

## GUEST EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

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This issue of *The Review of Regional Studies* contains contributed papers broadly relevant to the theme of the relationship between regional science and demography. The issue is co-sponsored by the Southern Regional Demographic Group and the Southern Regional Science Association.

The idea for a special issue on this topic stems from William Serow's 1983 presidential address to SRSA, "Regional Science and Applied Demography: Ever the Twain Should Meet," where it was asserted that regional science and demography (especially the applied variety) are extremely complementary disciplines which almost totally ignore each other. This lack of communication was attributed by Serow both to the existence of different publication outlets for each group of scholars and to the tendency for each to affiliate with different academic departments, rather than to inherent differences between them in perspective or method. Indeed, Serow concluded by observing that "knowledge of demography may well promote better regional science just as knowledge of regional science may well promote better demography."

Based on this suggestion, it was decided to make this issue of *The Review* an outlet for papers reporting original research potentially of interest to both regional scientists and demographers. While Serow's comments were limited in the main to a discussion of regional science and applied demography, it was decided from the outset that the papers in this issue would not be constrained to fit this single focus. Rather, in view of the diverse points of overlap between these fields, which is indicated by even the most cursory review of their professional journals, a general call for papers relating to the broad theme of the relationship between regional science and demography was issued through usual channels. In this way, the primary responsibility for deciding what to include was borne by scholars who perceived

their research topics to be of joint interest. In addition to the standard peer review, an effort was made to have submitted papers reviewed by both a regional scientist and a demographer. Also, referees were asked explicitly to comment on the appropriateness of manuscripts for inclusion in this special issue.

One result of this "free market" and inductive approach to operationalizing the relationship between regional science and demography is that the five papers included in this issue of *The Review* are diverse and resist easy categorization. The first paper, by Tayman and Schafer, deals with methodological issues in population estimation. This paper should be of interest to the numerous regional scientists who make and/or use such estimates in the process of examining regional economic change as well as to demographers concerned with issues of estimation.

The second paper in the issue, by Smith and Fishkind, reports a time series analysis of elderly migration, a topic of clear substantive significance to demographers and regional scientists alike. The third paper also deals with migration; however, rather than focusing on the elderly, Manson, Espenshade, and Muller examine Southern California to address the important policy-relevant question of job competition from Mexican immigration. The paper also makes an interesting link between international immigration and the migration of U.S. labor to Southern California.

The paper by Guseman and Sapp, fourth in this issue, tests the relative adequacy of alternative explanations for regional differences in food consumption in the U.S. Their findings substantiate the importance of population composition for regional variability in consumption and suggest the inadequacy of regional income levels alone. The final paper in this issue is a contribution by Taylor and Gwartney-Gibbs which is truly "last but not least." These authors examine regional differences in earnings by race/sex within labor market segments and conclude that a segmentation approach is superior to one focusing on prejudice, qualifications, or simple regional variations in wages. Both papers highlight issues relevant to demographers and regional

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scientists working with diverse problems.

As with any collection of original research, whether this special issue will be successful in facilitating communication between regional scientists and demographers will not be evident for some time to come. Clearly, given that there is so little communication now, the present volume is only one effort where many will be required. Perhaps a more realistic goal is

that the papers in this issue will exemplify and suggest common topics which can be usefully approached by both groups of scholars. The existence of problems such as these is in my opinion illustrative of the fundamentally complementary relationship between regional science and demography and provides the justification for the present special issue of *The Review*.