-like-it-but-our-cities-must-come-first/>.

John Daley's speech to the Productivity Commission is here: <https://grattan.edu.au/news/productivity-and-geography/>.

THE CONVERSATION

A housing affordability crisis in regional Australia? Yes, and here's why

January 27, 2017

Andrew Beer

<https://theconversation.com/a-housing-affordability-crisis-in-regional-australia-yes-and-heres-why-71808>.

How regions can persuade fly-in fly-out workers to live locally

February 6, 2017

Riccardo Welters, Associate Professor, College of Business, Law & Governance, James Cook University
Christopher Nicholas, PhD Student in Resource and Labour Economics, James Cook University

<https://theconversation.com/how-regions-can-persuade-fly-in-fly-out-workers-to-live-locally-71465>.

Ban on sleeping rough does nothing to fix the problems of homelessness

January 23, 2017 6.59pm AEDT James Petty, Researcher in Criminology, University of Melbourne

The homeless need, guess what, a home!

<https://theconversation.com/ban-on-sleeping-rough-does-nothing-to-fix-the-problems-of-homelessness-71630>.

New science minister needs to maintain momentum and push the innovation agenda

January 24, 2017

<https://theconversation.com/new-science-minister-needs-to-maintain-momentum-and-push-the-innovation-agenda-71700>.



Regional Policy and Practice

Forthcoming Book:

Local Government in Australia: History, Theory and Public Policy

Authors: **Bligh Grant** and **Joseph Drew**

- Offers an understanding of Australian local government as a historical and political phenomenon and its importance in contemporary debates.
- Provides a theoretical foundation for Australian local government.
- Represents a new generation of Australian local government scholarship.

The link to this forthcoming book is www.springer.com/gp/book/9789811038655.

Congratulations to Bligh!

Bligh Grant, PhD

Institute for Public Policy and Governance

University of Technology Sydney

E Bligh.Grant@uts.edu.au

CONFERENCES and STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Papers – International Social Innovation Research Conference (ISIRC)

ISIRC is the world's leading interdisciplinary social innovation research conference. The conference brings together scholars from across the globe to discuss social innovation from a variety of perspectives. This year, the 9th International Conference will be held in Melbourne at Swinburne University of Technology, 12-14 December.

ANZRSAI members will be particularly interested in the dedicated conference stream on Rural, Regional and Remote Innovation. Social innovation in rural, regional and remote contexts (Stream co-chairs: Artur Steiner artur.steiner@gcu.ac.uk and Robyn Eversole Robyn.Eversole@utas.edu.au)

The call for papers and panels is open now: www.isirconference.com/call-for-papers/ and closes on 28 March.

Key dates:

- Paper abstract and panel proposals due: Extended to March 28, 2017 (By popular request)
- Decision of submissions to be advised by: April 30, 2017
- Early-bird registration closes: July 25, 2017
- Full papers submitted for consideration in best paper awards due: September 10, 2017

Inquiries:

- Inquiries about submissions to specific streams should be directed to stream co-chairs
- Inquiries about conference administration and technical issues related to online submission should be directed to the conference secretariat at csiswin@swin.edu.au
- All other inquiries should be directed to the conference secretariat at csiswin@swin.edu.au

Regional Studies Association Australasia Conference 2017

FRAGMENTED REGIONAL WORLDS: INEQUALITY AND POPULISM IN A GLOBALISING WORLD

3rd – 5th July 2017, The University of Sydney, Australia

Bursary (Free Conference Registration) application deadline: Friday, 31st March 2017

Abstract submission deadline: 28th April 2017

Keynote panel: Regional Fragmentation and the Changing Political Landscapes of 2016-17

The following keynote speakers have been confirmed:

Professor Phillip O'Neill (Western Sydney University, Australia)

Dr Mia Gray (University of Cambridge, UK)

Professor Andrew Beer (University of South Australia, Australia)

Professor Hugh Campbell (University of Otago, New Zealand)

Professor David Bailey (Aston University, United Kingdom)

For more information and Call for Papers please [click here](#).

Developing Northern Australia Conference

Following successful Conferences in 2015 and 2016 and the implementation of the Government White Paper, the Developing Northern Australia Conference will focus on initiatives to drive progress, growth and investment in the development of Northern Australia. The 2017 Conference will be held at the Pullman International Cairns on the 19th and 20th of June.

You are invited to submit a presentation to address the Conference, and join respected sector leaders.

You have the opportunity to submit a 30-minute oral presentation on the following topics:

- Business Opportunities: Indigenous engagement, Digital and remote technologies, Young entrepreneurs, Reducing red tape, Supporting SMEs
- Food and Agribusiness: New models for food and agribusiness development, Securing investment in food and agribusiness, Innovation and leadership in agri-food production, Developing trade and strategic links
- Healthcare, Medical Research and Aged Care: Research, Development and innovation
- Infrastructure: Strategic thinking in transport networks, Beef roads – cattle supply chain, Towards a Northern Infrastructure Plan, Integrating rail, Air services and ports, Indigenous procurement
- International Education: Outlook and Northern investment opportunities, Innovation in the education sector

- Land and Water: Regional approaches to development planning, Navigating flexible land tenure options, Sustainable options for developing water harvest and supply, Integrated land, Water and infrastructure development, Issues surrounding Forestry
- Resources and Energy: Energy futures for northern Australia, Securing new investment in energy, Energy research and development, Governance and policy for the energy sector
- Tourism and Hospitality: Rethinking place-based approaches to destination development, Support for small business in the tourism sector, New tourism sector development opportunities
- Workforce: Backpackers, seasonal and Local Workforce Development Options, Industry Workforce needs, Development of structured migration plans, Securing indigenous employment opportunities

Alternatively, you can present alongside a panel of your peers within a 90-minute interactive forum. For full details, or to submit your interest to present please click here <http://northaust.org.au/submit-abstract>.

Conference Secretariat

Developing Northern Australia Conference

Pullman International Cairns | 19-20 June 2017

A: PO Box 29, Nerang, QLD 4211

M: 0435 308 794 F: +61 7 5527 3298

Hosted by the Association for Sustainability in Business Inc. An incorporated non-government, not for profit organisation.

Other Conferences and Calls for papers:

The [25th Pacific Conference of the Regional Studies Association International](#) will be held in Tainan, Taiwan, 17-20 May 2017. Further details of the conference can be found at the conference website www.2017priscocon.com/.

Members are invited to [the 6th Indonesian Regional Science Association \(IRSA\) International Institute](#). This annual conference is held on 17-18 July 2017 in Manado, North Sulawesi, and is hosted by the Faculty of Economics and Business, Sam Ratulangi University in collaboration with IRSA. Further information can be found at <http://manado2017.irsaindonesia.org/>.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Papers in Regional Science

96(1) March 2017

Pages 13-32

Marcel van den Berg and Marjolijn Jaarsma

[What drives heterogeneity in the resilience of trade: Firm-specific versus regional characteristics](#)

Abstract: Employing micro-data of Dutch local business units, we show that firm characteristics such as size, economic activity, the traded product portfolio, the focus of trade involvement and the geographic pattern of trade are important determinants of recovery following the trade collapse of 2008–2009, both in terms of speed and depth. Our findings suggest that post-crisis growth is faster for trade in goods further downstream of the value chain and thus closer to the final consumer. Trade recovery at the firm-level does not crucially hinge on locational factors such as the province in which a firm is located or regional revealed comparative advantages in particular product groups. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12233

Pages 93-113

Paolo Di Caro

[Testing and explaining economic resilience with an application to Italian regions](#)

Abstract: This paper studies regional economic resilience by exploiting the properties of the non-linear smooth-transition autoregressive model. A testing procedure to distinguish between engineering and ecological resilience is presented, and a measurement of economic resilience is provided. Regional differences in economic resilience are explained by the presence of spatial interactions and by adopting a set of determinants like economic diversity,

export performance, financial constraints, and human and social capital. An empirical investigation is conducted for analysing regional employment evolution in Italy from 1992 to 2012. Some concluding suggestions propose possible future areas of research. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12168

Pages 115-138

Bastien Bernela and Rachel Levy

[Collaboration networks within a French cluster: Do partners really interact with each other?](#)

Abstract: We discuss the common hypothesis of complete graph representation according to which, in collaborative projects, all partners interact with each other in homogeneous ways. More precisely, this research aims to determine the heterogeneity in terms of existence and frequency of interactions between dyads of organizations that jointly participated in collaborative projects. From a survey of participants involved in innovation projects approved by a French cluster, we collect information about 754 collaboration ties. Using an ordered probit with selection equation, we then test the impact of several determinants, including geographical proximity, on the existence and frequency of the observed interactions. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12170

Pages 139-162

Julia Hoffmann, Stefan Hirsch and Johannes Simons

[Identification of spatial agglomerations in the German food processing industry](#)

Abstract: We identify spatial agglomerations in the German food industry, using the Cluster Index by Sternberg and Litzenberger. Previous studies have analysed this industry utilizing aggregated data with the result of a lack of

agglomerations. Given its' heterogeneous character, the present study analyses subsectors of the German food industry at a disaggregated spatial and sectoral level. The results show spatial agglomerations in particular for the subsectors processing and preserving of meat, fish, fruit, wine, milk, mineral water as well as for breweries. This indicates that those subsectors are characterized by stronger cluster self-enforcing processes likely in combination with a favourable proximity to natural resources. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12171

Pages 163-190

Zhi-Chun Li and Qian-Wen Guo

[Optimal time for implementing cordon toll pricing scheme in a monocentric city](#)

Abstract: This paper proposes an analytical model to address the timing issue of cordon toll pricing in a monocentric city. The proposed model allows an explicit consideration of the interactions among three types of agents in the urban system: (i) the local authority who aims to jointly determine the optimal time for introducing cordon toll pricing scheme, cordon toll location and toll level to maximize social welfare of the urban system; (ii) property developers who seek to determine the intensity of their capital investment in the land market to maximize their own net profit generated from the housing supply; and (iii) households who choose residential locations that maximize their own utility within a budget constraint. The effects of the cordon toll pricing scheme on household's residential location choice and housing market structure in terms of housing price and space are explicitly considered. A comparison of the toll pricing schemes with a fixed and a mobile cordon location over time and the no toll case is carried out. The proposed model is also illustrated in several Chinese cities. Insightful findings are reported on the interactions among cordon toll pricing scheme,

urban population size, household income level, toll collection cost, and urban development. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12161

Pages 191-209

Silvia Palombi, Roger Perman and Christophe Tavéra

[Commuting effects in Okun's Law among British areas: Evidence from spatial panel econometrics](#)

Abstract: This paper examines Okun's Law using a spatial panel approach on NUTS 3 data for Great Britain over the period 1985–2011. The basic specification used as a starting point for the spatial analysis is the relationship between real output growth and unemployment rate changes. This is extended to incorporate spatial lags, to test for the presence of commuting effects, and to accommodate spatial residuals dependence. We estimate various spatial panel models, controlling for heterogeneity across areas, and find consistent evidence of a significant Okun's coefficient. Results also show that spillover effects from labour mobility and interregional linkages matter and have important implications for the validity of the empirical law. DOI: 10.1111/pirs.12166

Australasian Journal of Regional Studies, Vol. 22, No. 3, 2016 329

[Notes from the Editors](#)

We are pleased to present the latest issue of our journal, drawing together diverse components of regional science and a range of current and emerging issues identified by these authors.

As is our common practice, the papers are drawn for the most part from Australia and New Zealand but in one case draws very interesting and important international parallels.

A paper by Cameron and others presents somewhat unusual subject matter – that being

the co-relation of alcohol outlets in New Zealand with property damage. It is an important inclusion, however, for two reasons. Firstly it places certain social issues into a spatial/regional context. Further, the authors present a high quality and innovative Geographically Weighted

Regression analysis, which may well lend itself to other social/regional science research.

Jones and others investigate the implications on the financial management of local authority amalgamations – a now common process experienced across Australia. This paper emanated from the 2015 ANZRSAI Conference in Sydney.

The paper by Khan focusses on small businesses in remote regions and investigates how the exiting of any such business can have wide implications for clusters of which this enterprise forms part.

Retailing and shopping centre developments typically represent an important component of service industries in regional and peri-urban Australian towns. The paper by McGreevey considers through case studies what may be seen as doubtful overall regional benefits of such investments.

This edition also includes a paper by McLaughlin and others related to housing. It investigates through spacial analysis housing supply elasticity using data from the Adelaide property market. It recognises the varying sensitivities of a range in factors – not simply price but also location, proximity to the coast, level of building activity and income levels. No doubt such co-relations will be of interest in the housing markets in other cities.

In many parts of Australia gas exploration in agricultural regions remains a highly contentious issue. The paper by Taylor and Taylor presents a legally based study of these problems drawing

an important parallel between the not dissimilar legislative and social environments of Queensland, Australia and the province of British Columbia, Canada.

The Editors: Professor Mike Hefferan and Professor Bruce Wilson

New Journal



The Japan Section of the Regional Science Association International (JSRSAI) is delighted to announce that a new Journal “Asia-Pacific Journal of Regional Science (AJRS)” will be published from Springer in 2017 April.

Editor-in-Chief is Prof. Yoshiro Higano. We hope many submissions of manuscripts which are in relation to regional science of Asia or Pacific regions. Authors are requested to submit manuscripts via Editorial Manager from the URL below.

<https://www.editorialmanager.com/ajrs/default.aspx>.

ABOUT ANZRSAI

ANZRSAI Council Notes

Our President, Robyn Eversole, has been appointed as Professor at the Centre for Social Impact on the Hawthorn campus of Swinburne (see www.swinburne.edu.au/research/social-impact/). More details to come, but for now please note that Robyn's new email address is reversole@swin.edu.au.

ANZRSAI members are always welcome to contact members of the Council with their ideas and suggestions.

ANZRS AI Conference News

ANZRS AI thanks Bruce Wilson and Peter Fairbrother and their team at RMIT (including Fran Martens, Kerrie Mould and Amanda Crichton) who made our 40th annual conference in Melbourne in December 2016 a very successful event. We are grateful for all the organizational effort that went on behind the scenes.

The 41st Annual Conference of ANZRS AI will be held at University of South Queensland, Toowoomba. Toowoomba is readily accessible directly by air from most capitals and also has excellent connections via Brisbane. Plan your paper now. 'Just 90 minutes from Brisbane, Toowoomba crowns the edge of the Great Dividing Range 700 metres above sea level, overlooking the Lockyer Valley.'

Following the conference a special edition of *AJRS* will be published.

ANZRS AI Council 2015-16

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