



The Review of Regional Studies

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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 socio-economic 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

#	Year	Conference Location	President	Affiliation
50	2011	New Orleans, LA	Randall W. Jackson	West Virginia University
49	2010	Crystal City, VA	John E. Connaughton	University of North Carolina-Charlotte
48	2009	San Antonio, TX	Peter V. Schaeffer	West Virginia University
47	2008	Rosslyn, VA	Nancy E. White	Bucknell University
46	2007	Charleston, SC	David McGranahan	USDA Economic Research Service
45	2006	St. Augustine, FL	Cynthia Rogers	University of Oklahoma
44	2005	Rosslyn, VA	Mark Partridge	The Ohio State University
43	2004	New Orleans, LA	Stephen M. Smith	Pennsylvania State University
42	2003	Louisville, KY	Robert Gibbs	USDA Economic Research Service
41	2002	Rosslyn, VA	Frank Hefner	College of Charleston
40	2001	Austin, TX	John Rees	University of North Carolina-Greensboro
39	2000	Miami Beach, FL	Judith Stallmann	University of Missouri
38	1999	Richmond, VA	Andy Bernat	US Bureau of Economic Analysis
37	1998	Savannah, GA	David Barkley	Clemson University
36	1997	Memphis, TN	David Mulkey	University of Florida
35	1996	Baltimore, MD	Carol T. West	University of Florida
34	1995	San Antonio, TX	Edward J. Malecki	University of Florida
33	1994	Orlando, FL	John R. Kort	US Bureau of Economic Analysis
32	1993	Tyson's Corner, VA	Thomas G. Johnson	University of Missouri
31	1992	Charleston, SC	Andrew M. Isserman	West Virginia University
30	1991	Miami, FL	Mark S. Henry	Clemson University
29	1990	Washington, DC	David Rasmussen	Florida State University
28	1989	Chapel Hill, NC	Joseph Cartwright	US Department of Defense
27	1988	Morgantown, WV	William Latham III	University of Delaware
26	1987	Atlanta, GA	Hugh W. Knox	US Bureau of Economic Analysis
25	1986	New Orleans, LA	Barry Moriarty	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
24	1985	Washington, DC	James C. Hite	Clemson University
23	1984	Orlando, FL	A. Ray Grimes	University of Georgia
22	1983	Charleston, SC	William J. Serow	Florida State University
21	1982	Knoxville, TN	Richard Olsen	University of Tennessee
20	1981	Rosslyn, VA	John H. Cumberland	University of Maryland
19	1980	Savannah, GA	Niles M. Hansen	University of Texas at Austin
18	1979	Nashville, TN	Lowell D. Ashby	US Office of Business Economics
17	1978	Richmond, VA	Shirley F. Weiss	University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
16	1977	Birmingham, AL	Monroe Newman	Pennsylvania State University
15	1976	Richmond, VA	William H. Miernyk	West Virginia University
14	1975	Atlanta, GA	James M. Stepp	Clemson University
13	1974	Washington, DC	Alan R. Winger	University of Florida
12	1973	New Orleans, LA	William A. Schaffer	Georgia Institute of Technology
11	1972	Williamsburg, VA	Robert T. Miki	US Economic Development Administration
10	1971	Rosslyn, VA		
9	1970	New Orleans, LA		
8	1969	Chapel Hill, NC		
7	1968	Knoxville, TN		
6	1967	Atlanta, GA		
5	1966	College Park, MD		
4	1965	Charlottesville, VA		
3	1964	Southern Pines, NC		
2	1963	Roanoke, VA		
1	1962	Chapel Hill, NC	Walter Isard	University of Pennsylvania

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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¹ www.repec.org. *The Review* can be found at <http://ideas.repec.org/s/rre/publish.html>.