



E-NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 17, June 2018

Welcome to the seventeenth issue of the Regional Studies Association (RSA) e-newsletter. This e-newsletter serves as a way for the Irish Branch of the Association to highlight conferences, events, publications and other developments of interest in the broad regional policy area. Contact details are included below.

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1. About the Association

The Regional Studies Association is a learned society interested in regional development, policy and research. The Association carries out a range of activities including:

- publishing a journal, newsletter and books;
- organising conferences and other meetings; and
- establishing and maintaining a branch and international section network.

It has an international membership of individuals, corporate organisations and students. The Irish Branch was formed to provide a forum to discuss regional issues in Ireland.

2. News

Launch of UCC Spatial and Regional Economics Research Centre

The University College Cork Spatial and Regional Economics Research Centre was officially launched on Wednesday 13th June 2018. The Spatial and Regional Economics Research Centre (SRERC) arises from the extensive experience and research expertise in regional science developed by a cluster of staff in the Department of Economics, University College Cork. The Centre operates on the philosophy of research excellence and policy relevance. The Centre focuses on three central themes; Spatial economic analysis, Spatial analysis of Innovation and Firm Growth, and City and Regional Economics. For further details, see: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/srerc/>



Photo: Justin Doran (SRERC Co-Director) speaking at official SRERC launch



Photo: Professor Andres Rodriguez-Pose (LSE) giving inaugural SRERC lecture

The Centre was launched by Professor Andres Rodriguez-Pose, Professor of Economic Geography at the London School of Economics. He presented a paper called "The Revenge of Places that Don't Matter", in which he argues for the importance of place-sensitive policies in the context of growing discontent and populism.



Photo: Declan Jordan, Frank Crowley, Professor Andres Rodriguez-Pose, Justin Doran and Noirin McCarthy

Centre of Cross Border Studies 3rd Annual Sir George Quigley Memorial Lecture to be delivered by Prof Edgar Morgenroth

Prof Edgar Morgenroth (DCU Business School) will deliver this year's Sir George Quigley Memorial Lecture, organised by the Centre for Cross Border Studies. The title is "The Economic Geography of the Island of Ireland". The event is on the 21st of June in the Main Site Tower at Queens University Belfast. For further details, see: <http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-events/>

RSA Irish Branch Annual Conference 2017 - Conference Proceedings

The 2017 Annual Conference of the Regional Studies Association Irish Branch was held on the 1st of September at DIT Grangegorman, Dublin. The conference theme was urban centres and regional economic development. The theme underlined the important role of urban centres in regional and rural development. The issues facing regions are a prominent element of national policy agendas, notably the National Planning Framework. Important sub-themes of the conference included: the drivers of regional economic development; the link between urban, regional and rural development; regional governance in the context of the National Planning Framework; and the regional impact of Brexit. Nearly 20 national and international speakers addressed over 60 delegates from local and regional authorities, development agencies and academia.

The conference was opened by **John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government**. He addressed a number of the sub-themes of the conference, including progress with the National Planning Framework, Brexit, governance and rural development. The conference included two invited speakers: **Mike Danson**, Professor of enterprise policy at Heriot-Watt University, UK, and **Andy Pike**, Henry Daysh Chair of Regional Development Studies at the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS), Newcastle University.



Photo: John Paul Phelan, Minister of State with Brian Norton, President DIT and part of the organising committee - Chris van Egeraat (secretary of the RSA Irish Branch) and Eppie van Egeraat (UCD).

Mike Danson's paper was entitled *community resilience and enterprise in the periphery – lessons from the Celtic and Nordic Europe*. His main argument was that regional and rural development should not focus on big business and foreign investment but on their actual strength in food, drink and other sectors. As international trade and custom unions move centre stage with the Brexit negotiations and analysis dominating much commentary, there is a tendency to focus on the drivers of big business and globalisation in regional economic development. However, in this environment there is a continuing need to consider how peripheral regions and communities can realise their comparative

advantages and prosper. Mike drew on research and experiences from across Northern Europe, and from Scotland, the Faroes and Ireland.

Andy Pike made the case for a greater emphasis on demand-side policies for city economies. The potential of such policies to contribute to inclusive growth by generating more and better jobs remains under-explored. Demand-side policies for inclusive growth seek to raise demand for labour in a city economy, increase labour demand for specific groups, and/or improve the quality of employment. Andy outlined five types of demand-side policies: business support; demand-led skills programmes; city fiscal policy; infrastructure; economic planning and strategy. Drawing upon analysis of international experiences from Australia, Europe and the US, policy Andy identified interventions based upon clear and robust aims and rationales and the careful co-ordination, matching and sequencing of demand with supply-side initiatives at the local level. The integration of economic and workforce development initiatives from a demand-side perspective can be particularly beneficial, focusing on target sectors that are priorities for local economic development. Demand-side policies for inclusive growth in cities can play a complementary, sequenced and supportive role with supply-side policies. Adopting a place-based 'whole city' approach, priorities for demand-side policies comprise of: identifying and targeting inclusive growth sectors; fostering demand-led skills development; building closer employer engagement and partnership focused upon priority sectors; lobbying for greater devolved powers; and strengthening policy analysis and evaluation frameworks

One of the main sub-themes of the conference was Regional and City-Regional Governance, in the context of the recently published National Planning Framework. **Niamh Moore-Cherry of UCD** observed that the growing concentration of production and population in capital cities in Europe has been accompanied by recurrent crises of 'governability', as economic, social, environmental and infrastructural interdependencies escape existing jurisdictional scales. She discussed the various strategies and motivations of local actors in shaping metropolitanisation in the Dublin Region. She showed that "institutional legacies, cultural attitudes and territorial politics all play a role in a distinctive crisis of metropolitan governability. In Dublin, official hostility to the urban and a highly dysfunctional local governance system has produced regressive urban and regional outcomes – a form of *metro phobia*." Also dealing with this sub-topic of Governance, **Sean O'Riordain, Chairman of the Public Policy Advisors Network and Chris van Egeraat of Maynooth University** considered the new governance structures that should underpin a new National Planning Framework. Analysing the *Issues Document* of the NPF (2017) they noted that, once again, we appear to be failing to understand that a comprehensive re-configuration of local and regional governance is required in order to underpin such a national planning initiative.

Michael Gallagher of Derry and Strabane District Council dealt with another important sub-topic of the conference: the regional impact of Brexit. Michael provided a detailed and cautionary account of the potential impact of Brexit on The North West City Region. He presented data on the functionality of the NW City Region, complemented by the results of the consultation exercise on the potential implications of Brexit for this

region. **Gerard Brady, Head of Tax and Fiscal Policy in IBEC** also addressed the Brexit sub-topic.

One of the parallel sessions focused on the perspectives of the Regional Assemblies. **Stephen Blair**, Director of the Southern Assembly, **Jim Conway**, Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, and **Denis Kelly** of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly all presented informative papers leading to a lively discussion.

Other speakers included **Justin Doran (UCC); Enrica Pinca (UCD), Adam Whittle (UCD); Pauline White (WDC); Ruth Pritchard (NUIG) and David Meredith (Teagasc)**

Gerald Sweeney remembered

On April 19th 2018 the Regional Studies Association (Irish Branch) lost one of its most loyal and intellectually inspiring members, Gerald Sweeney (March 1928-April 2018). Gerry, as he was known by his friends, was a highly original and pioneering thinker and author in the inter-connected fields of innovation, entrepreneurship and local and regional development. His perspectives were informed by extensive research on regional development trajectories in places beyond the penetration of the dominant Anglo-Saxon models. He was particularly influenced by the experience of innovative industrial districts in the Emilia Romagna, Jutland and Baden Wuerttemberg regions.

At an early stage he identified two critical influences on development: the orientation of the education system and the extent to which key decision making was devolved to local institutions. Furthermore, he consistently argued that economic growth could not be equated with development. Gerry was deeply committed to a concept of development that was sustainable on all dimensions: social/cultural, environmental and economic. For him this involved an approach that was grounded on indigenous resources including a workforce trained in an educational system that valued vocational skills acquired through apprenticeships. The local / regional context in his view was hugely important as the milieu in which 'munificent' (his word) sharing of expertise and tacit knowledge could be nurtured and a high level of regional learning efficiency could be achieved. Also important in his view was a strong sense of attachment to place by entrepreneurs who are essential drivers of social and technological innovations. When this range of attributes combined they helped to differentiate dynamic regions from others.

Gerry was a brave and forthright advocate of his analysis of why some regions succeed and others do not. In doing so he was a frequent critic of Ireland's education system which he regarded as overly skewed towards the formation of an academic rather than a vocationally trained workforce. He was also critical of what he considered to be an over-reliance on foreign direct investment to underpin regional development, and of the weak commitment by the national political and administrative structures to the principle of subsidiarity.

Gerry Sweeney had a long and very fulfilled life. He was born in Sydney Australia just after St. Patrick's day in 1928. At an early age his family moved back to England to Preston and later Leicester. He trained as a librarian before returning to Ireland to a post in the Institute for industrial Research and Standards (IIRS) where amongst other responsibilities he launched the journal *Technology Ireland* in the late 1960s. As editor he used the journal to nurture debates that went beyond a discussion of standards – in particular he became more interested in dissemination of new knowledge and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship.

Following his career in the IIRS he and his wife Margaret set up their own innovation consultancy, SICA, and by the mid-1980s he was developing close ties with the world of academia. In 1985 he edited *Innovation Policies: an International Perspective* which was followed by the launch of a new *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Regional*

Development which he edited for many years. The high reputation of this interdisciplinary journal was evidenced by the willingness of outstanding international scholars to join the journal's advisory board.

From the late 1980s Gerry took a more proactive role in promoting new approaches to regional development in Ireland. Through his company he organised a major international RSA conference in Dublin to which he invited as plenary speakers some of the most eminent theorists of the time. His capacity for networking especially with leading European thinkers was legendary, and he generously shared this knowledge with other colleagues when organising events. He contributed papers to many conferences organised by the RSA (Irish Branch) including a comprehensive overview published in 1997 in a volume that emanated from an international conference on Competitiveness, Innovation and Regional Development in Ireland¹.

In addition, Gerry and Margaret were partners in many EU funded projects including one on Instruments for Sustainable Regional Development (ISURED) that included partners from Ireland (Jeanne Meldon and Jim Walsh), Tuscany, Austria Switzerland and Germany.

He was deeply committed to the education and training of a cohort of graduates in the field of local and regional development. In the early 1990s he edited and oversaw the production of two substantial volumes on *Regional and Local Development* which were widely used for many years as foundation sources by postgraduate students taking Master programmes.

On a personal level Gerry had many interests. He was a passionate hill walker and a keen bird watcher. He was also a consummate reader of many genres of literature including poetry whether at home in Dundrum or in Belmullet to which he frequently returned. He and Margaret and their family were deeply attached to the Erris peninsula as his family were originally from Geesala.

The Irish Branch of the Regional Studies Association will be forever appreciative of the inspirational and challenging contributions made by Gerry to the study of regional development in Ireland and further afield. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Margaret, his sons and daughters and his grandchildren and great grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

Jim Walsh,

Chair of Regional Studies Association (Irish Branch) 1994-1998

Joseph Davis remembered

¹ G. P. Sweeney, 1997, Central or Local: Economic Growth or Economic Development?, in D. McCaffery and J. A. Walsh (eds.) *Competitiveness, Innovation and Regional Development in Ireland*, RSA, 1997

Joseph Davis, a former Chairperson of the Regional Studies Association (Ireland Branch/Section) passed away over Easter aged 84. At the time of his retirement, Joe was a Senior Lecturer in Urban and Regional Economics and Assistant Head of the School of Spatial Planning in the Dublin Institute of Technology.

Joe was a gifted and memorable economics lecturer and a great mentor. Early in his career he engaged with the then emerging sub-disciplines of urban economics and regional development. Joe's deep understanding of urbanism made him a true thought leader in an urbanising Ireland in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. Shortly after joining DIT Joe was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of Washington. Joe also attended the London School of Economics.

Joe embraced academic life fully and energetically. He chaired many DIT committees and was at the vanguard of a variety of academic developments. He also had extensive involvements in other organisations including learned societies and community groups. Notably he was a key member of the Regional Studies Association (Ireland Branch/Section) and held a number of positions, including that of Chairperson, over the course of his involvement. A critical component of his involvement was the development of the association's publication efforts including his editing of the seminal *Education, Training and Local Economic Development* (1992). Joe was a vital member of a small group that re-energised the association and continued to discuss the importance of regional policy in the aftermath of the closure of An Foras Forbartha, the National Institute for Physical Planning and Construction Research, in 1992.

As part of his broader interest in regional policy, Joe's teaching and research interests led him to establish postgraduate regional planning and development programmes including the MSc Planning and Development and MSc Regional and Local Development in DIT. Both programmes are still running and Joe's intellectual influence remains present to this day.

Widely recognised for taking a deep personal interest in his students it was always a delight to be with Joe when he met graduates and learn that they were pursuing successful careers in diverse areas from planning to finance. They always seemed to be delighted to meet him again. Many thrived as a result of his inspiration and his stimulus to think broadly and not limit their horizons.

Joe was a remarkable colleague who loved socialising and travelling. He organised many events particularly study trips and not surprisingly after retirement travelled a lot. Sadly Joe lost his wife early in his marriage leaving him to bring up three daughters as a single father a challenge Joe rose to and excelled all the while maintaining great friendships with a wide circle of people who will miss him.

Deiric O Broin
RSA Committee member

3. SPECIAL FEATURES

The Buchanan Report 50 years on

Proinnsias Breathnach

Department of Geography, Maynooth University

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the production of the first comprehensive plan for regional development in Ireland commissioned by the Irish government. This plan was produced by a British consultancy firm, Colin Buchanan & Partners, and was commonly known as the Buchanan Report. This short piece outlines the background to the commissioning of the report, sets out the report's main elements, briefly reviews the subsequent fate of the report and concludes with some thoughts of the implications of report and its immediate aftermath for subsequent regional development policy in Ireland.

Background to the Buchanan Report

The report was commissioned in response to widespread concern at the locational policy being pursued in relation to industrial plants being established in Ireland by foreign firms, the number of which had been steadily growing since the introduction of the inward investment policy in the late 1950s. This policy had been introduced in an attempt to stimulate new industrial growth in the face of the chronic stagnation which embraced the Irish economy over the previous decade. A protectionist policy which had been introduced in the early 1930s did produce an initial surge in industrial employment, but this ran out of steam in the late 1940s, once the limited demands of the small domestic economy had been met.

In 1958 the government abandoned protectionism and introduced the policy for attracting foreign investment which has been the mainstay of Irish industrial development policy ever since. The principal incentives offered to foreign firms were generous capital grants (up to 60% of total capital costs) and a zero rate of tax on profits derived from exports. The 1965 Anglo-Irish Free Trade Area agreement, which provided duty-free access to the UK market, provided a further substantial incentive which contributed to a growing investment inflow as the 1960s proceeded.

From the beginning, the Irish government pursued an informal policy of seeking to disperse incoming plants as much as possible around the country, with particular preference for rural areas. However, this approach was questioned in a number of reports by government agencies and advisory bodies in the early 1960s. Their basic argument was that, in industrialised countries, manufacturing firms displayed a strong preference for locating in large urban centres. This had also been the experience of the industrial growth which had been generated during Ireland's protectionist period, with most of the growth in employment occurring in the main urban centres, and especially in Dublin and the surrounding counties. A dispersal policy, therefore, could have the effect of deterring potential investment in Ireland. A policy which favoured location in urban

centres, by contrast, was seen as more likely to encourage inward investment, given the better service and infrastructural base of such centres.

Concentrated investment in public services and infrastructure in these centres would also involve a more efficient use of scarce government resources, while the incentives required to attract investors to urban centres would be less than those needed to get firms to locate in smaller towns and rural areas. It was also suggested that the creation of dynamic nodes of industrial growth would generate knock-on stimulatory effects in their surrounding hinterlands.

The government responded to these promptings by commissioning Colin Buchanan and Partners to undertake an analysis of the resource base and economic development potential of each of the nine planning regions into which Ireland had been divided following the enactment of the 1963 Local Government Planning & Development Act; to propose a spatial development policy to guide future growth in the regions; and to set out the infrastructural requirements ensuing from the proposed regional policy.

A road and traffic engineer by training, Buchanan had joined the UK Ministry for Town and Country Planning after the second world war. He achieved some fame with the publication in 1963 of a celebrated report entitled *Traffic in Towns*, an abridged version of which was published by Penguin in 1964. This report had a major influence on urban transport planning in the UK and elsewhere. Shortly afterwards Buchanan both entered academia at Imperial College, London, and also set up his planning consultancy company which, at one stage, employed 300 people.

Buchanan engaged the services of another London-based consultancy (Economic Consultants Ltd.) to conduct the demographic and economic analysis in his report, while a number of economists, geographers and planners were also brought on board from the now-defunct An Foras Forbartha, the National Institute for Physical Planning and Construction Research.

The Buchanan Report: Key elements

The final report, with the rather misleading title *Regional Studies in Ireland*, was submitted to the Irish government in September 1968. As with all planning reports, it is mainly made up of maps, charts and compilations of facts and statistical tables. However, the main nub of the report was that the great bulk of new industrial employment, and associated population growth, up to 1986, would be located in Dublin and a tiered set of specially designated growth centres (see map).

According to the report, Dublin was to be allowed to “grow naturally”. In other words, no incentives would be provided for industry to locate in the capital, while no attempts would be made to restrict the growth of Dublin. The main development effort was to be put into building up “national” growth centres in Cork and Limerick/Shannon to a scale thought to be capable of allowing them to compete as major urban centres with Dublin. Shannon was incorporated in the Limerick growth centre due to the relatively successful industrial

estate which had been developed there as part of a free trade zone (the world's first) which had been established at Shannon Airport in 1958.

The report did consider the possibility of focusing the regional development effort entirely on Cork and Limerick, a strategy which, the report estimated, would have delivered a somewhat higher level of overall employment and population growth than that eventually decided upon. However, in the interests of greater regional balance, it was decided to add a second tier of "regional" growth centres which would also receive favoured treatment. Three of these – Waterford, Dundalk and Drogheda – were already established industrial centres which were thought to offer prospects of significant further industrial growth. For the other three (Galway, Athlone and Sligo), the development of their service bases (as regional centres) was considered as being important for their future growth as the expansion of their industrial bases. The strategy also provided for four "local" growth centres in peripheral, rural, regions. These would be mainly promoted as service centres for their surrounding hinterlands.

The report envisaged that over the period 1966-86, Dublin would still account for 40.5% of additional employment growth (compared with an existing share of 50%), with Cork and Limerick/Shannon accounting for 28%, the regional growth centres 9.5% and the rest of the country 22%.

As regards implementation of the proposed strategy, the report made three key proposals:

- The establishment in each planning region of a Regional Planning Authority which would have full statutory responsibility for all significant planning decisions within their regions.
- The alignment of the regional structures of central government departments and agencies with the territories of the planning regions, in order to facilitate coordination of the activities of these departments/agencies with the regional development plan.
- The establishment of Special Development Corporations with responsibility for the development of Cork and Limerick/Shannon.

These proposals indicate an appreciation of the need to put in place major changes in regional governance structures in order to achieve effective plan implementation. Indeed, the report also hinted that a radical reorganisation of local government might be needed in this respect, but did not go further into this.

Buchanan Report aftermath

The Buchanan Report was not published until eight months after it was completed, indicating a level of disquiet with its proposals in government circles. These reservations became apparent in the policy statement which accompanied the report's publication which noted that: "A growth centre programme on the lines recommended by the consultants would have far-reaching implications...for development prospects in other areas..." Accordingly, the government had decided that the recommendations "should be further considered in the context for regional development generally."

This, in effect, meant that no action was to be taken in relation to the Buchanan proposals. Indeed, the policy statement anticipated the thrust of future spatial policy by committing the Industrial Development Authority (IDA, the agency responsible for attracting inward investment and which in 1969 was also given formal responsibility for regional industrial planning) to continued support of “the preference of some industrialists for locations outside the main population centres”. Accordingly, the IDA was to commence construction of ready-built advance factories and the acquisition of serviced industrial sites at various locations throughout the country.

Three years passed before the government issued a further policy statement on regional planning, in May 1972. This statement favoured a regional policy which would “provide for the maximum spread of development through all regions” i.e. the exact antithesis of the Buchanan proposals. This general objective was given concrete (literally) manifestation in a set of regional industrial plans published by the IDA the following month. Initially intended to cover the period 1973-77, these were subsequently extended up to 1982, and represented an almost complete abandonment of the idea of spatial concentration of new industrial employment. The IDA rejected the idea that incoming firms were resistant to locating outside urban centres, pointing out that during the 1960s new industrial plants had been established in 271 different locations, with one half of these plants being located in towns of less than 3,000 population. Despite the dispersal policy, there had been a marked acceleration in new inward investment in the late 1960s.

The IDA regional plans therefore sought to put the dispersal policy on a systematic footing by dividing the country into 48 groups of neighbouring towns, for each of which a job creation target was set over the plan period. The main device for achieving these targets was to be the targetted construction of advance factories at various locations. Over the period 1973-82, 432 advance factories were constructed in 156 different locations, with the allocation of advance factory floorspace being strongly biased in favour of smaller centres. It is estimated that advance factories accounted for over 40% of total employment created by the IDA over the period in question.

The IDA industrial plans achieved a high level of initial success, primarily driven by the surge of inward investment which followed Ireland’s entry to the EEC in 1973. By 1981, over half of all manufacturing employment in the West, Mid West and North West regions was accounted for by foreign firms. Simultaneously, the free trade conditions which followed from EEC entry, allied to the major international recession which occurred in the mid-1970s, led to major job losses in the inefficient older industries which were primarily located in Dublin and the other main cities. The combination of job losses in the urban regions and strong growth in the more rural regions led to a remarkable regional redistribution of manufacturing employment in this period.

The ability of the IDA to get incoming firms to locate in small-town and rural locations was largely predicated on the fact that the jobs being provided by these firms were largely unskilled, in such areas as electronics and electrical assembly and pharmaceutical packaging. This proved a major liability as Ireland became a more high-cost environment with the onset of the Celtic Tiger in the 1990s and the emergence of Asia as a major

competitor for investment in labour-intensive industry. As a result, most of the foreign firms established in Ireland in the 1960s and 1970s no longer exist.

Conclusion

The government's reaction to the Buchanan Report identified key political issues which have imperilled subsequent attempts to effect sustainable regional development policy in Ireland and which played major roles in ensuring that the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) failed to gain any traction. The localistic, populist and short-termist orientation of Irish politics has effectively rendered it impossible to implement policies which favour a spatially selective approach to developmental investment. This despite the fact that experience elsewhere indicates that industrial sustainability is best achieved via the medium of specialised local complexes of interdependent industries, such as was envisaged for the gateway centres proposed by the NSS. Unfortunately, the early success of the IDA's regional industrial plans created an expectation that the IDA could deliver industrial jobs to any location virtually at the drop of a hat, and it has been impossible to shake off this expectation.

The Buchanan Report also identified the crucial importance of strong regional governance structures for effective plan implementation, including major reform of both local government and the administrative structures of state agencies and departments as part of this. The absence of such governance reforms was a key structural fault in the NSS.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) advocates a regional planning approach which is even more spatially focused than the NSS, and is likely to meet the same ingrained opposition as was experienced by the Buchanan Report and the NSS. The governance provisions in the NPF also fall well short of the reforms envisaged by Buchanan which, in this writer's view, remain crucial to the achievement of effective and sustainable regional development in Ireland.

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THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION POLICY ANALYSIS – A PROFILE

The Western Development Commission (WDC) is a statutory agency charged with promoting and fostering the economic and social development of the seven-county Western Region (Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare). Established in 1998 it currently operates under the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The WDC's Policy Analysis team (Policy Analysts Ms Deirdre Frost, Dr Helen McHenry and Ms Pauline White) undertakes socio-economic analysis of key issues impacting on the development of Ireland's Western Region, with a focus on policy implications. Given that the Western Region is a predominantly rural region, particular attention is paid to the role of rural areas and smaller urban centres.

Publication of this analysis takes a number of forms:

Reports: Detailed reports of analysis and policy recommendations. Most recently 'Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region' which the WDC published in May 2018 based on analysis of the POWSCAR dataset from Census 2016 (commissioned from AIRO at Maynooth University). This report is a follow-up to a similar report conducted on Census 2006 data. The report identifies 42 individual 'labour catchments' within the Western Region and examines in detail the catchments of seven towns (the largest town in each of the seven counties). The full report and each of the seven individual catchment reports can be downloaded [here](#).

WDC Insights Blog: A weekly blog on topics of relevance to rural and regional development in Ireland, as well as specific issues for the Western Region. Posts range from analysis of CSO data (a recent series examined the latest CSO County Incomes & Regional GDP data), Census 2016 analysis, key points of recent WDC publications and examination of relevant reports and policy developments.

Submissions: Submissions to national policy consultations forms a key activity of the WDC's Policy Analysis Team. Recent key submissions have included the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and National Planning Framework, as well as sectoral submissions on electricity, broadband and mobile coverage and natural gas.

WDC Insights: The WDC regularly publishes 2-page *WDC Insights* based on analysis of data for the Western Region. Recent examples include educational attainment in the region, the sectoral pattern of employment, county labour markets, regional GVA and county incomes, commuting and new work and the 'gig' economy.

WDC Policy Briefing: More detailed analysis of a topic with a focus on policy implications and recommendations, recent examples include e-working and rail freight. To keep up to date with the WDC's outputs follow us on Twitter @WDCInsights, sign-up to follow our weekly WDC Insights Blog and/or e-mail policyanalysis@wdc.ie to be added to our Mailing List.

Recent publications from the Western Development Commission:

WDC (2018), *Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region: A Profile of Seven Town Labour Catchments 2018*

WDC (2018), *WDC Insights: Census 2016: Education Levels in the Western Region*

WDC (2017), *WDC Insights: Where do People in the Western Region Work?*

WDC (2017), *WDC Insights: County Labour Market – Census 2016*

WDC (2017), *WDC Insights: Census 2016: What do people in the seven western counties work at?*

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WDC (2017), *WDC Insights: Home-Based Working in the Western Region*

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WDC (2017), *WDC Policy Briefing: e-Working: A Review of the Evidence*

Deirdre Frost

Western Development Commission

Administration Journal and the Institute of Public Administration

The Institute of Public Administration (IPA), founded in 1958, is Ireland's public service development agency. It delivers its service through education and training, consultancy, research and publishing. Accredited programmes are validated by the National University of Ireland.

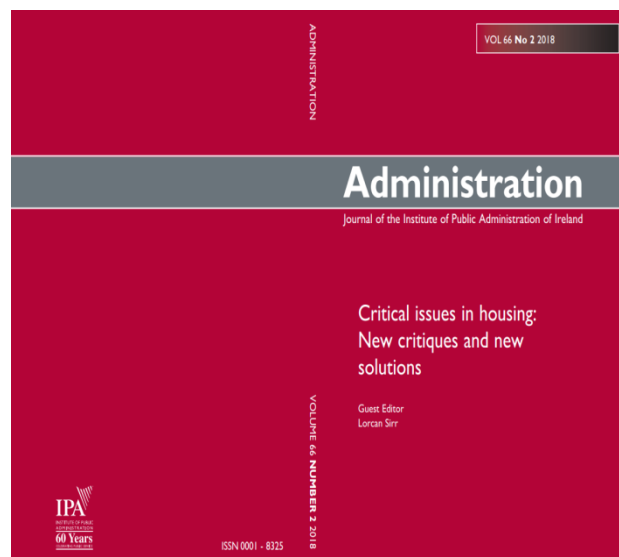
The research division has two research paper series, The State of the Public Service Series concentrates on the civil service and government agency sectors, while the Local Government Research Series focusses on the regional and local government sector. Recent reports are available to download at: <https://www.ipa.ie/research-publications/research-papers.2671.html>

Administration is the peer-reviewed journal of the Institute. It has been published quarterly since 1953, predating the Institute, though founded by the same group of public servants who wished to have a forum for researching and debating public policy and public management issues. From the outset the journal has sought to combine original scholarship from a variety of disciplines with the insights and experiences of practitioners. In addition to research articles, which are double blind peer reviewed, the journal welcomes comments on articles, opinion pieces, letters, notices, reports and reviews.

Administration is circulated widely among senior public servants including secretaries general of government departments, CEOs of local authorities and heads of agencies. Publishing in *Administration* can therefore help demonstrate impact and outreach which is frequently a funding consideration.

The journal is part of Elsevier's Scopus database, the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature. It is also part of Clarivate Analytics' (formerly Thomson Reuters) Emerging Sources Citation Index. While the journal doesn't as of yet have an Impact Factor, articles published do contribute to an author's H-Index calculation. We hope in the future to apply for acceptance by the core Web of Science databases.

Since 2015 (Volume 63), *Administration* has been published on-line and is free to access. The journal's website is: <https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/admin/admin-overview.xml>. If you would be interested in discussing ideas for papers or special editions, the journal's editor is Joanna O'Riordan and can be contacted at JORiordan@ipa.ie



4. Call for Papers: Regional Studies Association Irish Branch Annual Conference

City Led Regional Development and Peripheral Regions

Friday 7 September 2018, IT Sligo

Confirmed Keynote Speakers to Date

Dr Andrew Copus,
The James Hutton Institute

Professor Mark Partridge,
Ohio State University

Theme:

The theme of this year's RSA-Irish Branch Annual Conference is "City Led Regional Development and Peripheral Regions".

Submission themes:

We call for presentations from, policy makers, academia and practitioners active in the field of regional studies. Post-graduate students are encouraged to submit. We call for presentations dealing with, amongst others, the following themes:

- Cities as a source of Economic Growth
- Development in Peripheral regions
- Rural – Urban Linkages
- Urban centres and Economic Development
- The NPF and Governance
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
- Local and Regional Economic Forums
- New Approaches to Regional Development
- International comparator cases

Other contributions dealing with the topic of regional studies are invited and may be included in focussed sessions. A selection of presenters will be invited to develop their presentations into full length papers for a special issue of the Journal *Administration*.

Submissions:

Please submit proposals for presentation in the form of a 250 word abstract.

Submission Deadline 1st July 2018.

Submissions should be made online at <http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/abstract-submission.html>

Venue:

IT, Sligo

Registration and Conference updates:

Conference fees: 70 Euro (including lunch)

Registration and conference updates are available on the Regional Studies

Association, Irish Branch website at: <http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/>

Conference Committee: Justin Doran, Chris van Egeraat, Pauline White, Sean O'Riordain

The conference is organised in association with the following sponsors.

**Information on Keynote Speakers****Dr. Andrew Copus**

Andrew Copus is an Economic Geographer in the Social Economic and Geographical Sciences (SEGS) Group at the James Hutton Institute. Between 2005 and February 2017 he was also a Senior Research Fellow at Nordregio (Nordic research centre for regional development and planning) in Stockholm. His research interests relate to changes in rural economic activity, especially in remote and sparsely populated areas, and to rural policy (broadly defined). Current research projects include Scottish Government-funded work on the future of Scotland's Sparsely Populated Areas, and an EU-funded project (RELOCAL), on spatial justice. He has participated in a number of EU funded research projects relating to rural development, (ESPON PROFECY, ESPON TIPSE, DERREG, RuDI, TOP-MARD) and was coordinator of ESPON EDORA and AsPIRE). He has worked as a consultant for DG Regio, DG Agriculture, the European Parliament and the Joint Research Centre (Seville). He was co-author of *Territorial Cohesion in Rural Europe*, published by Routledge.

Abstract**The Scottish City Region Deals – A rural development perspective**

Urban-rural interaction are a long-established element of the “theory of change” associated with regional development policy. Optimistic assumptions about wider

functional region benefits of city investments, are commonplace and generally unquestioned, despite meagre evidence of such impacts. A summary history of urban-rural concepts in the European policy discourse, will be followed by a brief account of rural/regional policy in Scotland. Against this background the origin and evolution of Scotland's City Region Deals, and Regional Partnerships, will be described. The presentation will conclude with some reflections on the how these evolving arrangements fit into an already cluttered policy landscape, their compatibility with rural policy "mainstreaming", and the likely benefits for rural Scotland.

Professor Mark Partridge

Mark Partridge is the C. William Swank Chair of Rural-Urban Policy at The Ohio State University and a Professor in the AED Economics Department. He is also an economic consultant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Adjunct Professor at Jinan University, Guangzhou China; and Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy. Prior, he was the Canada Research Chair in the New Rural Economy at the University of Saskatchewan. Professor Partridge has published over 125 peer-reviewed journal papers. His work has been ranked number one in regional science and among the top-1000 economists in the world. He has published in many journals such as the American Economic Review, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, and Review of Economics and Statistics. He co-authored the book *The Geography of American Poverty: Is there a Role for Place-Based Policy?* Dr. Partridge frequently gives keynote addresses to academic and practitioner groups. He has received research funding from many sources including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Brookings Institution, European Commission, U.S. NSF, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council, USDA, and World Bank.

Abstract

Is there are future for Rural in an Urbanizing World and Should We Care?

Rural areas have received increased attention with the rise of right-wing populist parties in Western countries, in which a strong part of their support is rural based. While the underlying reasons are complex and unique to each country, one common feature is that rural areas have typically faced recent economic decline, creating anxiety, and in some cases, anger of rural residents directed at their urban counterparts. Thus, bridging this rural-urban economic divide takes on added importance in not only improving the individual livelihoods of rural residents but in increasing social cohesion. One way to bridge this economic gap is to improve rural-urban economic linkages through an urban-led economic strategy. For example, urban growth can create commuting and market opportunities for rural residents and firms if there is sufficient connectivity. While such a process has strong theoretical advantages then in trying to create growth in rural areas themselves, such a strategy requires changes in governance. It also requires rural areas

to more carefully think about quality of life to attract and retain residents who would otherwise relocate to urban areas.

If you have a submission or suggestion on any upcoming events, seminars, presentations or conferences and would like them to be included in a future edition, please email chris.vanegaeraat@nuim.ie

5. Funding Opportunities

The RSA has allocated financial resources to support its members and offers a range of funding opportunities to suit different career stages. These opportunities provide members with the chance to apply for financial help to support their research, run networking events, receive awards for excellence and help towards the costs of travel to attend non-RSA events and present their work to international audiences. Further details on the funding opportunities outlined below can be found at: <http://www.regionalstudies.org/funding>

If you are aware of, or your organisation is responsible for the administration of, funding opportunities and you would like them to be included in a future edition, please email chris.vanegaeraat@nuim.ie

6. Publications of Interest

Recently Published Books

Local Governance, Development and Innovation: Rebuilding Sustainable Local Economies in Ireland, Deiric Ó Broin and David Jacobson (eds), Glasnevin Publishing, 2018.

Local governance systems across the developed world have been transformed over the course of the last 35 years. Ireland is a relative latecomer and until recently the politico-cultural norms of the state have meant that local governance reform initiatives have tended to be piecemeal and episodic. However the 2008 financial crisis and the Irish state's response have provided both an impetus and framework for reform of Ireland's sub-national governance and economic development systems. There has been little academic investigation of these significant reforms and the changes needed in our

governance structures, institutions and political culture that might make them more fit for the purpose of building sustainable and resilient local economies. In this book, Irish academics, public officials and civil society representatives examine the issues facing, and likely to face, the reformed Irish local governance system. They highlight the major challenges posed to our forms of local governance and the transformations required if Ireland is to facilitate the development of sustainable local economies.

Recently Published Research Papers

Barron, S., Eighan, J., Morgenroth, E., Smith, S., and M-A. Wren, (2018) "A Profile of Physiotherapy Supply in Ireland", *Irish Journal of Medical Sciences*, (forthcoming).

Butler, D., R. Butler, J. Doran, and S. O'Connor (2018) "Explaining International Footballer Selection through Poisson Modelling". *Journal of Economic Studies*, 45 (2).

Curran, D. van Egeraat, C., and C. O'Gorman (2018), "New Entrants and Inherited Competence- the Evolution of the Irish Biotech sector", in *Local Governance, Development and Innovation: Rebuilding Sustainable Local Economies in Ireland*, Deiric Ó Broin and David Jacobson (eds), Glasnevin Publishing, pp.118-135.

Byrne, E. J. Hobbs, and J. Doran (2018) "Visualisation of firm linkages in the Chicago ICT Cluster". *Regional Studies, Regional Science*, 5 (1):94-97.

Doran, Justin; McCarthy, Noirin; O'Connor, Marie (2018) "The Role of Entrepreneurship in Stimulating Economic Growth in Developed and Developing Countries". *Cogent Economics and Finance*, 6.

Doran, J. and D. Jordan (2018) "The effect of geographic proximity and rivalry on performance: Evidence from the English football league". *Regional Studies*.

Doran, J., N. McCarthy and M. O'Connor (2018) "Analysing National Innovation Capacity and its Importance for Competitiveness and Growth". *International Journal of Competitiveness*.

Doran, J. and B. Fingleton (2018) "US Metropolitan Area Resilience: Insights from Dynamic Spatial Panel Estimation". *Environment and Planning A*, 50 (1):111-132.

Doran, J, McCarthy, N, and M. O'Connor, (2017) "The employment-population nexus and implications for sustainable economic development: insights from Irish regions using a partial adjustment model". *International Review of Applied Economics*, 31 (4):508-526.

Doran, J. and G. Ryan (2017) "The Role of Stimulating Employees Creativity and Idea Generation in Encouraging Innovation Behaviour in Irish Firms". *Irish Journal of Management*, 36 (1):32-48.

Doran, J. and G. Ryan (2017) "CO2 Emissions, Economic Growth and Urbanisation: Insights from Vector Error Correction Modelling". *Irish Journal of Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability*, 1 (1):22-41.

Elhorst, P., M. Abreu, P. Amaral, A. Bhattacharjee, L. Corrado, J. Doran, B. Fingleton, F. Fuerst, H. Garretsen, D. Iglori, J. Le Gallo, P. McCann, V. Monastiriotis, F. Quatraro, and J. Yu (2017) "Editorial - Raising the bar". *Spatial Economic Analysis*, 12 (1):347-352.

Lyons, S. Kennedy, S., Morgenroth, E., and K. Walsh (2017) "Assessing the Level of Cross-border Fuel Tourism", *Irish Journal of Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability*, Vol. 1(2), pp. 4-22.

McCoy, D., Lyons, S., Morgenroth, E., Palcic, D., and L. Allen, (2018) "The impact of local infrastructure on new business establishments" *Journal of Regional Science*

Morgenroth, E., (2018) "*Prospects for Irish Regions and Counties: Scenarios and Implications*". ESRI Policy Paper No. 70. Dublin: Economic and Social Research Institute.

O'Connor, S., Doyle, E., and J. Doran (2018) "Diversity, employment growth and spatial spillovers amongst Irish regions". *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 68:260-267.

O'Leary, E. and Van Egeraat, C. (2018) "Re-thinking Irish Economic Development". *Administration*, 66(1) pp. 85-89.

O'Gorman C. and D. Curran, (2017) "Entrepreneurship and industrial policy in Ireland", in *Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Regional Development*, by Smallbone, D., Virtanen, M. and Sauka, A. (eds), Edward Elgar.

van Egeraat, C. and Doyle, E. (2018) Re-thinking Irish cluster policy. *Administration* 66(1), pp. 107-129.

If you wish to have a recently published book/paper listed in this section of future newsletters, please e-mail details formatted as above to chris.vanegaeraat@nuim.ie

7. Contacting the RSA Newsletter

If you have any queries regarding the newsletter, or any comments, suggestions or submissions for future editions (incl. details on upcoming events, publications of interest, job vacancies), please email declan.curran@dcu.ie.

8. Membership of the RSA

Membership of the Association is open to all individuals and organisations with an interest in the analysis and development of regional policy.

Members receive the following publications:

- Twelve issues of Regional Studies (print and online);
- Four issues of Spatial Economic Analysis (print and online);
- Three issues of our new journal Territory, Politics, Governance (print and online);
- Four issues of Regions, the Association's magazine (print and online);
- Regional Studies, Regional Science (online);
- Access to the fully searchable Regional Studies archive from Volume 1

In addition, RSA members also have online access to the following Taylor and Francis Journals

- City
- Contemporary Social Science
- Entrepreneurship & Regional Development
- International Planning Studies
- Policy Studies
- Planning Practice and Research
- Regional & Federal Studies
- Space and Polity

Membership is based on the calendar year. For the year 2018, membership costs are: Individual £106; Student £49; Early Career £80; Retired/Emeritus £80; Corporate £231.

Further details and application forms can be found on the RSA international website:

<http://www.regionalstudies.org/membership>.

9. Current Irish Committee Members

The current RSA committee for 2017 are: Justin Doran (Maynooth University) - Chairman; Chris Van Egeraat (Maynooth University) – Hon. Secretary; Declan Curran (DCU) – Treasurer; Patrick Collins (NUI Galway); Micheál Collins (UCD); Edgar Morgenroth (ESRI); David Meredith (Teagasc); Deirdre Frost (Western Development Commission); Sean O’Riordain; Philip O’Connor (Dublin Employment Pact); Finbarr Brereton (UCD); Jamie Cudden (Dublín City Council); Celine McHugh; Deiric O’Broin (DIT); Damian Thomas (NESC); Dieter Kogler (UCD); William O’Gorman (WIT); Ruth Pritchard (NUI Galway); Stephen Blair (Southern Regional Assembly).

The following are the contact details of the Association: RSA Chairman Justin Doran: Justin.Doran@ucc.ie; RSA Secretary Chris Van Egeraat: chris.vanegaeraat@nuim.ie

10. Joining/Leaving the RSA (Irish Branch) Mailing List

If you wish to have your details added to, or removed from, the RSA mailing list, please e-mail justin.doran@ucc.ie.

A pdf copy of this newsletter is available on the RSA International website at <http://www.regionalstudies.org/networks/network/rsair>.