Romanian Journal of Regional Science
Vol. 17, No. 2, Winter 2023

DOI: https://doi.org/10.61225/rjrs.2023.09

BOOK REVIEW

Peter Batey, David Plane (Eds.)
***Great Minds in Regional Science* (Vol.1)**
Springer, 2020

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Great Minds in Regional Science by Peter Batey and David Plane is paying tribute to scholars with seminal contributions to regional science, by giving insights into their lives, their work and their service to the scientific community.

The volume, alongside with *The Voice of Regional Science*, is part of the *Footprints in Regional Science* series and is strongly related with the work of the Regional Science Academy. It aims at recognizing the scientific and political impact of the included scholars from a contemporary perspective. Besides bridging the gap between scientific contributions and their practical applications, the series includes scholars from around the world proving once more the global interest for the discipline. The book is organized in three main parts:

The first part, "Establishing Regional Science and the Regional Science Association", begins with a tribute to Walter Isard. The chapter deals with Walter Isard's life and contributions to regional science. David Boyce, the chapter's author, describes Isard's early years, academic interests, and the other experiences that shaped his approach to regional science. The detailed account of Isard's role in founding the Regional Science Association provides valuable insights into the organizational aspects of the field, highlighting the significance of interdisciplinary collaboration. In a chapter by Yoshiro

Higano, the book further acknowledges the significant contributions of Genpachiro Konno, Yasuhiko Oishi, and Hirotada Kohno to regional science that led to the growth of the discipline in Japan. The chapter establishes how Konno, the first President of the Japan Section of the Regional Science Association (JSRSA) had a big impact on the expansion of the express highway network in Japan. In addition, the reader learns how Oishi, the second President of JSRSA, contributed to expanding the association by inviting scholars from various related fields and to the development of the Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization (PRSCO). Lastly, the chapter is paying tribute to Kohno, the third President of JSRSA acknowledging his expertise in the theory of indirect benefits of public investment and interregional input-output modelling. The chapter also provides a historical overview of the establishment of regional science in Japan, highlighting the 50th anniversary of JSRSAI in 2012. It discusses the collaboration between JSRSA and WRSA in forming PRSCO and the subsequent reorganization into the Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization (PRSCO). The internationalization of PRSCO and its role in the global regional science community are stated as well. In the chapter about Rolf Funk, another pioneer in regional science, Daniela Luminita Constantin addresses Funck's education and career, focusing on his time in Münster and later as the Director of the Institute of Economic Policy and Research in Karlsruhe. The chapter offers a comprehensive overview of Rolf Funck's significant contributions to regional science theory, practice, and international collaboration. The reader learns about Funk’s critiques of growth theory, his policy-oriented models, and his insights into the East European economic transition.

The second part of the volume, “Antecedents of Regional Science”, is dedicated to scholars who contributed to regional science before the founding of the Regional Science Association in 1950. The section starts with a description of Jules Dupuit’s, a member of the French liberal school, academic and professional journey. Philippe Poinsot is tracing back the roots of the cost-benefit-analysis to Dupoint and explores the limitations and challenges associated with Dupuit's approach, acknowledging the unique aspects of each infrastructure project. The chapter also recognizes Dupoint’s reinforcement for inter-disciplinary approaches to ensure effective public policies. The next scholar this section is paying tribute to is August Lösch. In his chapter, Peter Nijkamp is emphasizing the scientific relevance of the German spatial economist by including accolades from peers that highlight Lösch’s personality and innovative work. Lösch’s contribution to location theory, industrial concentration analysis and to the principles of regional science have brought him global recognition. Peter Batey dedicates the next chapter to Philip Sargant Florence’s groundbreaking contribution to regional science. Sargant Florence has advanced the use of statistical analysis in regional science and his ideas such as the Location Quotient are found in standard textbooks and are

still employed in various areas of research. Batey highlights Sargant Florence's attempts to measuring spatial industrial concentration in the 1930s, his advocacy for interdisciplinarity, his achievements as a consultant for the US National Resources Planning Board in the early 1940s and his conviction that social sciences could benefit the practice of urban and regional planning in the 1950s and 1960s. The last chapter of the section is paying tribute to Karl Gunnar Myrdal, the Nobel Prize winning Swedish economist that, besides his academic positions in Geneva and Stockholm served as a member of the Swedish Parliament in the 1930s, as Minister of Trade in the 1940s and as an executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva. Hans Westlund discusses Myrdal's main scientific contributions to regional science focusing on his pioneering role in extending the theory of cumulative causation for regional economics. Westlund's distinction of Myrdal's theory from Perroux's and Hirschman seminal works that coincided in time is comprehensive and helpful in understanding how important the Swedish model (government intervention and the existence of welfare polices) has been throughout Myrdal's academic and political career.

"Laying Foundations in Regional Science" is the third part of the volume and deals with the seminal work of influential regional scientists following the founding of the Regional Science Association. The first presented scholar is Martin Beckmann whose scientific contributions were acknowledged in economics, operations research, and reginal science. Gordon F. Mulligan structures his chapter on Beckmann according to his main scientific contributions. In addition to Beckmann's work on flows and networks, in which he employed mathematics to establish equilibrium conditions for trade across regions, Mulligan introduces the reader into Beckmann's solution to allocation of activities, allowing the firm to substitute supply sources, final markets and final markets as optimization strategy. Other presented contributions include Beckmann's work on land use, spatial pricing, and city size. Following the chapter on Beckmann, David Plane is introducing the reader into the life and work of Edward Louis Ullman who has led both the Regional Science Association and the Western Regional Science Association and is known for his contributions in human geography. Plane's chapter includes details on Harvard University's decision to eliminate the geography department while Ullman was holding an Associate Professor position is insightful testimony of the adversities human geographers were facing that time. Nevertheless, Ullmann who redefined "geography as the study of the interconnections among places and regions, rather than the characterization of and detailing of their attributes" (p. 158) dealt with topics such as transportation networks and flows and the conceptualization of urban structure. He was one of the first regional scientists to deal with the role of amenities for migration patterns. As a third scholar in this section Roger Stough is introducing Julian Wolpert as a "leader in what can be called the behavioral revolution in economic, social, and

human geography" (p. 181). Wolpert contributed to advancing quantitative methods in the geography field and received wide academic acclaim proven by his membership to the U.S. National Academy of Science and by his role as President of the Association of American Geographers both before he was 40 years of age. The section ends with details on the life and work of Waldo Tobler by Arthur Getis. Tobler's scientific work played a significant role in the advancement of Geographic Information Systems. Getis presents Tobler's contributions while at different stages of his career: during his tenure at the University of Michigan and at the at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Tobin is credited to have brought his spatial analysis perspective to regional science and to have shown how spatial and gravitation models can be employed to find factors that can replace distance.

This volume is a great anthology of major contributions in regional science. The authors managed to capture the multi-dimensionality of this research area by including not only the variety of disciplines that have been feeding into regional science for decades but also the internationality of it that is proven by the different nationality of the scholars as well as by the local/regional applications of their research. The volume allows the work of the included scholars to be acknowledged, extended, criticized by the younger generations of researchers. It keeps it alive.