

# **The Regional Science Community and the Future of RSAI**

Antoine Bailly  
Founder's Medal 2008

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# A short history of the Regional Science Association

The field of regional science was initiated in 1955 with the creation of the Regional Science Association (Golden anniversary in 2005. Special issue of the PRSA)



Walter Isard:

"... a comprehensive theory of society or economy should embrace both time and space dimensions" (1956)

# RSA: a short history with major names (I)

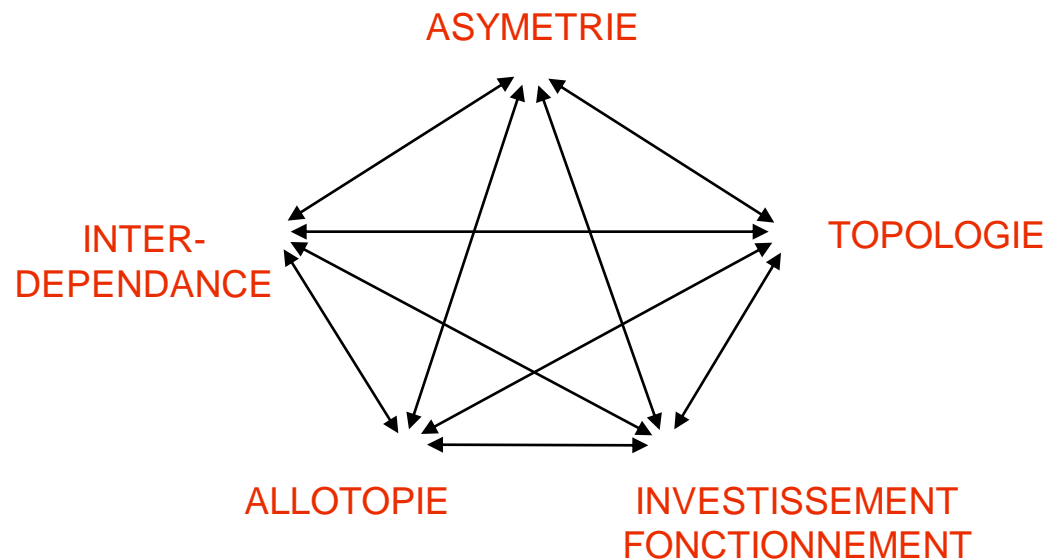


T. Hägerstrand

T. Hägerstrand:

"Regional science is about people not just about location"  
(1970)

J. Paelinck: "Cinq principes de l'analyse spatiale" (1976)



J. Paelinck

## RSA: a short history with major names (II)

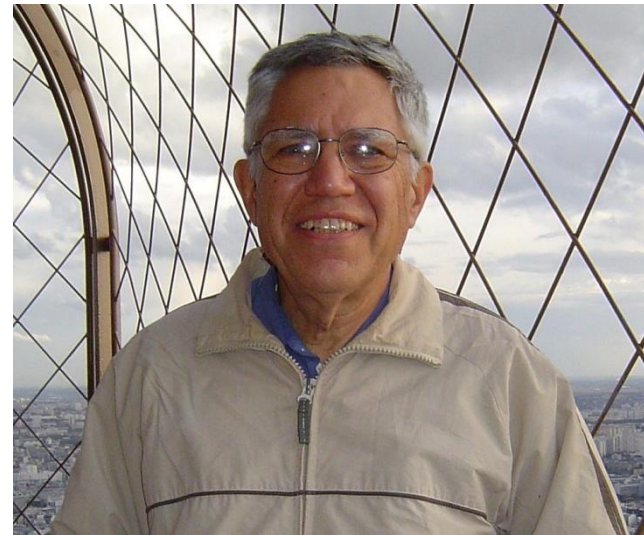
D. Boyce, P. Nijkamp, D. Sheffer

"Various new megatrends and driving forces in our society can at present be identified:

- the aging process
- the environmental question
- the emerging new technology
- the new emerging policy map
- the new infrastructure policy" (1990)



P. Nijkamp



D. Boyce

# Regional Science Association International



L. Gibson

To day regional science is a true international, interdisciplinary endeavor, bringing together economists, geographers, planners, social scientists in a world umbrella organisation RSAI

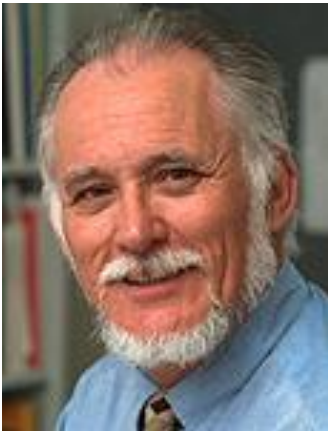
An original constitution was laid out by L. Gibson

A road map for RSAI was designed at the RSAI LRPC Charleston meeting by P. Batey and was the base of action for presidents since 2003 with the help of G. Clarke (ED.)



P. Batey

# A forward looking and ambitious RSAI (2003-2010)



B. Stimson

- Universal membership (bottom up conception)
- Structural coherence (national and continental sections)
- A new applied regional science journal (with Blackwell)
- Development in continent underrepresented (South America, Asia, Africa)
- A new constitution and NGO status



R. Stough

## **New trends: regional science a valued decision science**

- Sustainable regional development
- Spatial and social justice, policy evaluation
- New citizenship and identities
- New allocation of resources (water, food, energy...)

**Thank you for your attention  
and the honor given to me  
with the 2008 Founder's Medal**

