



RSAI-BIS Annual Meeting 2024

Bristol

July 9–11, 2024



Regional Science
Association International
British and Irish Section



Welcome

Dear Participant,

The Committee of the Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section warmly welcomes you to Bristol . We hope you enjoy your stay and find the conference interesting and useful.

We are very grateful to conference organiser Emmanouil Tranos, as well as the events and conference staff at our hosts University of Bristol.

The RSAI-BIS welcomes new members. Your conference fee includes annual membership of the Section, with all of the benefits that membership brings. Please get involved with the Section. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to improve the Section, our annual conference, or developing the Section for all members we would love to hear these.

Also included in this booklet is a form to submit your name for election to the Section's Committee. The Committee is appointed at the AGM which takes place on the Wednesday from 14.00 to 15.00. We welcome applications.

The minutes of the 2023 AGM are also included in this booklet.

Please feel free to discuss any RSAI-BIS or conference matters with our Chair Maria Abreu, Membership Secretary Tasos Kitsos, Treasurer Stuart McIntyre, or myself.

Richard Rijnks

Secretary

Photograph on cover by Nathan Riley - <https://unsplash.com/photos/hot-air-balloons-flying-above-trees-iOMkcADNoq8>

Message from the RSAI-BIS Chair

Dear all,

I would like to warmly welcome you to our 50th annual conference. We are delighted to see so many delegates from the UK and Ireland, as well as many from further afield in Europe and the Americas. This promises to be a terrific conference in a wonderful city. Many thanks to Emmanouil Tranos, our local conference organiser, for putting together a stimulating and exciting programme of presentations and social events.

I would also like to share a few bits of news with you from the past year. We organised the Early Career Colloquium as an online event on 9-10 November 2023, for the third year running, following a very successful move online during the Covid period. It was a very popular event, with over 30 presenters from across the UK and Ireland, but also other countries, including the Netherlands, Japan, Italy, and India, and expert chairs and discussants in each session. I am very grateful to Daragh O'Leary, who took the lead in organising the workshop, and fellow members of the Colloquium organising committee Richard Rijnks and Matt Lyons. The Colloquium has been one of the most enjoyable workshops I attended last year. The enthusiasm, energy, and excellent research from participants, and kind, constructive,

and helpful comments from our senior members have been very inspiring.

As is traditional, we awarded two early career prizes at the Colloquium. Ten full papers were submitted for the best paper prize, all of which were excellent and eminently publishable in good journals. The jury judged the papers on four criteria: (a) novelty of the research topic, (b) novelty of the approach and methods, (c) quality and robustness of the analysis, (d) quality of the writing and structure. The best paper prize was awarded to Andreas Mastrosavvas of the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University, for his paper "Socio-Spatial Spillovers of All-Mail Voting: Evidence from North Carolina". The jury would also awarded three Honorary Mentions in this category to Josh O'Driscoll of UCC in Ireland, Duygu Buyukyazici of the University of Turin in Italy, and Martina Pardy of the LSE.

In the best presentation prize, the jury noted the high quality of the presentations at the Colloquium, and the innovative use of presentation techniques and tools, which included animations, rhetorical devices, pictures, and graphics. In this category the jury took the unusual step of awarding two prizes to (in no particular order) Clara Caiafa of Eindhoven University of

Technology, for her talk on the regional impact of hydrogen investments in Brazil, and Sam Parry, of Cardiff University, for his talk on the political economy of nationalist identity. Our Colloquium prize winners are attending the annual conference as part of their prize, and we will be issuing prize certificates during the conference dinner. Please join us in celebrating their outstanding research.

As many of you will know, Paul Elhorst, who was an outstanding Editor of our journal *Spatial Economic Analysis* for 10 years, has recently stepped down at the end of his second term. We are hugely grateful to Paul for his hard work and successful stewardship of the journal. I am also very happy to announce that Ugo Fratesi, Professor of Regional Economics and Policy at Politecnico di Milano, has taken over as the new Editor in Chief of SEA. This is a very exciting appointment, and we look forward to working closely with Ugo over the next few years. Ugo will be attending the conference and will introduce the SEA Annual Lecture. Please do say hello; Ugo is very happy to discuss his plans for the journal with conference delegates.

Our SEA Keynote Lecture will be given by Professor Robert Huggins, Chair of Economic Geography at Cardiff University and Director of its Centre for Economic Geography. We will also be hosting our second annual Early Career Keynote, which will be given by Dr Carolin Ioramashvili, Lecturer in Innovation Policy at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex.

Finally, a great many thanks to the Officers of the association, who work very hard all year round on a volunteer basis to keep everything on track: Richard Rijnks (Secretary), Stuart McIntyre (Treasurer), and Tasos Kitsos (Membership Secretary). I am also very grateful to the members of the RSAI-BIS committee, for their advice, input, and enthusiasm for the association and our activities. This is my final year as Chair, having held the post since 2018, slightly longer than planned due to the Covid period. I am hugely grateful for all the support over the years, and for having been given the opportunity to lead our wonderful association.

Thank you for participating in our annual conference. We hope you find the experience both academically rewarding and enjoyable!

With best wishes,

Maria Abreu

Chair, RSAI-BIS

Message from the Local Organiser

Dear Participants,

Welcome to Bristol! On behalf of the School of Geographical Sciences I am very pleased to welcome you to Bristol, the location of the 50th Annual Conference of the British and Irish Section of the RSAI. We have organised a dense academic programme, but we also arranged some social activities for you to discover and enjoy Bristol. Hopefully, we will convince you that Bristol punches above its weight as it offers plenty of amenities that are difficult to be found in other similar size cities.

If there is one thing that you shouldn't miss, is Clifton and the famous Clifton Suspension Bridge. Visible across the city, the Clifton Suspension Bridge is an iconic Bristol landmark. If you want to get a closer look, you can walk across for unparalleled views of the city and River Avon.

This most picturesque neighbourhood is in east Clifton. You'll find high-end dining experiences, artisan produce and lovely small streets. Just beyond the bridge is Leigh Woods, with nearly 500 acres of woodland. It's less than 30 minutes' walk from conference venue. Enjoy the tranquillity of the countryside only a short distance from the city.

If independent stores is your thing, we've got you covered. Gloucester Road is the longest street of independent shops in Europe. Then, between Gloucester

Road and the city centre is the iconic Stokes Croft. A countercultural hub full of character, it's brimming with unique businesses and community initiatives like the People's Republic of Stokes Croft.

Redcliffe is a large area of Bristol just south of the city centre. It's surrounded by the Floating Harbour and the River Avon. St Mary Redcliffe Church is one of the most recognisable spires in the Bristol skyline, and was the tallest building in the city until 2020. Bristol Temple Meads station is in the heart of Redcliffe. Arriving in Bristol by train, it'll be the first area of the city you see.

The Christmas Steps, very close to the university, are home to a charming collection of independent shops. Between St Michael's Hill and Broadmead, this quaint street makes for a popular photo op.

And finally, the harbourside. This cultural heart of the city with plenty of dining opportunities and pubs. Speaking of, don't miss King Street. My favourite is Small Bar. If you are after a more traditional pub, The Famous Royal Navy Volunteer is another great choice.

Wishing you a most enjoyable conference

Emmanouil Tranos

Our Association

Regional science is an expanding field devoted to the development of theory and method in urban and regional analysis and policy. It has a conscious aim of cutting across the traditional disciplinary approaches to these issues. The British and Irish Section of the Regional Science Association International was founded in 1968 and has been active ever since. The membership is drawn, in the main, from academics, consultants, and policymakers in local and national government, who share an interest in spatial issues. They come from a range of disciplines including economics, geography, data science, sociology, and planning.

Our Activities

- Organisation of an annual conference, and occasional workshops and seminars;
- Award of an annual best-paper prize, the Moss Madden Memorial Medal;
- Award of an early career best-paper prize at the annual Early Career Colloquium;
- Engagement with external organisations, and with other sections of the RSAI.

The Section is run by a committee of thirteen elected members. The committee may co-opt a further three members. The Chair and the committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting which is held during the Annual Conference each year. The conduct of the business of the Section is governed by the Constitution.

We are continually seeking new elected members of our committee. If you are interested in becoming an elected member then please contact our Chair (Maria Abreu), Membership Secretary (Tasos Kitsos), Treasurer (Stuart McIntyre) and/or Secretary (Richard Rijnks) in the first instance.

**50th RSAI-BIS
Annual Conference
University of Bristol
Fry Building**

General Information

Social events (see map below for locations)

Tuesday Pub Quiz:

The Eldon House 6 Lower Clifton Hill. Starting at 19:00. A light buffet meal and first drink will be provided; additional drinks to be covered by participants. Now's the time to start brushing up on your trivia!

Wednesday Tour:

We offer a choice of three tours for the excursion, please find the details below.

1) St Nicholas market and air raid shelter tour

Immerse yourself in World War II Bristol with this unique subterranean tour, explore Bristol's largest public air raid shelter and hear stories of the Bristol blitz.

Meeting point: St Nicholas Market at 15:30. Duration: 1.5/2h.

2) Blackbeard to Banksy walking tour

Uncover 1000 years of city history and find world leading street art on this 2-hour tour. Hear stories of Bristol's rich maritime history, see Robinson Crusoe's first port of call, the birthplace of Edward Teach, listen for underground rivers and hear bizarre echoes.

Meeting point: In front of Bristol Cathedral at 15:30. Duration: 1.5/2h.

3) Bristol's street art scene

Travel through Bristol and find out more about the rich and vibrant past of Bristol's street art and graffiti world and its exciting future. Find works of art by famous world leading artists and up and comers from the international scene.

Meeting point: In front of Bristol Cathedral at 15:30. Duration: 1.5/2h.

Thursday conference dinner:

M SHED Princes Wharf, Wapping Rd. Drinks reception starting at 19:00, to be followed by dinner at 20:00.

Overview of the Venue

Welcome to Bristol and the University of Bristol!

All of our formal meeting activities will be held on the University campus in the newly refurbished Fry Building, a twenty minute walk from the City Centre, and about the same time using public transport.

Meeting registration will be open in the mornings of the conference, for late registrations please contact the Section Secretary (Richard Rijnks).





Session organisation

The sessions are all 90 minutes long, with up to three presentations per session. The aim is to have around 20 minute presentations, with 10 minutes for Q&A. If there are fewer than three presenters, I would like to encourage you to stick to this 20/10 schedule, to allow participants to attend presentations in other sessions.

The final presenter in the programme will be the session chair. The session chair will ensure that presenters keep to their allotted time. If necessary, session chairs may moderate the discussion, although this is usually not required.

Programme Overview

	G.09 (58)	G.13 (40)	LG.20 (40)
09:00-09:30	Registration (throughout the conference)		
09:30-11:00	1A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets	1B: Regional Science in Business	1C: Urban Futures (and Sustainable Cities)
11:00-11:30	Tea and coffee		
11:30-13:00	2A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being	2B : Impact of Higher Education on Regional Economies	2C: Smart Cities: Data-driven Urban Analytics
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:00	SEA Lecture: Robert Huggins		
15:00-15:30	Tea and coffee		
15:30-17:00	3A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets	3B: Transportation Networks and their Regional Economic Impact	3C: Panel - Smart Data for Regional Development and Policy
19:00-	Annual Pub Quiz		

	G.09 (58)	G.13 (40)	LG.20 (40)
09:00-09:30	Registration (throughout the conference)		
09:30-11:00	4A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets	4B: New and Emerging Issues around Levelling Up	4C: Migration, Refugees, and Integration
11:00-11:30	Tea and coffee		
11:30-13:00	5A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being	5B: Innovation	5C: Tourism
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:00	AGM		
15:00-18:00	Excursion		

Programme Overview

	G.09 (58)	G.13 (40)	LG.20 (40)
09:00-09:30	Registration (throughout the conference)		
09:30-11:00	6A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets	6B: Great Minds	6C: Fiscal Efficiency
11:00-11:30	Tea and coffee		
11:30-13:00	27A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being	7B	7C: Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes
13:00-14:00	Lunch		
14:00-15:00	Early Career Keynote: Carolin Ioramashvili		
15:00-15:30	Tea and coffee		
15:30-17:00	8A: Regional Inequalities in Health and Well-Being	8B	8C: Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes
17:00-18:00	Committee Meeting		
19:00-	Conference Dinner		

Plenary Sessions



Spatial Economic Analysis Keynote: Cultures of Possibility and Regional Development: Behavioural Theory and the Future of Left Behind Places

Robert Huggins

Stories of the severe socioeconomic challenges faced by so-called left behind places, and the failure of regional development policy to address these challenges, have become increasingly commonplace. Growing evidence indicates that the forces of contemporary capitalism are leading to exclusive modes of development and the growing spatial concentration of wealth and investment. Against such a backdrop, this paper seeks to examine how left behind regions can catalyse behavioural change that will allow the development of cultures of possibility in these places. In this sense, possibility is a state whereby a region has emergent patterns of human behaviour that can result in alternative and better outcomes for the people living and working in these regions.

The paper argues that the concept of possibility is potentially an important means for analysing regional development and associated policy given that it is generally framed as being embodied in places, relational spaces of action and agency, and occurs in clusters of interrelated ideas. As a means for undertaking such an analysis it is proposed that behavioural theory related to economic systems provides a framework for understanding the foundation, emergence and actualisation of possibilities within a regional context.

Drawing on three areas of behavioural theory - namely: behavioural economics; complexity economics; and behavioural economic geography - it is further proposed that regional development is partly a function of the possibilities any given region offers to individuals. These possibilities mainly, although not exclusively, relate to economic possibilities that emerge as place-based cultures within regions. Such possibilities concern, for example, the potential for innovative, creative or entrepreneurial endeavour.

The core arguments are three-fold: (1) the possibilities offered by regions are a result of the interaction of the decision-making capabilities of the people living and working in region and the nature of the choice architecture from which these decisions are made; (2) the emergence of these decision-making capabilities and choice architecture stems from the systems of complex adaptive behaviour within a region; and (3) the foundations of this behaviour are spatially bounded by psychological and cultural factors.

Following this theoretical framework, the paper presents some exploratory empirics to illustrate elements of the framework. The final sections consider 'possibility policies' for left behind regions and a research agenda to better measure and analyse regional decision-making capabilities and choice architecture.

Professor Robert Huggins is Chair of Economic Geography at Cardiff University's School of Geography and Planning. He is currently the Director of the University's Cities Research Centre and a member of the University's Centre for Innovation Policy Research. His research interests and expertise concern urban and regional economic development, in particular the study of human behaviour, culture, competitiveness, knowledge flows, entrepreneurship, innovation and technology, clusters and inter-organisational networks. He has published more than one

hundred articles in peer-reviewed journals and authored or edited eight previous books, and is the founder of the influential UK Competitiveness Index. Outside of Cardiff University, he is a Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford's Kellogg College, the Co-Director of the Centre for Knowledge Competitiveness and Regional Research at Shanghai Jiaotong University; a member of the Global Urban Competitiveness Program; and a member of the UKRI's Research and Innovation Caucus



Early Career Keynote: Innovation and inequality – How to avoid creating the next Silicon Valleys

Carolin Ioramashvili

Innovation drives economic growth – but arguably has some unintended adverse effects for inequality within and between places. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the United States, where the innovation economy is exceptionally concentrated around Silicon Valley and where this success has led to stark inequalities. The talk will illuminate the relationship between inequality and innovation from different angles, including by skill, gender, and geographically, to consider avenues for policy makers to distribute the gains from innovation more equally.

Carolin Ioramashvili is lecturer in Innovation Policy at the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex. Her research focuses on regional income inequality, and in particular the role of innovation. She has extensive experience in policy evaluation and is currently a British Academy Innovation Fellow with the Evaluation Task Force in the Cabinet Office. She holds a PhD in Economic Geography from the London School of Economics.

Full Programme

Presenting author	Title	Room
Session 1A	Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets	G.09 (58)
Calvin Jones	Steeltown's End? The Closure of the Port Talbot Furnaces	
Sabine D'Costa	Market Potential and the Firm Exit-Productivity nexus	
Femke Cnossen	The Geography of New Technology: Exposure to AI, Software and Robots in European Regional Labour Markets	
Session 1B	Regional Science in Business	G.13 (40)
Daragh O'Leary	Unemployment & Entrepreneurship: Incorporating Education	
Kyron Hoare	Towards an agency perspective on digital path development in peripheral regions	
Session 1C	Urban Futures (and Sustainable Cities)	LG.20 (40)
Anita Vollmer	Nature-based solutions: Barriers to adoption and guidelines for policymakers	
Jack Williamson	Drivers of emissions changes at local authority level in Scotland: measures and omissions	
Josh O'Driscoll	Road to Growth: The impact of motorway access on population, employment, and commuting mode choices	

Full Programme

Presenting author	Title	Room
Session 2A	SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being	G.09 (58)
Aleid Brouwer	Scenario's for the future: broad prosperity as a framework for decision making	
Jiao Zhou	Digital Inequalities and E-commerce in China	
Maria Abreu	Defining left behind places: an internationally comparative poset analysis	
Session 2B	Impact of Higher Education on Regional Economies	G.13 (40)
Anne Otto	Highly educated, highly Mobile? Location choices of doctorate recipients working inside and outside academia	
Helena Barachino	Covid-19, school-to-work transition and practical experience	
Steven Kema	Unveiling the labour market trajectories of international university graduates in the Netherlands: insights from Dutch microdata	
Session 2C	Smart Cities: Data-driven Urban Analytics	LG.20 (40)
Jacques Poot	Multi-regional probabilistic population projections for open populations, incorporating an embedded spatial interaction model of inter-regional migration	
Emmanouil Tranos	A multi-scale story of the diffusion of a new technology: the web	
Jingxue Xie	From the Pedestrian's Perspective: An Evaluation of 15-Minute Walking Circles in the Core Area of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in Tokyo	

Full Programme

Presenting author	Title	Room
Session 3A	Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets	G.09 (58)
Emma Lappi	Entrepreneurial Human Capital, Firm-Level Productivity in Rural and Urban Regions	
Carolyn Ioramashvili	Digitalisation and firm survival during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK	
Matthew Lyons	Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Relationship between Public R&D Funding and Regional Economic Development	
Session 3B	Transportation Networks and their Regional Economic Impact	G.13 (40)
Hadi Arbabi	Deviations from agglomeration expectations: accessibility, density, and local characteristics	
Conor O'Driscoll	Residential Relocation and Travel Mode Choices	
Aisling Reynolds-Feighan	Airborne Again: The Resurgence of Airline Networks and Business Adaptability During and After the Pandemic	
Session 3C	Panel - Smart Data for Regional Development and Policy	LG.20 (40)
Rachel Franklin	Panel on Smart Data for Regional Development and Policy	

Full Programme

Presenting author	Title	Room
Session 4A	Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets	G.09 (58)
Deniz Sevinc	A Regime of Labour Intimacy and Transnational Actors? Foreign Domestic Helpers, Economic Transformation and Female Labour Force Participation in Hong Kong.	
John Moffat	The Effect of Central and Local Government Support for Innovation on Productivity: Evidence from Young Enterprises in Great Britain	
Session 4B	New and Emerging Issues around Levelling Up	G.13 (40)
Tasos Kitsos	Transformative resilience through innovation and trade: Evidence from UK regions	
Yuanxi Li	Latecomers' catch-up in the 4th technological revolution: Based on the perspective of knowledge complexity	
Stuart McIntyre	Measuring Sub-Regional Economic Activity: Missing Frequencies and Missing Data	
Session 4C	Migration, Refugees, and Integration	LG.20 (40)
Wade Litt	Immigrant Earnings Premiums for U.S. Bachelor's Degrees	
Qiuji Shi	The diversity of older migrants and their return intentions: The case of China	
Orsa Kekezi	Job Loss, Neighborhood Characteristics, and Labor Outcomes of Immigrants	

Full Programme

Presenting author	Title	Room
Session 5A	SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being	G.09 (58)
Richard Rijnks	Provision of Local Services Under Exogenous Shocks	
Emmanouil Tranos	Online gambling from a spatial perspective	
Session 5B	Innovation	G.13 (40)
Clara Rabelo Caiafa	Can green hydrogen exports contribute to regional economic development? Exploring scenarios from the Dutch-Brazilian green hydrogen corridor for the state of Ceará	
Breandan Ohuallachain	Invention Volatility and Urban Systems Dynamics	
Andrew Johnston	A Behavioural Approach to Regional Innovation Systems: Assessing the Role of Regional Slack in Regional R&D	
Session 5C	Tourism	LG.20 (40)
Francisco Nobre	The Economic Footprint of Short-Term Rentals on local businesses: Evidence from Portugal	
Grant Allan	The economic and environmental impacts of tourism-focused tax changes	
Maria Plotnikova	Post-Pandemic holiday let economy in West Wales and its effect on the tourism sector	

Full Programme

Presenting author	Title	Room
Session 6A	Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets	G.09 (58)
Genghao Zhang	How Do Places' Characteristics Matter? Evidence from AI Location Quotients of LSOAs and TTWAs in Great Britain	
Alvertos Konstantinis	Money, leisure and precarious employment	
Session 6B	Great Minds	G.13 (40)
Peter Batey	Philip Sargant Florence: Pioneer Planning Analyst	
Jacques Poot	William Alonso (1933-1999): urban economist and economic demographer par excellence	
Session 6C	Fiscal Efficiency	LG.20 (40)
Dylan Jong	Capitalization of the Windfalls from the Privatization of Energy Companies by Dutch Municipalities	
Kim Swales	The impact of greater fiscal autonomy on a region's sensitivity to negative asymmetric exogenous demand shocks; a CGE simulation approach.	
Gokcen Yilmaz	International Externalities of Government Expenditure and the Sectoral Composition of the Economy	
Presenting author	Title	Room
Session 7A	SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being	G.09 (58)
Emmanouil Tranos	Online gambling from a spatial perspective	
Franziska Bay	Trailing your parents' footsteps - Occupational following of the self-employed in the regional context	
Session 7C	Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes	G.13 (40)
Davide Luca	Spatial inequality and protests: Evidence from the Global South	
Andreas Mastrosavvas	Socio-Spatial Spillovers of All-Mail Voting: Evidence from North Carolina	
Luise Koeppen	Democracy's Vital Signs: Unravelling the Nexus between Health-care Access and Voting Trends in Europe	

Full Programme

Presenting author	Title	Room
Session 8A	Regional Inequalities in Health and Well-Being	G.09 (58)
Marije Kooistra	The role of housing satisfaction in overall life satisfaction across the life satisfaction distribution	
Lisa Noonan	The Local Determinants of GAA Membership in Ireland	
Session 8C	Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes	LG.20 (40)
Davide Luca	Progressive nurture: Growing up in large cities and the urban-rural polarisation of individual values	
Sam Parry	What accounts for economic development and nationalist sentiment in the (very) long term?	
Elisabetta Pietrostefani	The Spatial Dynamics of Trust: the rally-round-the-flag effect in post-blast Beirut	

Agenda AGM 2024



Regional Science Association International

British and Irish Section

Bristol, July 10th, 2024

1. Minutes of the AGM 2023
2. Chair's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Spatial Economic Analysis Journal Report
5. Election of the Committee 2024-2025
6. Election of the Chair 2024-2025
7. AOB

Date for next meeting: TBA

Nominations for the committee will close at 4pm Tuesday July 9th.

Minutes AGM 2023

1. Minutes of the AGM 2022

- a. Approved

2. Chair's report

- a. Section is doing well
- b. Successful early career colloquium
- c. Israeli workshop in Cambridge
- d. Good numbers for Annual Meeting

3. Treasurer's report

- a. Section in good financial health
- b. Both euro account and sterling account have good liquidity
- c. Slight negative for the Newcastle conference projected - can be accommodated by current balance
- d. Should think about what to do with the euro account - Large balance left over from Cork ERSA / RSAI-BIS 2018. Can be invested in a way that will help the section, e.g. meetings or events

4. SEA Journal Report

- a. Journal doing well, up in the metrics
- b. Paul Elhorst's tenure is coming to an end, replacement editor needs to be selected
- c. Journal does not get many submissions from our section - encourage our members to submit - new editor is open to more regional science / geography papers
- d. Election of the Committee 2023-2024
 - i. Maria Abreu
 - ii. Stuart McIntyre
 - iii. Tasos Kitsos
 - iv. Richard Rijnks
 - v. Declan Jordan (co-opt)
 - vi. Peter Batey
 - vii. Maria Plotnikova
 - viii. Grant Allen
 - ix. Matt Lyons
 - x. Aisling Reynolds
 - xi. Rachel Franklin
 - xii. Emmanouil Tranos
 - xiii. Daragh O'Leary
 - xiv. Davide Luca
 - xv. Vassilis Monastiriotis (co-opt)
- e. Election of the Chair:
 - i. Maria Abreu elected Chair
- f. AOB
 - i. None

Book of Abstracts

Presenting Author	Paper
Femke Cnossen 1A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets	<p>The Geography of New Technology: Exposure to AI, Software and Robots in European Regional Labour Markets</p> <p>In this research, we investigate the locations in Europe where workers are most exposed to new technologies. Research on biased technological change has highlighted that the rise of computer technologies led to a declining employment in routine occupations the past 40 years (Acemoglu & Autor, 2011; Autor & Dorn, 2013; Goos et al., 2014). Many of the effects have been felt locally, with some regions more affected than others (Terzidis & Ortega-Argiles, 2021), which is in part explained by regional differences in exposure to technology (Crowley et al., 2021). In recent years, new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, have increasingly been adopted. Nevertheless, their employment effects, within and across local labour markets, are still uncertain.</p> <p>We leverage data from the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), which provides region-level information for 16 EU members and detailed data on occupations, education, technology use at work, and demographic variables. We link this to occupation-level measures of exposure that are based on the overlap between patent texts and occupational task descriptions, for three different technologies: Artificial Intelligence (AI), software and robots (Albanesi et al., 2023; Webb, 2019). Each of these technologies is expected to have a different spatial pattern of exposure, as regions differ in their occupational composition.</p> <p>Though automation exposure, as measured by task overlap, does not directly conceptually link to job replacement, these spatial patterns do provide an insight in the automation potential and thus the risk of replacement. To provide evidence on this, we complement our descriptive analyses by two additional tests. First, by analyzing the period 2011-2019, we document employment growth in both exposed occupations, as well as exposed regions. Second, we aim to understand whether labour market institutions, such as unionization, education, and active labour market policies, may mitigate or aggravate the impacts of technology exposure on employment growth.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Sabine D'Costa 1A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets</p>	<p>Market Potential and the Firm Exit-Productivity nexus</p> <p>In periods of economic turmoil, the rate of firm exit is accelerated, with important social implications such as job loss and an uneven impact across space. Though the most productive firms are normally more likely to survive, there is mixed evidence whether this is true during periods of economic crisis. Moreover, we know little about the spatial dimension of the productivity-exit relationship. This project will conduct econometric research at the firm and micro-geographic level to study the determinants of firm exit in Spain between 2009 and 2021. Spain is a country where regional economic disparities are particularly stark and increasing and which has been strongly affected by both the 2008 Great Recession and the Covid-19 Crisis. Although geographical productivity disparities in Spain are well-known, they have only been documented at a broad regional level, using aggregated data on labour productivity rather than being studied at a micro-geographic level. The project departs from this existing literature and innovates in its approach by analysing firm productivity and exit patterns at the firm level. A large panel dataset of firms including their detailed location is constructed using the SABI (Iberian Balance Sheet Analysis System) database to calculate firm productivity and track exit and financial variables. We find that prior to the Covid-19 economic crisis, market access weakens the productivity-survival relationship. Firms face greater levels of competition and a higher level of productivity is required in order to survive. We further investigate whether this has changed during the Covid-19 pandemic and whether market access and other locational factors provided firms with better environments to remain productive and survive. This will help shape future policies towards business support and reducing spatial economic disparities.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Calvin Jones 1A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets</p>	<p>Steeltown's End? The Closure of the Port Talbot Furnaces</p> <p>Since 1950 the integrated steel mill in Port Talbot, south Wales, has dominated the town's economy, communities, and narrative. It has long been amongst the largest single employment plant in Wales. The announcement in 2024 by owners Tata of the closure of its two remaining blast furnaces; along with 2,000 job losses at the plant (and a further 500 across the rest of Wales and the UK) is thus significant. This paper employs regional Input-Output analysis to assess the direct and indirect economic impact of the closures in terms of job losses, and reductions in regional gross value added and disposable income. Further analysis contextualises these losses within the local Port Talbot economy (with steel workers enjoying wage levels significantly higher than of the local and regional averages). We examine the potential remedial impact of Tata's promised £1.2bn investment in a new electric arc-furnace at the Port Talbot works, albeit employing far fewer people, and utilising scrap inputs to produce a narrower range of products - this having implications for a UK that will, in the future, have no furnaces able to make virgin steel. We conclude that the closures have a potentially transformative impact on the local economy, and signal failures in UK industrial policy that have significant wider consequences. It is illustrative that the impacts of current steelmaking losses are compounded by the failure of either the UK or Welsh Governments over many years to develop a plan for a post-Steel Port Talbot, despite extensive past evidence that such closures were likely.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p data-bbox="172 271 477 371">Kyron Hoare 1B: Regional Science in Business</p>	<p data-bbox="520 271 1342 338">Towards an agency perspective on digital path development in peripheral regions</p> <p data-bbox="520 383 1410 745">This paper takes an agency approach to the issue of digitalisation and new industrial path development in peripheral regional economies. The aim is to conceptualise processes of change agency at the regional level which can embed digital transformation in places which do not experience the agglomeration effects of large cities, but can avail of other benefits associated with peripherality. The motivation for investigating this topic is to address the problem of uneven geographical development in the context of the current digital transition, and the implications posed for non-core regions becoming further “left-behind” by new waves of technological change.</p> <p data-bbox="520 790 1401 931">In seeking solutions to widening regional development gaps, scholars in regional studies and economic geography have turned to the agency perspective for answers on why some regions grow more successfully than others, despite similar structural pre-conditions.</p> <p data-bbox="520 976 1410 1193">By linking human agency with structural factors, it is possible to examine how agency performed by different actor types transforms regional structures and opens up new path development. This is crucial to understanding why some regions are able to successfully develop new paths, particularly in emerging green or digital technologies, while others remain stuck, locked-in and peripheralized.</p> <p data-bbox="520 1238 1358 1603">This paper aims to contribute such insights by conceptualising how agents of change in peripheral regions advance the digital transition by exploiting opportunity spaces to attract and anchor different kinds of digitalisation assets through place-branding, extra-regional networks, stakeholder co-ordination and structural transformations. The cases explored will be in the largely rural and peripheral regions of the West and North-West of Ireland. The implications that advancing an agency perspective on digitalisation in peripheral regions will have for policymakers, local governments, scholars and businesses will also be proposed.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Daragh O’Leary 1B: Regional Science in Business</p>	<p>Unemployment & Entrepreneurship: Incorporating Education This paper examines whether the unemployment-entrepreneurship relationship changes depending on the education level of the unemployed individuals. Additionally, it provides policy-relevant results which show how national unemployment spending influences entrepreneurship. The relationship is analysed across 14 countries and 164 regions from years 2011-2017 using a multilevel mixed effects estimation. Results show that the relationship between unemployment and entrepreneurship is positive when there are increases in the unemployment of individuals with higher educational attainment. Contrastingly, the relationship between unemployment and entrepreneurship is negative when there are increases in the unemployment of individuals with lower educational attainment.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Josh O’Driscoll 1C: Urban Futures (and Sustainable Cities)</p>	<p>Road to Growth: The impact of motorway access on population, employment, and commuting mode choices</p> <p>This paper examines the impact of the motorway in Ireland between 1986 and 2016, on population growth, employment growth and commuting mode choices. Using a Propensity Score Matching Difference-in-Differences (PSM-DID) model, this paper finds that areas within 10km of motorway access points experience higher levels of population and employment growth. However, these areas also experience a higher proportion of their population commuting to work or school by car. Consequently, motorway off ramps have the potential to trigger a myriad of regional land use implications, that need careful consideration, particularly as governments grapple with system transformations amidst the climate crisis.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Anita Vollmer 1C: Urban Futures (and Sustainable Cities)</p>	<p>Nature-based solutions: Barriers to adoption and guidelines for policymakers</p> <p>Nature-based solutions (NBS) to climate adaptation encompass a range of approaches that work with nature to increase resilience to climate change, whilst often bringing a number of ecological and social co-benefits. These solutions are of particular interest for urban spaces but can also be implemented more broadly. NBS can positively affect biodiversity and support ecosystem services, thereby providing a wider range of co-benefits than many traditional engineered adaptation solutions. Many of these co-benefits are external to the explicit target of the intervention and therefore often go underappreciated by established decision-making processes. This paper reviews the literature to identify the factors that may lead to such lack of consideration. We begin by outlining the attributes of NBS and identifying the ecosystem co-benefits that may arise. We then review the literature discussing the factors that may lead to an underappreciation of these co-benefits in decision-making processes, highlighting the issues the policymakers must consider in order to adequately capture NBS in their decision-making. We find that barriers to the implementation of NBS exist at every stage of the decision-making process. These barriers include compartmentalised problem-solving and resulting adaptation needs, undervaluation of co-benefits, and lack of public awareness and support, among many others. To overcome these barriers, some broader changes are required, such as modifications to the legal and regulatory framework and allowing for the systematic participation of a diverse range of stakeholder in the decision-making process. In addition to these broader changes, some specific changes are recommended for the different steps in the policy cycle. These include considering a variety of future scenarios to identify the range of adaptation needs and expanding valuation techniques beyond monetary valuation when evaluating possible interventions. Such steps will help evaluate NBS and engineered climate adaptation solutions on equal footing, thereby improving the selection of climate adaptation interventions.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Jack Williamson 1C: Urban Futures (and Sustainable Cities)</p>	<p>Drivers of emissions changes at local authority level in Scotland: measures and omissions</p> <p>Measures of emissions at national level are developed in line with international best practice, while no such standardisation exists at the local level giving rise to a range of measures. In the UK, GHG emissions measures at local authority level are produced by the UK Government, however the economic drivers of emissions changes are not immediately apparent from this metric. We explore the emissions metric for Scottish local authorities between 2005 and 2021, linking reported emissions to economic activities and energy consumption, so as to better understand the role of different drivers in the observed emissions reduction across local authorities. Our research uncovers three main issues: First, policies that lie outside the direct control of local policy makers have played a major role in observed emissions reductions to date; the decarbonisation of the GB electricity grid has accounted for 45% of emissions reductions across local authorities in Scotland on average over this period. Second, emissions reductions have slowed in recent years, with emissions reductions during COVID-19 period not sustained beyond 2020, with differences between local authorities. Third, there is uncertainty about the extent to which local actions, such as around the decarbonisation of transport, are reflected in current emissions metrics. We speculate that public support for local policy actions could be undermined where the emissions reductions from specific local policy actions cannot be demonstrated with evidence-based metrics, and suggest revisions to the existing emissions metric.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Maria Abreu 2A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being</p>	<p>Defining left behind places: an internationally comparative poset analysis</p> <p>There is considerable debate in the literature as to the precise definition of 'left-behind' places, and the appropriate metrics for identifying them, and for successfully targeting regional policy interventions. We propose an evaluation structure for 'left-behindness' based on Amartya Sen's Capability Approach, and argue that the diversity of criteria should not be seen as a shortcoming, but rather as a richness to be explored. We show, through the use of 'posets' and Hasse diagrams, that there are several distinct 'structures of left-behindness' across European NUTS 2 regions, revealing spatial imbalances that do not conform to a 'one size fits all' narrative.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Aleid Brouwer 2A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being</p>	<p>Scenario's for the future: broad prosperity as a framework for decision making</p> <p>In this paper the different ways to measure new dimensions of wellbeing are discussed. In the Netherlands we use 'the 'broader prosperity measures', which can be used as an index, but many institutions also use the set of indicators as individual variables. We will explore the possibilities and will have special attention to the contextual aspect of understanding broader prosperity measures. What does it mean to compare index outcomes over regions when discussion new dimensions of wellbeing? Is there such a thing as an objective level of broader prosperity that should be the aim for the individual regions?</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Jiao Zhou 2A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being</p>	<p>Digital Inequalities and E-commerce in China</p> <p>With the digital turn in recent decades, scholarly attention has increasingly turned towards digital inequalities, an emerging research realm encompassing the distinct accessibility of digital infrastructure, the diverse adoption and usage of digital technologies, and the different outcomes derived from digital engagement. Furthermore, recent studies have suggested the continuous interplay between digital inequalities and socio-economic inequalities. Digital inequalities can be viewed as a digital reflection, penetration, and reproduction of socio-economic inequalities offline. On the other hand, digital technologies may place diverse influences on existing inequalities, including diminishment, reinforcement, or negligible impacts given different conditions.</p> <p>Notwithstanding extensive research into digital geographies and inequalities, the production and manifestation of digital inequalities in the real world and the intricate relationship between digital technologies and offline inequalities are not fully understood. E-commerce, as a digital-based economy, offers a lens to dive deep into the issues of digital inequalities. My research examines the spatial inequalities of e-commerce in China based on Taobao village data, linking these to location, socio-economic foundation, geographical factors, etc, and explores the impact of e-commerce on a specific village, showing how e-commerce penetration can reflect, mitigate or exacerbate inequalities. My presentation will mainly focus on the original findings of the former along with a comprehensive review of relevant literature. The study enriches the growing body of studies on digital geographies and e-commerce, while also offering insights into taking advantage of digital technologies and staying cognisant of their potential drawbacks at the same time.</p> <p>Keywords: Digital geographies, Digital inequalities, E-commerce, Taobao villages</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Helena Barachino 2B : Impact of Higher Education on Regional Economies</p>	<p>Covid-19, school-to-work transition and practical experience The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020 provoked an immediate recession of the global economy (Gros & Ounnas, 2021).</p> <p>While individual industrial sectors were impacted differently, there were immediate implications for forms of education provided during lockdown phases directed by various government policies throughout the pandemic (Cheng et al., 2020; Sahu, 2020). Research on impacts of economic recessions on labor and employment show trends of worsening labor market outcomes for new graduates (Bentolila et al., 2021; Hoynes et al., 2012, Rothstein et al., 2021). However, the literature also indicates that graduates who earn practical experience prior to graduation have an easier school-to-work-transition compared to their peers without such links (Jackson & Bridgstock, 2021; Monteiro et al., 2021).</p> <p>This article is set out to evaluate the labor market effects of graduating during a pandemic.</p> <p>We analyzed data from Statistics Bureau Netherlands (CBS) to observe school-to-work transition periods of pre- and post-pandemic graduates, as well as changes in academic trajectories. Our analysis shall give insights into whether students who had an established relation to the labor market during their studies, had shorter school-to-work transitions than their peers. In a further step we explore whether these presumed advantages for students were upheld during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Steven Kema 2B : Impact of Higher Education on Regional Economies</p>	<p>Unveiling the labour market trajectories of international university graduates in the Netherlands: insights from Dutch microdata</p> <p>The transition from higher education to employment represents a crucial phase in a person's career path, shaping not only their immediate employment prospects but also long-term career trajectories. As the spotlight intensifies on the internationalization of higher education in Dutch politics, our research investigates the regional labour market dynamics shaping the career trajectories of recent international student university graduates in the Netherlands.</p> <p>Leveraging Dutch microdata from the Dutch Central Statistics Bureau (CBS), we explore regional differences, job sector disparities, (internal) migration patterns, and partner effects to better understand the multifaceted dimensions of entry into the labour market for this non-standard subset of the university graduate population.</p> <p>Within the overarching context of non-standard employment, our research underscores the non-standardness not only of the group (international university graduates vs local dutch university graduates), but also of the career paths they traverse. By zooming in on the complexities of non-standard career trajectories, we provide novel insight into the evolving nature of work and employment relationships in contemporary regional context.</p> <p>Our findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the Dutch labour market dynamics faced by international university graduates, allowing policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to make better informed decisions regarding labour market entry and educational outcomes.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
Anne Otto 2B : Impact of Higher Education on Regional Economies	Highly educated, highly Mobile? Location choices of doctorate recipients working inside and outside academia We investigate the geographical patterns of labour market entry (at the level of German functional labour market regions (planning regions) for doctoral graduates starting their first position after receiving their doctorate. The mobility decisions of more than 23 thousand doctoral graduates in Germany from five graduation cohorts are examined using a unique micro level data set based on doctorate recipient's social security records. Empirical findings suggest that factors influencing the choice of a working region after graduation differ depending on whether doctoral graduates remain in academia after graduation or switch to the private sector. The results indicate that especially researchers who remain in academia, tend to move to regions where they have stronger networks. For doctoral graduates who leave academia after graduation, on the other hand, a good fit between subject-specific qualifications und the structure of regional labor market seems to be relevant. At the same time, there are a number of regional factors that favour the choice of a region for both groups, such as low unemployment rate and regional amenities. Further, there is a high attachment to the graduation region. This result is particularly relevant for regional science, as it shows that doctoral graduates as group of most highly educated workers are less mobile than often expected.

Presenting Author	Paper
<p data-bbox="172 253 477 356">Jacques Poot 2C: Smart Cities: Data-driven Urban Analytics</p>	<p data-bbox="520 253 1422 356">Multi-regional probabilistic population projections for open populations, incorporating an embedded spatial interaction model of inter-regional migration</p> <p data-bbox="520 405 1422 801">Most multi-regional population projections are undertaken either top-down, (where a national projection model is run initially, and then sub-national models are run and subsequently moderated to ensure that the regional projections sum to the national projection) or bottom-up (where regional projections are run without recourse to a national projection and the national projection subsequently obtained by simple aggregation). While in a closed system (with zero aggregate net migration), the two approaches may give similar results, in the case of an open system (with large spatio-temporal variations in external migration) the latter is preferred on theoretical and performance grounds.</p> <p data-bbox="520 851 1422 1137">Current practice in multi-regional projections is to either assume a given net migration level or to assume age-sex specific in-migration and out-migration rates. Instead, we treat in-migration and out-migration simultaneously by modelling gross inter-regional migration flows by means of an Alonso/Wilson spatial interaction model and by modelling regional immigration and emigration separately. We demonstrate that such a model has good in-sample and out-of-sample properties.</p> <p data-bbox="520 1187 1422 1507">We illustrate our methodology with the example of projecting the populations of the 66 Territorial Authorities (TAs) in New Zealand, which range in population from a few thousand to 1.5 million. We explicitly incorporate parameter uncertainty by means of Monte Carlo simulations to yield probabilistic projections. Our results therefore provide point estimates and projection uncertainty for the populations (total and age-sex specific) of each TA. We contrast our results with official population projections derived using more conventional cohort-component methods with exogenous net migration assumptions.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Emmanouil Tranos 2C: Smart Cities: Data-driven Urban Analytics</p>	<p>A multi-scale story of the diffusion of a new technology: the web This paper maps and models the participation in the digital economy and its evolution in the UK over space and time. Most of the existing economic geography literature which dealt with the spatiality of the internet employed supply-side measures, such as infrastructural capacity, in order to understand the geography of the digital economy and its potential spatial economic effects. Useful as these approaches might have been, they cannot capture the micro-processes and the characteristics of the individual online behaviour. Using large volumes of archived and geolocated web content, this paper models the diffusion of web technologies over space and time in the UK. Instead of using metrics capturing the passive engagement with digital technologies, for instance internet subscription metrics, this paper targets the active engagement with the digital as reflected in website creation. Importantly, the data and geolocation strategy allow to capture these processes at small spatial scales. This level of granularity differentiate this paper with previous approaches in the literature, which were only able to capture technological adoption at more coarse level. Thus, this paper tests how well established theoretical approaches regarding the diffusion of new technologies are still applicable when the focus is on local scales. Although we know that spatial contagion and urban hierarchies are key drivers of technological diffusion, such theoretical concepts have not been tested at small geographical scales. Apart from an empirical interest, understanding such processes at small scales can support designing strategies for the adoption of new technologies and the development of relevant infrastructure.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p data-bbox="172 248 475 353">Jingxue Xie 2C: Smart Cities: Data-driven Urban Analytics</p>	<p data-bbox="523 248 1385 353">From the Pedestrian's Perspective: An Evaluation of 15-Minute Walking Circles in the Core Area of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in Tokyo</p> <p data-bbox="523 365 1422 651">In the 2021 "Urban Redevelopment Guidelines," the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Urban Development emphasized the importance of visualizing urban spaces and enhancing pedestrian accessibility, particularly around major transit stations, while also advocating for increased urban greenery. This emphasis aligns with academic advancements in urban green space visualization, highlighting the growing interest in streetscape studies through street view imagery.</p> <p data-bbox="523 696 1417 913">This research focuses on the pedestrian accessibility within 15-minute walking radii of Tokyo's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) cores, specifically around rail transit stations with high daily pedestrian traffic. It employs a multidimensional pedestrian spatial indicator system and a spatial multi-scale evaluation approach, prioritizing the pedestrian perspective.</p> <p data-bbox="523 958 1410 1176">Our methodology involves defining the study area, identifying specific populations, and pinpointing points of interest (POIs). We utilized Python scripts to extract Google Street View data, applying the PSPnet modeling algorithm and the Cityscapes Dataset to identify various streetscape elements such as roads, pedestrians, vehicles, plants, and walls. These elements were then analyzed using ArcGIS.</p> <p data-bbox="523 1220 1398 1361">The study introduces a comprehensive assessment system encompassing four primary dimensions: safety, comfort, activity, and mobility, each further divided into two or three sub-dimensions. The results are visualized to provide a detailed analysis.</p> <p data-bbox="523 1406 1402 1624">We present an in-depth examination of the pedestrian environment around Tokyo's TOD core rail stations, assessing their characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses. The findings lead to well-founded recommendations for future development priorities in the neighborhood environments, contributing significantly to urban planning and pedestrian-centric urban design.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Carolin Ioramashvili 3A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets</p>	<p>Digitalisation and firm survival during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK This paper investigates the performance and survival of firms in the UK. The observed slow productivity growth in the UK results from both low average firm productivity and insufficient reallocation in favour of the most productive firms. In particular, we study the role of firm digitalisation for firm survival during the Covid-19 pandemic. Pandemic lockdowns forced many businesses to adopt on the fly to an inability to work and transact with customers and suppliers in person, giving an advantage to businesses with an initially higher level of digitalisation.</p> <p>We test the relationship between digitalisation and survival using two sources of variation: first, we rely on pre-pandemic variation in broadband speeds to instrument for digitalisation at the firm level. Second, we rely on the variation in 'local lockdowns' in the UK, which varied businesses' effective exposure to pandemic restrictions over time and space. Some regions with higher rates of Covid-19 infections were placed under stricter restrictions and for longer.</p> <p>We rely on the Longitudinal Small Business Survey, a survey of small and medium sized businesses covering details of business practices, including detailed variables on digitalisation, and other important factors such as access to finance. Further, we are able to control for government business support during the pandemic and can test for the effect on survival once this support was phased out.</p> <p>The paper contributes to the literature on firm survival and the particular role of digital technologies in helping firms survive. It does so in a context where digital technologies became suddenly and unexpectedly crucial for many businesses' operations. We explore the barriers to digitalisation for our population of SMEs.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Emma Lappi 3A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets</p>	<p>Entrepreneurial Human Capital, Firm-Level Productivity in Rural and Urban Regions</p> <p>According to Bloom and Van Reenen (2007) and, more recently, Foster et al. (2018), firms display considerable differences in productivity and there is a long tail of low-productivity firms. The most common explanations for these differences have been a weaker diffusion of knowledge and slowing innovation, lower investments in physical and human capital, and measurement problems related to investments in intangible capital (Andrews et al., 2015; Feldstein, 2017). An urban productivity premium has also been identified, related to the density of economic activities, suggesting that rurally located firms generally have lower productivity.</p> <p>For example, Arrow (1962) and Becker (1964) have for long acknowledged the importance of education, skills, and experiences for productivity but confined their analyses to regular employment experience. A few recent studies have assessed entrepreneurial experience, although the objective has been to analyze wage premium effects rather than firm-level outcomes. Results are ambiguous where recent analyses contradict the positive effect reported in earlier studies (Hyytinen & Rouvinen, 2008; Lappi et al, 2022). A conceivable explanation is that entrepreneurs gain human capital related to entrepreneurial endeavors (Parker, 2013). The difference between these analyzes and our approach is however notable. While previous findings are based on an indirect measure defined as a flow variable (wages), we use a direct stock variable (aggregated EHC) to analyze productivity. Hence, we claim that the variable we implement is superior in capturing the human capital component in previous entrepreneurial experiences and thus also likely to render more reliable results.</p> <p>We will first examine the extent of productivity differences between firms located in rural and more urban areas. Thereafter we will empirically analyze whether entrepreneurial human capital is an additional explanatory factor of such differences, where we control for other variables implemented in standard analyses of productivity differences. Firm size is one such factor. Moreover, since entrepreneurship is more prevalent in urban areas, the level of such experiences may differ between regions and in their impact on productivity. There may also be more fluid spillovers of entrepreneurial knowledge in denser areas.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Matthew Lyons 3A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets</p>	<p>Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Relationship between Public R&D Funding and Regional Economic Development</p> <p>Regional inequality remains a pressing concern in the UK economy. The latest iteration of the UK Government's industrial strategy aims to rectify this, in part, by redistributing R&D government spending away from London and the Greater South East (GSE) to underperforming regions. To achieve this rebalancing, a targeted approach is essential, focusing on maximising economic benefits in distinct sectors and regions. Central to this is discerning how regional and sectoral conditions shape the influence of various channels of government spending on regional economic growth. However, few studies have explored this subject. This paper uses a novel labour market extension to the SEIM-UK, a macroeconomic multi-regional input-output model, to examine the labour market impacts and bottlenecks resulting from different regional distributions of R&D investment. The initial findings show that public R&D investments have greater benefits in 'left-behind regions', particularly when productivity growth is considered.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Hadi Arbabi 3B: Transportation Networks and their Regional Economic Impact</p>	<p>Deviations from agglomeration expectations: accessibility, density, and local characteristics</p> <p>In this paper, we seek to isolate the impact of mobility/accessibility over the intra-city road network on the economic performance of urban areas in England and Wales. We adapt a geographically explicit urban scaling model developed by Yakubo et al. to disaggregate the effects of population density, their sociodemographic characteristics, availability of road network and the ease by which it can be traversed on both the agglomeration elasticities of average aggregate economic output with respect to population size and deviations of individual cities from this mean trend. We simulate each city's network of social interactions using neighborhood-level statistics and local road network to isolate and estimate the level of (in)accessibility needed to replicate the observed deviations from the average-aggregate population scaling of GVA, as proxied by the sum of the social interactions. Lastly, we assemble a classification of cities based on similarities in accessibility and economic over/under-performance and consider the national geographies of these effects.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p data-bbox="173 253 427 432">Conor O'Driscoll 3B: Transportation Networks and their Regional Economic Impact</p>	<p data-bbox="518 253 1423 1182">Residential Relocation and Travel Mode Choices Amidst a growing recognition that many populations depend on private cars for everyday travel, and that this dependence is detrimental to local environments, an extensive literature has analysed the determinants of travel behaviours. Within this literature, built environment characteristics consistently emerge as key variables, leading to the coupling of land-use and transport policies when pursuing sustainable development. Indeed, one core objective within the UK's National Planning Policy Framework (2023) is to promote sustainable transport use through the prism of land-use patterns and transport infrastructure accessibility. Of particular importance to policymakers then, is the ability of these variables to change existing behaviours. Considering this, I investigate the relationship between changing residential locations and travel mode choices for commuting using a Multinomial Logit Regression framework. To do this, I employ data from Waves 4-12 (from 2012/2013 to 2020/2021) of the UK Household Longitudinal Study, which allows me to control for individual-level demographic, socio-economic, and travel variables, while also employing fine-grain land-use and transport infrastructure data stemming from UK Spatial Signatures, the LSE-REEF Property Price Index, and General Transit Feed Specification data for the UK. Preliminary results suggest that relocation is a significant predictor of changes in travel behaviours and that individuals who relocate to areas characterised by mixed-use and high multi-modal accessibility are significantly more likely to adopt sustainable transport for commuting.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Aisling Reynolds-Feighan 3B: Transportation Networks and their Regional Economic Impact</p>	<p>Airborne Again: The Resurgence of Airline Networks and Business Adaptability During and After the Pandemic</p> <p>This paper examines business resilience among global airlines before, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. Using Cirium airline schedule data, the impact, duration and recovery profile of a large sample of airlines are measured over the six-year analysis period, 2018 - 2023. The impacts of airline experiences and performance on the airports that they serve are also measured and reported. Airlines are categorized by registration region, size, business model and market structure. Airports are categorized based on annual traffic performance in 2019, using threshold traffic levels. A set of rules-based resilience measures are proposed and are shown to be widely applicable and consistent across airline, airport and country/state categories. Low-cost carriers showed greater resilience during the pandemic shock, with a commensurate impact on smaller airports. Larger airports were slower to recover traffic to pre-pandemic levels. The papers offers a comprehensive comparative assessment of airline and airport resilience and responsiveness to the global pandemic, making a contribution to the transportation and business literature.</p> <p>The paper offers insights and conclusions on the performance, robustness and adaptability of the crucial airline schedule planning process over the 5 years from January 2018 - December 2023, comparing the process in the different global regions, and suggests further research avenues related to disruptions in airline schedule planning and structural adjustments in the post-Covid period. The paper updates and extends the analysis presented in Reynolds-Feighan (2024).</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Rachel Franklin 3C: Panel - Smart Data for Regional Development and Policy</p>	<p>Panel on Smart Data for Regional Development and Policy</p> <p>New and emerging forms of data, and in particular, digital or smart data, offer unprecedented opportunity for regional and urban researchers to measure place, firm, and individual characteristics at high spatial and temporal resolution. These data, which include social media, commercial and retail transaction, internet archive, and remotely sensed datasets, provide windows into preferences and behaviours, as well as new ways to measure development, wellbeing, and liveability. At the same time, there are numerous challenges related to the access and use of such data and its uptake remains relatively low in regional science and related fields. In this panel, we'll discuss the opportunities and challenges, highlighting avenues for new research and for overcoming barriers.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>John Moffat 4A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets</p>	<p>The Effect of Central and Local Government Support for Innovation on Productivity: Evidence from Young Enterprises in Great Britain</p> <p>This paper investigates the effect of central and local (or regional) government support for innovation on the labour productivity of young enterprises in Great Britain. Young firms are of particular interest given their disproportionately large contribution to productivity growth and greater likelihood of requiring public support. The analysis is based on data from the UK Innovation Survey and Business Structure Database covering 2012-2022. Because recipients of public support will have different characteristics from non-recipients, they are likely to perform differently, even in the absence of support. To address this selection problem, effects are estimated using a matched sample of supported and unsupported enterprises, which is constructed using variables measuring employment, location, ownership, enterprise structure, age and industry.</p> <p>Enterprises that receive both types of support for innovation are found to have higher R&D intensity and to employ a larger share of graduates than unsupported enterprises, which shows, perhaps unsurprisingly, that they have higher innovation inputs. However, they are less productive prior to and around the time of receiving support. The productivity of enterprises that receive central government support improves after receiving support such that there is little difference in productivity between supported and unsupported enterprises five years after receiving support. By contrast, the productivity of enterprises that receive local government support declines over the same period to the extent that they are around 25% less productive than unsupported enterprises. This may suggest that local government lacks the capabilities to select the most productivity-enhancing R&D projects.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Deniz Sevinc 4A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets</p>	<p>A Regime of Labour Intimacy and Transnational Actors? Foreign Domestic Helpers, Economic Transformation and Female Labour Force Participation in Hong Kong.</p> <p>We explore the relationship between foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) in Hong Kong and women's labour force participation (LFP). First, we explore to what extent social and family changes have influenced the employment status of women in Hong Kong. Second, we investigate the implications of the availability of full-time FDHs on women's labour supply. Third, we find that FDHs facilitate female LFP to undertake low-skilled white-collar or high skilled blue-collar occupations. Global care chains and a regime of labour intimacy subsidise childcare in Hong Kong, but by exploiting FDHs and their families.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Tasos Kitsos 4B: New and Emerging Issues around Levelling Up</p>	<p>Transformative resilience through innovation and trade: Evidence from UK regions</p> <p>The 2008 financial crisis prompted extensive research within economic geography and regional science to examine the varying responses of different places to a range of shocks. Economic resilience has quickly gained prominence, with several contributions on its conceptualisation, operationalisation and determinants. Recent research adopts an evolutionary perspective of resilience, emphasising adaptability and the capacity to transform in response to adversity, rather than simple resistance and return to a previous equilibrium point.</p> <p>Empirical research on this, transformative resilience, has primarily employed qualitative methods to understand resilience processes conceptually and in specific case studies. Quantitative approaches have been limited due to data constraints and the gradual nature of transformation.</p> <p>We contribute to this gap by using large datasets on patents and trade in UK regions to operationalise regional transformative resilience to the 2008 crisis and subsequent shocks and identify its determinants. We employ PATSTAT data to derive quality indicators (i.e. originality, novelty and radicalness) relating to patenting activities for every year during 2000-2018 and Orbis data to identify exports by 4-digit sector at sub-national geographies. Tracking the evolution of these indicators over time enables us to assess whether regions move towards higher value-added innovation domains and sectors (upgrading in technology and GVC position) or not.</p> <p>We use these new indicators of transformative resilience as dependent variables in an econometric analysis using fixed-effects to estimate the impact of resilience determinants such as related and unrelated variety, technological coherence and diversity, human capital, access to knowledge networks and other relevant factors.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Yuanxi Li 4B: New and Emerging Issues around Levelling Up</p>	<p>Latecomers' catch-up in the 4th technological revolution: Based on the perspective of knowledge complexity</p> <p>Knowledge is a fundamental driver of long-term economic growth. From an evolutionary perspective, two ways for latecomers to catch up are imitation and innovation. Knowledge cannot completely transfer from forerunners to latecomers, and latecomers cannot exactly copy what the forerunners do. Only with opening up of new trajectories of advancements can latecomers successfully catch up and even overtake the incumbent. Recent studies began to focus on how a latecomer gains economic leadership through innovation and the creation of divergent growth paths from the forerunners rather than imitating them. In the long run, successful catch-up needs not only learning capacities but also a radical leapfrogging taking advantage of windows of opportunities. The 4th technological revolution offers a technological window for the latecomers to participate in the creation of new technologies. Effective responses to the technological window and successful path-creation enable latecomers to forge ahead and become the new forerunners. Knowledge complexity determines the core competences of a region. The complexity of a region is embodied in the wide range of knowledge or capabilities that are combined to produce outputs. More complex outputs tend to be produced at relatively few locations and often provide long-run competitive advantage. From the perspective of knowledge complexity, this study aims to explore why some regions can transform from latecomers to forerunners after the 4th technological revolution.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Orsa Kekezi 4C: Migration, Refugees, and Integration</p>	<p>Job Loss, Neighborhood Characteristics, and Labor Outcomes of Immigrants</p> <p>Most of the existing literature and policy programs focus on how to get foreign-born individuals to enter the labor market, while little attention is put on understanding the development of their working life. In this paper, we focus on the labor market outcomes of foreign-born individuals who have entered the Swedish labor market but lose their jobs to firm closures. We use geo-coded longitudinal matched employer-employee data for all workers in Sweden who lose their employment during 2003-2011 and we follow them 3 years prior to - and 5 years post job loss. First, the results indicate that foreign-born workers are more likely to be affected by displacement than natives. Further, we find that they are more negatively affected by job loss, with longer spells of unemployment, a lower probability of getting a job that matches their skills, as well as lower future earnings. In the second part of the paper, we analyze the underlying mechanisms behind these findings, with a specific focus on the role of geography in mitigating or exacerbating the negative effects of job loss. Of specific interest is the composition of the neighborhood where the affected workers are residing, to examine whether they rely more on their social connections to re-enter the labor market.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Wade Litt 4C: Migration, Refugees, and Integration</p>	<p>Immigrant Earnings Premiums for U.S. Bachelor's Degrees</p> <p>Using pooled cross-sectional data from the 2013-2021 biannual National Surveys of College Graduates (NSCG), I estimate wage premiums associated with earning a bachelor's degree from a U.S. university for immigrants living in the U.S. Overall effects suggest a U.S. bachelor's degree earnings premium of approximately 5 percent. Variation by highest degree types and institutional classifications exhibit sizable heterogeneity, however, and show that, to the extent that premiums exist, they primarily are concentrated among those with only a bachelor's degree and those who attended large research universities or selective liberal arts universities. There are no earnings premiums, and even earnings penalties, for those who graduate from non-liberal arts baccalaureate-only universities. Robustness tests use exchange rates from immigrants' high school graduation years as an instrumental variable.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p data-bbox="172 250 363 394">Qiuji Shi 4C: Migration, Refugees, and Integration</p>	<p data-bbox="518 250 1410 320">The diversity of older migrants and their return intentions: The case of China</p> <p data-bbox="518 327 1422 1061">This study sheds light on the importance of considering the diversity of older migrants when addressing the question of return in later life. Taking advantage of the China-City General Household Survey (China-CGHS) dataset which offers unique information on migration history, this study reveals that different types of older migrants hold different attitudes towards return. People who migrated in later life due to family reasons, namely family-oriented retirement (FOR) migrants, expressed the highest desire to return, followed by amenity-seeking retirement (ASR) migrants, and former migrants who have aged in place (AIP). This disparity can be attributed to significant differences in their background characteristics, levels of place attachment, places of origin and destination, and the spatial location of family members. However, even after accounting for these differences, variations in return intentions persist. Furthermore, compared to FOR migrants, AIP migrants are significantly more likely to express a desire to return if they have completed a secondary education. These results suggest that the type of older migrants not only directly affects return intentions but also shapes how educational attainment affects these intentions. They highlight the role of migratory pathways and migration motivations in the decision-making process of return in later life.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Richard Rijnks 5A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being</p>	<p>Provision of Local Services Under Exogenous Shocks</p> <p>Rural areas are increasingly facing closures of local services as a result of increased spatial concentration of services and the role of the internet as a long distance provider of these services (Haartsen and Venhorst, 2010). The decline in services has been tied to a decline in rural livability or quality of life (Gieling et al., 2019). Specifically, the role of meeting places (e.g. community centers, pubs, libraries, primary schools) is highlighted as fundamental to livability, even if it cannot be related to further population decline (Barakat, 2015). In this study we analyse two pathways through which exogenous economic shocks, in this case earthquakes, may have affected local service provision. First, the local provision of public goods is generally funded through local taxes on property, and is therefore intrinsically linked to the local housing market specifically (Feler, 2023), and local economic performance more generally. This relationship is bidirectional since, as Barone and Mocetti (2014) show, the effects of a decline in the provision of local public goods can have long run consequences on regional economic performance. We are able to incorporate municipal tax income by broad categories into our analysis to proxy for lost revenue. In the case of Groningen, DurÃ¡jn and Elhorst (2018) show that the effects on property prices at least increase with exposures to earthquakes, perhaps tied to perceived risk. However, very little is known about the role of long-term psychological and health consequences due to the earthquakes (Stroebe et al., 2021) and their role in new firm formation. We aim to address this gap by studying new firm formation in the areas affected by earthquakes, and compare this to similar unaffected areas.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Emmanouil Tranos 5A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being</p>	<p>Online gambling from a spatial perspective</p> <p>While emphasis has traditionally been placed on the individual dimensions of gambling - what drives individuals to engage in harmful gambling activities and their effects on individuals and households - little attention has been paid to understand the spatial patterns of these activities. For example, are individuals living in specific neighbourhoods more likely to engage into harmful gambling activities? Which areas suffer most from gambling activities? How do environmental and individual factors interact to shape the gambling landscape?</p> <p>In this strand of research, the role of geography and places has been reduced to the notion of accessibility and, specifically, the cost or easiness to access gambling facilities. Such research was mostly conducted by matching small size survey data on gambling attitudes and behaviours with physical locations of gambling outlets. The gambling landscape from a spatial perspective is complex enough when only the location and accessibility to brick-and-mortar gambling facilities is considered. However, nowadays gambling within such facilities represents only a fraction of the total gambling revenues. Hence, by neglecting online gambling opportunities only part of the gambling landscape becomes visible to researchers.</p> <p>This paper overcomes these challenges by using a large anonymised survey regarding online gambling behaviours. It assesses how spatial variables including accessibility to brick-and-mortar gambling facilities can affect online gambling behaviours.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
Andrew Johnston 5B: Innovation	<p>A Behavioural Approach to Regional Innovation Systems: Assessing the Role of Regional Slack in Regional R&D</p> <p>The Behavioural Theory of the Firm posits that any organisation can be viewed as a coalition of individuals, with each possessing different roles and responsibilities and goals (Cyert & March, 1992). Through the lens of the Behavioural Theory of the Firm, the key to organisational longevity through growth and development is slack, typically defined as a 'cushion of actual or potential resources' (Bourgois, 1981, pg. 30). At an organisational level, organisational slack broadens the strategic choices available to a firm through enabling resources to be diverted, providing flexibility and promoting adaptation within the firm and allowing higher levels of risk-taking behaviour within it (Carnes et al., 2019; George, 2005). Accordingly, slack has been found to have a positive influence on both growth and innovation as it can enable behaviours that support the pursuit of these goals (Bradley et al., 2011; Dan et al., 2018). In terms of innovation, higher levels of organisational slack equate to higher levels of resources for managers to commit to R&D activities (Nohria & Gulati, 1996). Consequently, there is a wealth of evidence regarding the positive relationship between slack and innovation (Carnes et al., 2019; Chen & Huang, 2010; Lee, 2015; Nohria & Gulati, 1996).</p> <p>The aim of this paper is to extend understanding of regional innovation systems by examining the effects of slack on R&D expenditure at a regional level. Based on the extant literature, we hypothesise that higher levels of slack within a region will have a positive effect on R&D expenditure. We test this hypothesis through utilising and aggregating data on firm level slack and R&D expenditures within European NUTS 1 regions. Using a panel regression model covering the years 2010-2021, the paper presents the results of this analysis and the policy implications of the findings.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
Breandan Ohuallachain 5B: Innovation	Invention Volatility and Urban Systems Dynamics Large firms generate most American inventions. We know that cities are host to organizations of varying size and prevalence, but are these conditions important to urban system dynamics? This article presents volatility in patenting across cities as a novel instrument for distinguishing between cities reliant on many or few organizations. Volatility is the standard deviation of a city's interannual patenting growth over a multi-year period. We attest an inverse-size hypothesis between volatility and metropolitan size -- as metropolitan size increases volatility decays. This hypothesis belongs to a family of urban scaling power laws, but our approach is distinctive in linking invention volatility, city size, and the organization of technological progress. A focus on volatility facilitates an unraveling of intertwined place attributes and organizational characteristic. Place attributes include size and the level of engagement in invention, their growth rate of patenting by resident inventors, and regional location. Organizational characteristics pertain to patentee type with an emphasis on the proportion of grants in a city to corporate champions, individual inventors, universities, and Federal agencies. Volatility spotlights organizational granularity. Results show that while place attributes are influential beyond the largest metropolitan areas, organizational characteristics are key to understanding differential volatility in big cities.

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Clara Rabelo Caiafa 5B: Innovation</p>	<p>Can green hydrogen exports contribute to regional economic development? Exploring scenarios from the Dutch-Brazilian green hydrogen corridor for the state of Ceará</p> <p>To meet climate change mitigation targets, an exponential increase in global green hydrogen trade is expected. Countries rich in renewable energy resources would be in a favourable position to become exporters, potentially bringing opportunities for socio-economic development. The Brazilian state of Ceará is developing a large-scale green hydrogen hub, which is expected to provide one-fifth of European Union (EU) imports by 2030 via the green corridor between Ceará and The Netherlands. Located in what has historically been the least-developed Brazilian region, the green hydrogen hub could bring unique opportunities for regional development in Ceará. However, while empirical studies on economic impacts from other renewable energy projects in developing economies show limited localised benefits, the potential economic co-benefits from export-oriented green hydrogen projects remains uncertain. This study combines semi-structured interviews and input-output modelling to estimate impacts on value-added, income and jobs (by gender) in Ceará according to four local content share scenarios and three renewable energy technologies (onshore wind, offshore wind and solar photovoltaics). By doing so, this study is the first to estimate the potential for economic co-benefits from export-oriented green hydrogen projects in a developing economy context, in a sub-national level, while accounting for technology- and project-specificity as well as impacts on gender inequality. Results suggest that highly internationalized scenarios, that is, with low local content shares and dominated by multinational companies, would not only present local benefits that are often an order of magnitude lower, but could, through distributional implications of employment types, also exacerbate existing income and gender inequalities</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
Grant Allan 5C: Tourism	The economic and environmental impacts of tourism-focused tax changes The tourism industry is an important sector for many regional economies, however it is also responsible directly and indirectly for a significant portion of global emissions. In seeking to reducing emissions from tourism, a number of fiscal measures are targeted at elements of tourism consumption, such as overnight stays, or transport behaviours, which could shift tourism behaviour, with the net impact on emissions unclear. In this paper, we develop a Computable General Equilibrium model capturing heterogeneity across tourism within a regional economy, separating domestic tourism (i.e., tourism activities by residents) from non-resident tourism, and each group into overnight and day tourism. In a further novel extension, we link emissions to purchases of fuel by industries as well as from fuel use in private transport, allowing us to capture emissions outside of industrial energy use. In this framework, we evaluate the consequences of two alternative tax changes on tourism spending, as well as the whole economy and sectoral economic and emissions from fuel use. First, an Accommodation charge, which impacts on overnight stays by both residents and non-residents; and second, a charge on transport, which directly impacts on the use of transport for tourism as well as non-tourism activities. Holding the revenue raised from each charge constant, we show that while both measures reduce economic activity as well as emissions, the impacts on tourism activity is different under each case. The ratio of economic impacts to emissions reduction is also not constant across the simulations, suggesting that the framework can help to understand the relative economic costs of emissions reductions. Interestingly, by separating industrial emissions from emissions from private transport, we show their relative importance for the overall emissions reductions from each case.

Presenting Author	Paper
Francisco Nobre 5C: Tourism	The Economic Footprint of Short-Term Rentals on local businesses: Evidence from Portugal The role of short-term rental accommodations, such as Airbnb, in shaping the local economic environment has been a topic of intense research and debate over the last decade. The consequences of such type of accommodation services on the housing market has been established either in papers that analyze the effect of Airbnb growth on house prices, or in studies that examine the effect of placing restrictions on short-term rentals. Recently, there has also been research focusing on the welfare impacts on residents. We contribute to the literature on the effects of short-term rentals on local economic activity by constructing a novel dataset that combines information on new short-term registries from the National Short-Term Rental Registry (RNAL), in Portugal, and establishment-level data, which will allow us to understand how Airbnb shape business dynamics over a longer time-series and for a wider range of industries. We show that an higher rate of registries per dwelling in 2016 led to a positive and significant increased in the probability of closure for the overall sample of firms, with OLS estimation and when employing a shift-share instrument. We also document a positive effect on the percentual change of total wages, sales and sales per worker. Our preliminary evidence also suggests that an higher rate of short-term registry per number of dwellings, increased the volumes of sales for firms more oriented for tourists needs, while also leading to them to hire more employees and therefore spending more on wages. However, interestingly, our results point out that while it increased the probability of closure for residential-oriented firms, it led to an improved productivity of those remaining in activity.

Presenting Author	Paper
<p data-bbox="172 250 395 320">Maria Plotnikova 5C: Tourism</p>	<p data-bbox="518 250 1406 320">Post-Pandemic holiday let economy in West Wales and its effect on the tourism sector</p> <p data-bbox="518 327 1406 730">The study responds to the growing trend of the holiday-let economy in rural and coastal parts of the UK including West Wales, in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. While providing a source of income for local people, holiday let tourism has wider implications for the social and economic sustainability of communities (House of Commons, 2022, Colomb and Gallent, 2022). In this scoping study we explore the relationship between the rise of holiday letting and the tourism economy in West Wales. The research question that we set out to answer is whether local economies are benefitting from the increased number of holiday lets, through more visits to attractions and greater use of rural businesses and services.</p> <p data-bbox="518 775 1406 1025">The first objective is to gauge the size of the holiday let economy in West Wales. This was accomplished by mapping the share of stock used as holiday lets, in coastal counties of Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Pembrokeshire, using GIS mapping. The data was obtained from county councils, and the maps created, using ArcInfo. Mapping the share of housing stock used as holiday lets allows to detect spatial patterns of concentration of holiday lets.</p> <p data-bbox="518 1070 1406 1435">The second objective is to explore the potential linkages between the expansion of the holiday let market and the performance of the tourism sector in West Wales. This was accomplished through interviews with 15 tourism businesses and attractions in Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys. Through these interviews we have taken a snapshot of the functioning of tourist attractions post-Covid-19 and the challenges and opportunities that the businesses faced. Interview analysis indicated that there are other factors at play, such as the cost-of-living crisis, which have affected tourism businesses alongside the availability and use of holiday accommodation.</p> <p data-bbox="518 1480 1406 1550">The findings would be particularly useful for informing policy on regulating holiday lets.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Alvertos Konstantinis 6A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets</p>	<p>Money, leisure and precarious employment</p> <p>“Time is money” is a commonly accepted yet boringly cliché catchphrase to start any text revolving around time. Unsurprisingly, this phrase is most commonly identified with Benjamin Franklin, a self-proclaimed Deist whose readings “were not enough to erase the deep imprint of his parents’ Puritan piety”. Nevertheless, it is equally true that Franklin’s quote in our modern, work-obsessed societies of productivism and “work-life balance” bears an unquestionable relevance. This paper’s spirit is necessarily against this ethos. We investigate how the classical pair of concepts from the micro-economic utility theory, leisure and income, are related to overall utility, measured as subjective well-being. We pay particular attention to the concept of precarious employment, the type of employment flexibility which “bends” personal time in favour of production, to initiate a discussion regarding what values more in one’s life: time or money. Our findings show that satisfaction with leisure and satisfaction with income are not linearly related with subjective wellbeing. For those that are not completely satisfied with their leisure, the marginal increase in subjective wellbeing associated with an increase in income is u-shaped, suggesting that increasing income without paying attention to leisure is a suboptimal solution. Therefore, “time is not money” simply because it is much more.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Genghao Zhang 6A: Spatial analysis of productivity and labour markets</p>	<p>How Do Places’ Characteristics Matter? Evidence from AI Location Quotients of LSOAs and TTWAs in Great Britain</p> <p>Productive economic actors tend to adopt artificial intelligence (AI) technologies selectively since AI improve companies’ or industrial productivity to some extent. Limited studies investigate local neighborhood effects on spatial concentration of AI adoption. My research examines how places’ characteristics heterogeneously influence AI location quotients (i.e., the proxy of relative concentration levels), using data of AI online job vacancies between 2016–2021. Our two-level (mixed-effect) regression model finds significant compositional and contextual effects over time at the LSOAs and TTWAs level, respectively, in the UK. For one thing, intensive AI online hiring activities hinge on places’ characteristics, for instance, urban infrastructure, productivity, cultural resources, and social capital. For another, more developed regions (i.e., larger travel to work areas) manifest labor demands for AI skills to a relatively greater extent on average across the UK. At the early stage of AI adoption, new yearly AI online jobs become more and more spatially concentrated in specific local areas in each year, indicating potential inequality issues of urban and regional economic development. These research findings should provide local policy makers with place-based and people-based policy recommendations to cultivate places’ characteristics for widespread AI adoption.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Peter Batey 6B: Great Minds</p>	<p>Philip Sargant Florence: Pioneer Planning Analyst</p> <p>In this paper, I assess the career of Philip Sargant Florence, who was exceptional among economists in having wide interests in applied social science and was a pioneer in the promotion of inter-disciplinary working among social scientists. Although his name may not be familiar to today's regional scientists, many of his ideas have had a lasting impact. He was, for example, a key figure in early efforts to measure spatial industrial concentration and is credited with inventing the Location Quotient and the Coefficient of Localization, techniques still widely used today. Sargant Florence spent the majority of his career in the UK, but made a significant contribution to the US National Resources Planning Board's industrial location study in the early 1940s. After returning from the US, he went on to demonstrate the use of tools for the presentation, analysis, and interpretation of economic statistics in regional surveys in a number of different urban and rural settings in the English West Midlands.</p> <p>Sargant Florence worked at a time before the advent of computers and econometric techniques and before the widespread application of mathematic modelling. Unlike many of his present-day counterparts, he was not interested in pure economic theory but preferred, instead, to think of realistic economics, basing his work on actual observations of economic life from which he hoped to generalize. At a time when the traditional physical approach was being questioned, Sargant Florence presented convincing evidence of how the social sciences - and especially geography, economics and sociology - could benefit the practice of urban and regional planning. In this respect, he was an important figure in preparing the ground for the development of the regional science movement in the 1950s and 1960s.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
Jacques Poot 6B: Great Minds	William Alonso (1933-1999): urban economist and economic demographer par excellence This paper reviews the life, work, and profound impact of William Alonso, covering not only the genesis and substance of his doctoral dissertation, and the resulting 1964 book, that has become a cornerstone of the urban economics literature, but also his diverse and original contributions across other domains. These encompass the education of planners, the integrity of statistical data, the 'five bell shapes' of development, multi-regional demographic accounting, the concept of 'borrowed size' in city networks, and his groundbreaking general theory of mobility and migration. Alonso was mostly an ideas person, with a strong affinity to interdisciplinary research. He prioritized the logical consistency of conceptual contributions over empirical validation, or the minutiae of mathematical extensions. Many areas of his work offer scope for pathbreaking contributions by new generations of scholars. Specifically, his theory of movements appears to have been underappreciated to date due to apparent difficulties in operationalizing the general framework. Nevertheless, with today's advanced computing capabilities and enhanced data availability, his theory of movements offers potential for significant breakthroughs in migration and social mobility modelling. The paper concludes by positing that Alonso would have advocated for a holistic approach to tackling contemporary global challenges, urging regional scientists to go beyond the confines of individual academic silos towards more integrated and impactful scientific endeavours.

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Dylan Jong 6C: Fiscal Efficiency</p>	<p>Capitalization of the Windfalls from the Privatization of Energy Companies by Dutch Municipalities</p> <p>This paper empirically analyzes the capitalization of windfalls. We do this by estimating the capitalization of unexpected municipal windfalls from the sale of shares in energy companies in the Netherlands. Previous work on the redistribution of grants from central government to Dutch municipalities found full capitalization effects (Allers & Vermeulen, 2016). The windfalls from the sale of energy companies differ from the grant redistribution because of their non-recurrent nature. We argue that this characteristic of these windfalls limits budgeting and spending options, which may have severe implications for the capitalization effects of the funds. Furthermore, the windfalls come at the cost of future energy companies' dividend payments.</p> <p>While economic theory suggests that additional public funds should be allocated to government goods and services equivalent to the marginal propensity of governments to spend income, the well-known flypaper effect describes how additional grants are commonly used to increase public spending, not to lower taxes. In line with the flypaper effect, previous research shows that the additional funds from privatization windfalls as well as the redistribution of equalizing grants were mostly used to increase spending, not lower taxes (For the Netherlands, see Allers & Vermeulen, 2016; Benda et al., 2021). Despite the apparent fly-paper effect, Allers and Vermeulen (2016) still found the redistribution of equalizing grants to be fully capitalized, suggestive of an economically efficient allocation of these funds. We anticipate that the capitalization effects of one-off windfalls are smaller.</p> <p>We use continuous, staggered difference-in-difference (DID) estimations to identify the capitalization effects of energy windfalls in house prices. Preliminary results only show weak evidence of (positive) capitalization effects from the windfalls.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Kim Swales 6C: Fiscal Efficiency</p>	<p>The impact of greater fiscal autonomy on a region's sensitivity to negative asymmetric exogenous demand shocks; a CGE simulation approach. A key element in the current debate concerning spatial economic development in the UK is the belief that public sector decision making is over centralised (Centre for Cities, 2022, H.M. Government, 2022a, McCann, 2022, UK Conservative Party, 2019). This view maintains that local development strategies are improved when informed by an understanding of local needs and resources. Where more decision making is devolved, greater tax decentralisation might be appropriate. Following the Scotland Act (2016) and Welsh Act (2017), the devolved governments in Scotland and Wales have significant control over regional Income Tax policies. UK legislation has been enacted to allow Corporation Tax to be devolved to Northern Ireland (NI Fiscal Commission, 2021) and other, more minor, taxes have also been devolved (Institute for Government, 2021). The government seems to be moving in that direction in England with enhanced local taxation powers being promised to the Manchester and Birmingham metropolitan mayors.</p> <p>However, more devolved fiscal responsibility increases risk and uncertainty at the local level. Poor decisions are now doubly penalised in that they not only have sub-optimal outcomes but are likely to adversely affect the local tax take, restricting future local public expenditure. Additionally, greater devolved fiscal autonomy renders the local economy more vulnerable to exogenous, spatially asymmetric, demand- and supply-side shocks. These are completely out of the regions direct control. This is particularly problematic for negative shocks. The initial direct impact will be accompanied by standard negative multiplier effects. However, these adverse impacts will be reinforced by the subsequent fiscal adjustments that the local authorities will be required to make. These could have both a negative demand- and supply-side impacts.</p> <p>In this paper we examine the effect of exogenous negative shocks to regional exports through Computable General Equilibrium simulation. We approach this in a generic way because it is not clear the precise nature of the devolved fiscal powers that will apply in England. Further, the fiscal powers that apply to the existing devolved countries of the UK - Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales - are disparate and idiosyncratic.</p> <p>We investigate the sensitivity of the negative impacts on economic activity to the character of the response of the local politicians to balancing the regional budget and the nature of the local labour market. CGE analysis complements other modelling, econometric and more qualitative methods in evaluating the effects of more devolved economic powers and responsibilities.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
Gokcen Yilmaz 6C: Fiscal Efficiency	International Externalities of Government Expenditure and the Sectoral Composition of the Economy Free mobility of production factors and goods creates dependency in public policies between countries. For example, countries that compete for private capital are likely to adopt a strategic Nash game. Similarly, tariffs on imported goods that take their negative externalities into account have an impact on policies in countries that export them. This study shows that, in a two-country setting with a traded good, the sectoral composition of government expenditure within one influences that of the other. The extent of this effect depends on the demand elasticities of the traded and non-traded outputs. The higher the demand elasticity of the traded sector compared to the non-traded industry, the greater the welfare loss from not conforming to the policy of the other country. The policy implication of this study is that distortions in the composition of an industry can be transferred across the border through trade. This impact is exacerbated for trade-dependent countries.

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Franziska Bay 7A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being</p>	<p>Trailing your parents' footsteps - Occupational following of the self-employed in the regional context</p> <p>An individual's career path is heavily influenced by their parents in two major ways: Firstly, it historically was, and still is common now, for children to follow a career in the same occupation or field as their parents. Secondly, it has long been established that parental self-employment is a strong predictor of a person becoming self-employed at some point in their career. Understanding these two effects together, they showcase the influence of close social relations and nurture on the decision to follow a certain career path (in self-employment). The interaction between the two effects is not well researched yet. Therefore, this paper investigates how intergenerational self-employment transmission and occupational following could jointly affect a child's career choice.</p> <p>Further, another widely overlooked impact factor of career decisions is explored as part of this research: the regional context and its effect on career choices is taken into consideration, as it has been shown that self-employment careers differ in different regional contexts, in line with the density and flexibility of the local labor markets. This paper explores the interaction effects between regional and personal influence factors in intergenerational occupational following in self-employment.</p> <p>All data used to explore the relationship between self-employment transmission and occupational following was taken from the German Socioeconomic Panel (1984-2022) which includes circa 15,000 households. The regression analyses performed show that paternal self-employment is positively linked to their children following in their occupational footsteps, maternal self-employment was not found to have an effect on occupational following. The degree of urbanization of a region was found to have a stronger effect on childrens' choices to become self-employed than to work in the same occupation as one of their parents, however, a small negative effect of urbanization on maternal occupational following was found.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Allison Catalano 7A: SS1 - New Dimensions in Well-Being</p>	<p>Monitoring the relationship between income, health, and environmental inequalities in Glasgow</p> <p>Outdoor concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrous oxides (NOx) are related to serious health outcomes, especially mortality rates, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory illnesses. The relationship between household income and outdoor air quality is more complicated: in urban areas across the UK - unlike other developed countries - this relationship is generally U-shaped, with the most and least deprived neighbourhoods experiencing higher pollutant concentrations. There is significant variability between urban areas, however, and it must be assessed on a city-by-city basis.</p> <p>Although it has improved in recent years, Glasgow experiences some of the highest concentrations of air pollutants in Scotland. The city is also noted for having remarkably high and intercorrelated income and health inequalities. Because of the severity of health outcomes related to pollution, and the severity of health inequalities in Glasgow, it is important to understand the relationships between pollutant concentrations and socioeconomic inequality.</p> <p>To date, there is little research into correlations between outdoor and indoor air quality, health, and household income, and little research into differences in pollution exposure among different demographics in Glasgow, such as children, ethnic minorities, or disabled people.</p> <p>This research bridges these gaps by illustrating the correlations between environmental, health, and income inequalities in Glasgow, using small area income, health, and outdoor air quality data, alongside novel indoor air quality data from monitors placed in schools.</p> <p>We describe the mean outdoor levels of PM2.5 and NOx experienced in small areas stratified by income and mortality rates, along with other socioeconomic categories. We furthermore describe the relationship between indoor PM2.5 levels in schools across Glasgow, free school meal qualifications, and neighbourhood characteristics. Our findings provide important context to the existing drivers of health inequalities within the city, and a background to understanding the impact that air quality interventions might have on socioeconomic indicators.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Luise Koeppen 7C: Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes</p>	<p>Democracy's Vital Signs: Unravelling the Nexus between Health-care Access and Voting Trends in Europe</p> <p>With the recent rise in anti-establishment voting within Europe, it is clear that the places that don't matter have had enough. Recent studies have shown the association between individual and contextual socio-economic determinants on political discontent. Health care is one of the core services of national governments, recent policies have centralised these services and thus imposed barriers to health care access to certain regions. This thesis examines the influence of barriers to health care access on political discontent within the European Union. A multilevel regression analysis was employed. The individual and structural barriers to health-care access were analysed on four levels; individual, intraregional, interregional and country level. The results indicate that educational attainment, distribution of health care institutions on a NUTSII level and sex have significant positive associations with political discontent. Future research should explore the country-specific variations of these findings, as well as expand on health-care access barriers to include perceived barriers.</p> <p>Keywords: political discontent, health-care access, places that don't matter, multilevel regression.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Davide Luca 7C: Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes</p>	<p>Spatial inequality and protests: Evidence from the Global South</p> <p>We study the link between spatial inequality and political protests in the Global South. Leveraging data on micro-estimates of relative wealth across 2.61 million neighbourhoods, we construct novel measures of intra-regional spatial inequality covering 28,675 Administrative Level 2 units across 89 Global-South countries. The measures are then linked to 0.67 million georeferenced protest instances observed at a daily frequency between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2018.</p> <p>By exploiting the monthly variation within Administrative Level 1 regions, we uncover how areas characterized by higher levels of spatial inequality experience more political protests. We further match the spatial inequality and protest data to a series of country-level characteristics. Our results suggest that the effects of spatial inequality are particularly pronounced in (i) mature democracies where citizens' freedom of expression is well protected and the rule of law is strong; (ii) countries with lower levels of economic development and higher levels of unemployment; as well as (iii) previous British colonies. The evidence suggests that spatial inequality has profound implications for political discontent, but may</p> <p>not be identical across all countries of the Global South.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Andreas Mastrosavvas 7C: Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes</p>	<p>Socio-Spatial Spillovers of All-Mail Voting: Evidence from North Carolina</p> <p>All-mail voting has been introduced in several jurisdictions in the United States since the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, with the resulting need for processing larger volumes of mail ballots posing challenges to election administration. Leveraging data on more than 4.5 million eligible voters in the state of North Carolina and on online social ties between zip code tabulation areas (ZCTA) across the country, I show that local rollouts of all-mail voting also have spillover effects on choice of voting method in distant areas. Using a difference-in-differences research design, I find that an increase in the ZCTA-level share of social ties in counties that switched to all-mail voting between the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections by one standard deviation (1.77 percentage points) corresponds to an increase in the probability of casting a mail ballot by roughly 3.8 percentage points. These socio-spatial spillovers are stronger for older voters, non-Republicans, and those residing in metropolitan counties. The findings suggest that considering the aggregate social ties of a local jurisdiction in other areas may aid election officials in planning for changes in the demand for mail ballots.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Marije Kooistra 8A: Regional Inequalities in Health and Well-Being</p>	<p>The role of housing satisfaction in overall life satisfaction across the life satisfaction distribution</p> <p>Satisfaction with housing and other domains of life such as health, safety, the physical and social environment have an effect on overall life-satisfaction. However, standard regression techniques do not consider the heterogeneity of the effects across the distribution of life-satisfaction. It might be that the effects differ for those lower and higher on the distribution. Using cross-sectional data (n= 4432) for two Dutch provinces for the year 2022, quantile regression is applied to analyse the effects of satisfaction with different life domains on quantiles of the life-satisfaction distribution. As expected all satisfaction scores are positively associated with life-satisfaction. For most domains heterogeneous effects are found in different parts of the life-satisfaction distribution. Most satisfaction scores show a larger effect in the lower quantiles, with the effect gradually decreasing towards the upper part of the life-satisfaction distribution. This is most pronounced for financial security and health. For satisfaction with the physical environment this takes an opposite direction, where the coefficient is slightly larger the upper part of the life-satisfaction distribution. The effect of satisfaction with housing on life-satisfaction is high but fairly consistent across the distribution. SHAP-values show that in the upper quantiles housing the most important factor in explaining the variation in life-satisfaction. For lower quantiles, satisfaction with health and financial security are more important.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Lisa Noonan 8A: Regional Inequalities in Health and Well-Being</p>	<p>The Local Determinants of GAA Membership in Ireland</p> <p>The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is the largest sporting organisation in Ireland and is responsible for the promotion of the Gaelic games of hurling and football. It is an important part of the Irish culture and plays an influential role in society (GAA, 2024). Unlike other sports, the GAA is an amateur organisation with a strong volunteer ethos. Even those playing at the highest level are unpaid (GAA, 2024).</p> <p>The purpose of this study is to examine the local determinants of GAA membership at the electoral division (ED) level in Ireland. International research suggests that factors such as education, income and employment status impact on sports participation (Farrell and Shields, 2002; Wicker et al., 2012), with the determinants varying in importance across different sports (Breuer et al., 2011). While locational determinants of sports participation have been studied internationally, they have not been studied in the Irish context, and more specifically, in the context of the GAA. Given the cultural heritage and the amateur nature of the GAA it is likely that distinctly local factors will have a significant impact on membership in Ireland.</p> <p>By combining GAA membership data with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) for 2022, this study conducts an econometric analysis to examine how factors such as employment status, education, health status and diversity impact on GAA membership in Ireland's electoral divisions. The findings will be of use in developing strategies for growing local participation in the GAA going forward.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>Breuer, C., Hallman, K. and Wicker, P. (2011) Determinants of sport participation in different sports, <i>Managing Leisure</i>. 16(4): 269-286.</p> <p>Farrell, L. and Shields, M, A. (2002). Investigating the economic and demographic determinants of sporting participation in England. <i>Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Statistics in Society Series A</i>. 165(2): 335-348</p> <p>GAA (2004). About the GAA. [online] [cited 9/2/24] Available from internet: https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/about-the-gaa</p> <p>Wicker, P., Hallmann, K. and Breuer, C. (2012). Micro and macro level determinants of sport participation. <i>Sport, Business and Management: An International Journal</i>. 2(1): 51-68.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Davide Luca 8C: Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes</p>	<p>Progressive nurture: Growing up in large cities and the urban-rural polarisation of individual values</p> <p>There is a growing amount of research exploring the political polarisation between urban and rural areas. As it is often argued, cultural values are at the root of this division, and growing evidence shows that city dwellers hold more tolerant and progressive views than rural residents. Yet, there is disagreement about what may explain such a geographical divide. Are urban-rural differences in values purely compositional, or does living in a large city make people more culturally tolerant and 'progressive'? The paper argues that place does have a contextual effect on individuals, but only early in life. Drawing on data from the Swiss Household Panel Survey, we employ a 'movers' research design to estimate the causal impact of exposure to urban density during the 'impressionable years' on later-in-life individual outlooks. Comparing siblings of the same households who moved in/out of cities at the same calendar time but at different ages, results show that spending more time in the largest urban areas before the age of 20 makes respondents more supportive of immigration and gender equality.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Sam Parry 8C: Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes</p>	<p>What accounts for economic development and nationalist sentiment in the (very) long term?</p> <p>My presentation will analyse the economic development of stateless nations over the long-term and account for differences in level of development. In so doing, it will examine the spatial inequality that exists under the umbrella of the state, and whether this spatial inequality affects the salience of political nationalism. My work incorporates the role of geography, politics, institutions, and history in the analysis of economic development, eschewing orthodox accounts like Modernisation Theory. Using my case studies of Wales, Catalunya, the Mezzogiorno, and Padania I will share the findings of my PhD research and convey which factors I believe account for differences in economic development and regional inequality. My work employs a Longue Duree account of history and a world-systems analysis. It is therefore an analysis of the relationships that exist across space and time.</p>

Presenting Author	Paper
<p>Elisabetta Pietrostefani 8C: Spatial Analysis of Voting Behaviour and Political Outcomes</p>	<p>The Spatial Dynamics of Trust: the rally-round-the-flag effect in post-blast Beirut</p> <p>Can crises caused by government negligence trigger a rally-round-the-flag effect? On the 4th of August 2020, a massive explosion occurred in Beirut, Lebanon, resulting in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries, and extensive damage to infrastructure and buildings. The explosion was caused by the detonation of 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been stored unsafely in a port warehouse for several years. In this study, we investigate whether exposure to the blast caused an increase in institutional trust at both regional and neighbourhood levels. We analyse both pooled cross-sectional regional data and original geo-localised micro-data from surveys conducted before and after the blast using a difference-in-differences approach. In our spatially disaggregated model, we exploit the fact that the blast caused far more damage in Beirut's eastern neighbourhoods than in the city's western half. This enables us to disentangle distinct channels of influence. We can determine whether actual exposure to the bomb, as expressed by increased building damage and bodily injuries, has any detectable influence on trust in government. Satellite imagery is employed as a robustness check to assess the extent of building damage, serving as an additional measure to validate reported physical exposure. Findings indicate that individuals exposed to the blast exhibit were, on average, 9-25 percentage more trustworthy of political institutions, when compared to residents residing in unaffected regions. Among residents who experienced a higher degree of physical impact from the blast, trust in political institutions is comparatively lower, albeit still positive when compared to individuals outside Beirut.</p>



 
Keep clear **Refuge point**

When using this refuge point in an emergency
Please use refuge call point - this takes to the
fire alarm control panel.
This light shows the call point will illuminate
to assist those with visual impairments.
This facility is for use in an emergency.
Please remain calm.

