

Epainos Award and Young Regional Scientist Sessions (EAYRS) 2010

You may have noticed that something has changed at the Epainos Award. You may have noticed and be disappointed to see that something has changed. Instead of the witty, sharp and ultimately adorable English professor you were expecting, Roger Vickerman, you get an equally balding, somewhat younger but certainly more dry and less amusing Spanish newscaster.

Yes, the whole structure of the Epainos Prize has changed. The President of the Committee, Prof Roger Vickerman and its Secretary, Professor Henri de Groot, have stepped down after having brilliantly fulfilled their terms. I would therefore like to start this presentation by paying a tribute to two figures who have pushed the Epainos Prize – and consequently have helped to propel Regional Science among young researchers – to a new dimension. Roger Vickerman has not only amused us with his always humorous and often less than politically correct speeches, but has provided strong and clear guidance which have helped the prize to grow. Henri de Groot has been the executive anchor of the prize, creating a great system and making sure that everything run like clockwork in a manner that – and I am sure that being Dutch he will not appreciate this – would make even the best German or Swiss craftman proud.

Instead of this very professional pair you now get two untried and unseasoned amateurs, in Phil McCann and myself, who promise to learn by doing and will do our best to keep up with our predecessors', and especially Roger's and Henri's, legacy.

But there two are things that never change at the Epainos Prize. First is the generous support of those academics who give away their free time during the summer while sipping frappé in Chios, Rhodos, St Tropez or any other upmarket beach resorts such as Great Yarmouth, Blackpool in order to read the papers produced by the young scholars. This year they have included Alessandra Faggian, Aki Kangasharju, Julie Le Gallo, Charlotta Mellander, Mark Partridge, Jouke van Dijk, Eveline van Leeuwen, as well as Phil and myself. Three of them are previous winners of the Epainos Prize, so well aware of what is at stake and living proof to you young scholars that, as

Peter Batey has just mentioned in his speech about fifty years of ERSA congresses, previous winners of the Epainos prize are not only among the leaders of Regional Science in the future, but that they may also, like in the army, be called in to serve for the cause.

The second and by far the most important thing is the contribution of young scholars which keeps on growing in quality year on year. This year 23 papers contested the prize and many of them were of extremely high quality, which made choosing winners difficult. The papers are a testimony of the strength of the new generations of regional scientists and a clear marker of the future health of the discipline.

But winners had to be chosen and so did the Committee. The unanimous decision was to grant a double first prize to two exceptional papers that we are sure we will see published in top scientific journals in the not too distant future. The winners will share a prize of €900 generously donated by the Local Organising Committee.

The joint first prizes go to the following scholars. In alphabetical order:

1. **Wolfgang Dauth**, of the IAB Institute for Employment Research and University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, for a paper entitled “The mysteries of the trade: interindustry spillovers in cities”, where he tries to disentangle the Marshallian forces of forward and backward linkages, labour pooling and knowledge spillover by analysing the dependence of employment growth between 56 industries of the manufacturing and service sectors in five German labour market regions between 1980 and 2006.
2. **Michiel Gerritse**, of the Department of Spatial Economics of the Free University of Amsterdam, for his paper entitled “Commuting and solvable agglomeration”, where he presents a solvable model with NEG-type agglomeration effects, in which workers can supply labour away from their home in order to tackle the often wrong assumption that the consumer’s workplace is also his home. He demonstrates that commuting costs clearly affect differences in the location of labour supply and dwellings.

We are sure that given the growth of Regional Science among young scholars in recent years – for which we also have to thank the Summer Institutes and the PREPARE programme, coordinated by Gunther Maier, and funded by the European Commission, with the European Investment Bank now generously taking the baton – next year in Barcelona there will be a new array of excellent papers which will confirm that Regional Science in Europe is not only alive and kicking, but that it will continue to grow in the same manner it has been doing over the last five decades of meetings in Europe. Long live Regional Science!

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose

Jönköping, 22 August 2010