

Joint Plenary Sessions Hosted by the Regional Science Association (British and Irish Section) and the Regional Studies Association

Venue and Dates

Conference of the Regional Science Association (British and Irish Section), Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge 20-22 August 2013.

For registration details see:

<http://www.rsai-bis.org/registration-and-payment.html>

Plenary 1: Annual *Spatial Economic Analysis* Lecture

Professor Gwilym Price, University of Glasgow

“Residential Segregation and the Statistics of Space, Economy and Society”

Wednesday 21st August 14.00-15.30

Abstract

This lecture considers how spatial economic analysis can advance our understanding of residential segregation, both in terms of measurement and definition, and in terms of estimating its causes and consequences. Residential segregation is situated at the intersection of space, economy and society, and it is at this intersection, it is argued, where many of the most interesting and important contemporary questions of social science are located. It is here, also, where rich veins of research inquiry remain unexplored. This lecture teases out some of the core conceptual themes and questions using illustrations from a major new ESRC research centre, structuring the discussion around seven rhetorical statements regarding the role of spatial economy in understanding residential segregation: (1) Space is Important; (2) Space is Random; (3) Space is Symmetric; (4) Space has Wormholes; (5) Space is Dynamic; (6) Space is Endogenous; (7) Space is a Pedagogue.

Plenary 2: *Smart Specialisation and Regional Policy* Lecture and Panel

Lecture: Professor Dominique Foray, Federal University of Lausanne, Switzerland

“Regional Innovation Policy in the Knowledge Age: The Need for Smart Specialisation”

Thursday 22nd August 11.30-13.00

Abstract

Professor Dominique Foray, widely regarded as the father of the *smart specialisation* concept, is a world-leading expert on the economics of knowledge and the application of this field to understanding industrial and commercial activities. Professor Foray will discuss the major elements of the smart specialisation concept and also its application to EU regional policy. Professor Foray will also link the conceptual approaches to applied policy-relevant issues, building on his own experience as an advisor to the European Commission, the OECD and also a range of different French regions.

The lecture by Professor Foray will be followed by an interactive panel discussion with the audience including both academics and policy-makers from the UK and Ireland.