

The Review of Regional Studies

The Official Journal of the Southern Regional Science Association



Transactions Costs and Readership:

An "Open" Letter to Our Readers

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Abstract: Introducing a new co-Editor, new (permanent) journal website, becoming an open access journal, indexing on RePEc, SRSA's 50th Anniversary, and more!

Dear Readers:

We have much to celebrate! This first issue of 2011 gives us the opportunity to acknowledge that the 50th Annual Meetings of the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA) were held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Several past Presidents of the SRSA joined us there. Most notable is William Schaffer who has not missed a meeting since he himself spoke before the SRSA as President in 1973. Table 1 lists the 50 meeting places and all SRSA Presidents to date.

During the past 50 years the SRSA has matured significantly. For example, *The Review* is now fully centralized within the SRSA. While tightly run in many ways, for years the Association has been quite informal in its financial dealings and organizational status. For example, to maintain their offices and produce issues, *The Review*'s editors retained all moneys for library subscriptions while also receiving from the Treasurer a portion of SRSA membership fees. During the past couple of years, however, all funds have been run through the SRSA Treasurer's office. Also, due to the work of current SRSA Treasurer Santiago Pinto and others, the Association is now an official not-for-profit organization, insofar as the U.S. Internal Revenue Service is concerned. More importantly, the SRSA is officially a subgroup of the North American Regional Science Council (NARSC), which itself is now an official a branch of the meta-organization Regional Science Association International (RSAI). SRSA members are eligible to receive all of the benefits of both groups. In fact, it also receives some portion of the proceeds of conferences that it hosts on behalf of the RSAI via NARSC.

That all said, the SRSA continues to retain much of the character that has made it popular over the years. Conference goers, while largely a different set from that just 25 years ago, are as affable and helpful as ever. Young scholars continue to be fully welcomed as full members of the SRSA crowd. A fairly good-sized contingent of U.S. government researchers usually attend. Sessions remain focused on cutting-edge theory and methods, typically applied to current socioeconomic development issues in the Southern U.S., but national and international research is

common as well. And, as always, outstanding activities outside of sessions are available to those seeking them.

Table 1: The First 50 Years of Southern Regional Science Association Meetings, the Presiding Officer, and Their Affiliation

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We note that with this volume of *The Review of Regional Studies* Mark Burkey of North Carolina A&T State University joins Michael Lahr as co-editor of *The Review*. Dr. Burkey is a Professor of Economics, using familiar tools such as GIS, spatial econometrics, and microeconomic theory in his work, as well as some tools from Operations Research. His publication record and willingness to engage in SRSA concerns made him an obvious candidate for this new role. As we ask you to welcome Mark Burkey as Co-Editor of *The Review*, we simultaneously ask you to join us in heartily thanking Robert Gibbs and acknowledge his many contributions to the journal as co-Editor over the past few years.

A few other significant changes are also taking place starting with Volume 41. Most significantly *The Review* becomes an open-access journal, with no need for subscriptions or passwords. This decision was not taken lightly and was, in the end, a unanimous decision of the SRSA Council. By making it an open access journal, the Council believes that *The Review* will get broadened exposure, particularly through the use of internet search engines. Unlike many other "open" journals, SRSA has no plans to charge submission or publication fees to authors. Issues back to 2003 (Volume 33) are already freely available online. While both the SRSA and *The Review* have had a number of "home" URLs over the past decade or so, the SRSA has invested in a permanent gateway that will apply to both. The journal's permanent home will now be www.srsa.org/rrs. Now the journal's submission, reviewing, editing, and final issues will all be done using the same software system on this single site. Indeed, if all goes as presently planned, it will be some time before *The Review* moves from this URL. Please notify us of any outdated links or other information regarding *The Review* at other sites by alerting us at *rrs@srsa.org*.

Thirdly, in addition to being indexed in EconLit and EBSCO, we are now listed on RePEc¹, a major indexing and journal ranking player in economics and related fields, and will soon be fully indexed in Google Scholar. Two additional goals for *The Review* are to begin routinely promoting it in some low-cost ways, and to take advantage of other means to assure that this journal has as wide an audience as possible. We believe that all of these actions will significantly increase the visibility and, in the long run, the prestige of the journal.

In this issue we continue our tradition of publishing high-quality, thought-provoking, solid regional science research from some top names in the field. We look forward to embarking on this new path of openness, and encourage you to consider *The Review* as an outlet for your best research. Lastly, we thank all current and past members of the Editorial Board as well as non-Board referees for *The Review*; it is not possible to have a journal without your hard work and dedication as well as your help in spreading the word about our journal. Again, thank you!

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