

Abstracts

G.S. SANDHU and J. A. SCHOFIELD: "A Bi-Regional Economic Impact Model for the Province of British Columbia : A Social Accounting Matrix Approach." Sophisticated regional economic modeling in Canada has to date been confined to (i) provincial/territorial-level models and (ii) only single-region models at the sub-provincial or territorial level. The prototype model developed here is constructed for two regions of the province of BC as well as the province as a whole, an advance on single-region models that cannot allow for inter-regional feedback effects in the spending stream and do not permit simulations of simultaneous impact in different regions and the province overall.

Also, the paper shows the feasibility of using locally specific survey and secondary transactions data in combination with provincial and national data (the so-called 'hybrid' approach to model building) as an advance on the exclusive use at the regional level of transactions data from other jurisdictions (the 'synthetic' approach). Simulated values are shown for impacts of an exogenous shock on output, GDP, household income and employment at regional and provincial levels, and on federal and provincial tax revenues.

O. THOMAS: "Do Local Public Finances Influence the Economic Growth of Cities? The Case of the Municipalities of the Tarn Area." This paper aims at questioning the link between local finances and the economic dynamism of cities. A positive influence of a convention of financial orthodoxy on urban economic growth is assumed, and then tested. The empirical study is based on a sample composed with all the 324 municipalities of the French Department of Tarn. Assumptions are tested using OLS regressions. The database includes budgetary, fiscal and distance variables. The conclusions are detailed in terms of local planning, by comparing the impact of distance, spatial inertia, and budgetary orthodoxy.

A. BLAY-PALMER: "Who Is Minding the Store? Innovation Strategy and Agro-Biotechnology Research in Canada." The merits of basic research for national innovation systems are well established. It is understood that basic research creates the knowledge, infrastructure and human capital needed to stay at the front of the innovation pack. In the current age of knowledge-based econo-

mies experts assert that basic knowledge is critical for sustained economic development as it affords competitive advantage. However, policy shifts in countries such as Canada and the US that tie public research dollars to applied output may be undermining future national innovative capacity. This paper explores these questions using the case of the Canadian agro-biotechnology industry. The research results highlight the role of corporations as a distorting influence on the direction and form of research in Canada. The findings expose tensions between the public good and public policy. They raise questions about the conflicts between on the one hand, the lack of public support for agro-biotechnology and on the other hand, government policy that funds industry defined agro-biotechnology research. The research also raises questions about the wisdom of policy that emphasizes applied over basic research, potentially compromising the future innovative capacity of Canada.

S. MARKEY, G. HALSETH and D. MANSON: "The (Dis?)Connected North: Persistent Regionalism in Northern British Columbia." This paper recounts findings drawn from extensive community-based research conducted across northern British Columbia designed to find out what ideas northerners have for improving economic development opportunities where they live. Findings illustrate that despite many marginal attempts at promoting regional development across BC, northerners maintain a resilient willingness, and recognize a strong economic imperative, to collaborate across the region. The paper outlines a variety of motivating forces compelling regional development and presents a series of seven principles, drawn from the community-based research, to guide the structure and intent of regionalist initiatives in northern BC.

H. HODGES: "Declining Border Crossings: An Econometric Study of Border Crossings in Whatcom County." The number of persons crossing the border between Canada and the U.S. is much lower today than it was 10 to 15 years ago. The lower volumes are a surprise given the strength of the Canadian dollar and the fact that population centres on both sides of the border are larger than in the past. For many years people speculated that the US-Canada exchange rate had a strong influence on the number of people crossing the border. When the Canadian dollar was strong in the early 1990s, border crossings were quite high. The Canadian dollar weakened relative to the US dollar in the mid and late 1990s and border crossings fell concurrently. However, when the Canadian dollar began to strengthen in 2003, border crossings did not increase as expected. Heightened border security since September 2001 and the arrival of "category killer" retail stores in Canada are two factors often blamed for the lower volumes. Understanding the decline in volumes at the border is important if we want to predict the border impacts of events such as the 2010 Olympic Games and the Western Hemisphere Transportation Initiative (the US's passport requirement bill). The model in this paper of Canadians traveling to the U.S. and returning on the same day suggests that the relative price of gasoline is a key reason the strong Canadian dollar has not caused more Canadians to travel south across the border. Other factors

considered in the model include the relative price of clothing, cigarettes, and milk, as well as wages and new store openings in Canada. Internet sales and the relative price of electronic goods are discussed, but not included in the model. Some rules of thumb suggest that border crossings by Canadian same-day travelers should have increased by a factor of three in recent years with the rise in the Canadian dollar, when there has in fact been virtually no increase. The model presented in this paper suggests that even without increased border security, the increase should have been only a factor of one-half. That is, the impact of increased border security is not as large as many people want to believe. It may also be important to note that the relationship between border crossings and the Canada-U.S. exchange rate changed in September 2001. The analysis in this paper shows there was a relatively strong statistical relationship between border crossings and exchange rates prior to September 2001, and then virtually no relationship after September 2001.

M. D. RICE and D. I. LYONS: "Consistent Business Generators: Urban Leaders in Canada's Next Wave." This research investigates the current state of evolution of the Canadian economy by focusing on the development of clusters of the innovative firms that find themselves on the leading edge of change in the country - the rapidly-evolving firms that lead the country in revenue growth rate. The analysis compares the evolving spatial distribution of these 'next wave' firms from 1998-2004 with the distribution of establishment firms, the largest companies in the country, over the same period. A decentralization analysis provides evidence suggesting that some decentralizing forces are at work in the next wave. A regional centre analysis demonstrates that previously-observed next wave activity in Vancouver and Victoria in the year 2002 is not a one-time occurrence, but is part of a larger growth trend in the region over the entire study period. A consistency analysis shows that the Toronto region includes several highly consistent urban hosts of next wave firms, but that cities in the Montreal region are more inconsistent next wave hosts. Finally, a sectoral orientation analysis depicts the centrality of Toronto and Montreal in the functioning of the national economy, while the major regional centre of Calgary experiences its greatest next wave success in sectors that play a minor role in next wave growth nationally.

P. DESROCHERS and G.-J. HOSPERS: "Cities and the Economic Development of Nations. An Essay on Jane Jacobs' Contribution to Economic Theory." Despite her popularity among urban planning and sociology scholars, urban theorist Jane Jacobs' economic writings, with the exception of one basic insight, have failed to attract widespread attention. This neglect is unfortunate, because in spite of some factual errors and dubious analytical interpretations, Jacobs' lack of respect for traditional academic boundaries gave her the freedom to formulate several highly original insights and hypotheses.

After a brief overview of Jacobs' life and work, we summarize her key economic ideas and discuss in more detail the current popularity and shortcomings of 'Jacobs externalities' (or the diffusion of know-how across different lines of

work in the context of a diversified urban economy) among academic economists. We suggest that some of her ideas, such as a scenario according to which agriculture might have been developed in cities rather than the countryside and what could be termed her dynamic structural theory of technical change, deserve more attention and scrutiny despite the fact that they might not be amenable to 'rigorous' statistical testing.

H.B. NGUENDO YONGSI, C.R. BRYANT and F. PIROT: "The Contribution of GIS to the Analysis of the Urban Landscape of an African Metropolis of the Wet Tropics (Yaoundé - Cameroun)." [« Contribution des SIG à l'analyse du paysage urbain d'une métropole d'Afrique tropicale humide (Yaoundé - Cameroun). »] Developed in Canada at the beginning of the second half of the 20th century, it was in the 1970s and 1980s that GIS underwent a substantial expansion and became democratized. Today, the applications of GIS involve all aspects of society including: the control of natural hazards, health, geomarketing, security, environmental planning and urbanisation. With the rise of the urban phenomenon and its extension in African societies, the classical techniques and methods of production of information were unable to follow the changes. As a result, remote sensing and geographic information systems and communication became recognized as excellent advanced tools for the spatial analysis of human environments. In urban environments particularly, the use of GIS has been interested in spatial features such as urban densities and the extension of the urban perimeter. While the use of GIS has become widespread in developed countries, the application of these new techniques for spatial analysis progressed very slowly in developing countries. Thus, in Cameroon, the only application to date was for the city of Yaoundé where the contribution of GIS involved the identification of constructible zones, information of use to urban planners. It was therefore in the spirit of continuing this development and contributing to improving the detailed knowledge of this capital city that the present work was undertaken. In effect, in the context of the program Population and Areas at Risk to Human Health of the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) involving the study of infantile diarrhoea in Yaoundé, land use, the control and management of urban land were identified as a complex factor that could at least accelerate and even accentuate the development of these diseases. Accurate data to measure and synthesize this factor were unavailable at the beginning of this study, so GIS was identified as an important tool to produce the required data. Using the techniques and methods of spatial analysis developed in ArcInfo, the urban landscape of Yaoundé was updated in relation to the two principal components of land use and density of the built environment. GIS allowed the study to distinguish:

- From the perspective of the density of the built environment, those urban zones (a) where the built environment density is slow, (b) those where it is average, and (c), those where it is very high.
- From the perspective of land use, (a) urban zones where the occupation of the land is regular, i.e. where houses have been built on legally defined parcels of

land with property titles, (b) zones where the development has been irregular, i.e. where citizens have occupied the land in an uncontrolled and illegal manner, and (c) urban zones where the property situation is confused.

This set of precise and up-to-date data can serve as a data base for future work, and as well, can provide decision-makers and urban planners with the bases for reflection and support to (re)formulate their housing policies for Yaoundé's population.

M. SOUMAHORO: 'State Interventions in the Ivory Coast in the Development Process of Toura: Situation Analysis and Perspectives.' [« Les interventions de l'État ivoirien dans le processus de développement en pays Toura : état des lieux et perspective. »] This article discusses how the Ivory Coast government has intervened in the development process in the Toura area. At the national level, the government of Ivory Coast plays a very important role in development and in the improvement of living conditions of rural areas, which translates into social progress with, nonetheless, some regional and local disparities. On the other hand, an overall summary of the actions brought forward by the State in the area of Toura suggests that the interventions remain quite insignificant when compared to the objectives laid down by the State itself and in relation to the expectations of the people. This shortage can be attributed to dysfunctional official institutional structures, which are in charge of framing and initiating local development. This state of affairs has led to a deterioration in the area's image, undermined the bases of its actions aimed at the rural population, and explicitly poses the problem of State intervention in the process of development. Does the state always have to be a principal contributor or can it become a secondary contributor?

