

Abstracts

G. CHI and D.W. MARCOUILLER: "Rethinking the Migration Effects of Natural Amenities". In this two-part article, we systematically examine the effects of natural amenities on in-migration by looking at recent evidence from the U.S. Lake State of Wisconsin. In Part I, we develop a comprehensive review of the driving factors behind migration and generate indices using principal factor analysis and spatial overlay methods with initial models specified using ordinary least squares regressions. In Part II, we model the migration problem by considering spatial lag and error dependence simultaneously and identifying the optimal spatial weights matrix among a comprehensive array of possible specifications. Results suggest in-migration is determined jointly by demographic, social, economic, geographic, political and cultural forces within the context of varying natural amenity characteristics.

D. MAYNARD and D. KERR: "British Columbia's Longevity Advantage: A Comparison of Deaths across Canadian Provinces and Territories." On average, the residents of British Columbia have a longer life expectancy than any other province in Canada. While throughout most of the 20th century the reported range in life expectancies across provinces narrowed, over the last decade and a half, this reported range has actually widened - with British Columbia leading the country in this regard. We estimate the extent to which deaths could be reduced across provinces in Canada if BC rates were to prevail across all provinces and territories. As an extreme, the total number of deaths in Newfoundland and Labrador is reduced by over 1 in 4 male deaths and 1 in 5 female deaths if this province had the same age/specific rates as observed in BC. Relative to other provinces, BC deaths are less numerous among older and middle-aged men, and to a lesser extent, older women. In comparing BC with the rest of Canada, cardiovascular disease and cancer were less likely to occur, with the bulk of excess deaths outside of this province linked to these causes. The prevalence of associated major risk factors for these types of deaths were also lowest in BC across provinces - including smoking, hypertension, and obesity. In the broader North American context, BC appears as almost an outlier in terms of the very low incidence of obesity in its population.

C.J.A. MITCHELL: "Population Growth in Rural and Small Town Ontario: Metropolitan Decentralization or Deconcentration?" Between 1996 and 2001, Ontario experienced an increase in its rural and small town population. This paper determines whether growth was a result of metropolitan decentralization or deconcentration. Analysis of migration data reveals that movement from metropolitan regions to municipalities under strong or moderate urban influence (i.e. decentralization) accounted for almost one-half of all migrations. Comparable movement to rural settings under weak or no urban influence (i.e. deconcentration) represented 3% of all relocations. Migration from census agglomerations, and other rural settlements, also promoted growth of non-metropolitan municipalities. It is concluded that although metropolitan decentralization was the most important migration path, it is one of many which led migrants into rural Ontario during this 5-year period.

T. STOBBE, G. COTTELEER and G. CORNELIS VAN KOOTEN: "Hobby Farms and Protection of Farmland in British Columbia." Agricultural land protection near the urban-rural fringe is a goal of many jurisdictions, and none more so than British Columbia, Canada, which uses province-wide zoning to prevent subdivision and non-agricultural uses of zoned land. Preferential farmland taxes are also in place in many jurisdictions, and the number of small-scale hobby farms near major urban centres is expanding. In the study area, the Saanich Peninsula near BC's capital city Victoria, hobby farms are found both inside and outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). We investigate whether or not hobby farms are an obstacle to agricultural land preservation. We make use of a geographic information system (GIS) model to construct detailed spatial variables and employ two approaches to analyse parcel-level data - a hedonic pricing model and the propensity score method. Results from both approaches indicate that the existence of hobby farms has served to raise land prices within the ALR. Outside the ALR, however, hobby farm parcels are worth less per ha than conventional farms.

R. BOCQUET and C. MOTHE : [« Le rôle des institutions publiques dans la gouvernance des pôles de compétitivité de PME. »] "The Role of Public Institutions in the Governance of Small Firm Clusters in France." Research on Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) clusters highlights the key role of governance in compensating for their lack of resources, especially in terms of coordination. However, modes and actors of governance are not specified. If the approach in terms of "territorial", or "local", governance partly fills this void, it remains insufficient to specify the role of public institutions involved. In the particular case of French cluster policy, it is possible to observe a profound change of public intervention modes. Our goal is to enrich the analysis of public action in territorial governance by explicitly integrating the type of public institutions according to their level of intervention (local, regional, national) and the nature of their involvement. The originality of our analytical framework is based on the introduction of these two dimensions, which makes it possible to

render operational the notion of “territorial governance” and its various modes (private, public, mixed).

A comparative study was conducted on two French clusters mainly composed of SMEs located in the Rhone-Alps region. The first cluster is active in high added value mechanical industries (Arve-Industries); the second one operates in image, videogames and multimedia industries (Imaginove). The results show the key role that public institutions can play either as internal stakeholders or as external ones (i.e. outside of the governance structure). In both cases, there is a “mixed” mode of governance orchestrated by public and private actors. This “mixing” can be discussed from a perspective that focuses on the nature of the public institutions involved, as well as the degree of their involvement. This involvement is not so much due to the strong presence of SMEs but rather to the specific cluster configuration, which is linked to its historic and territorial roots. One extension of our results points to the fact that a strong involvement of local public institutions can lead to difficulties in managing the tension between the “local” anchorage and the openness that is necessary for innovation.

Our results have strong implications for national public policies, particularly in matters concerning support to innovation and regional clusters. More specifically, they lead to calls for greater flexibility on behalf of “central” States (including Canadian provinces) in the co-construction of public policies that take into account local and regional specificities.

P. CHENARD: [« Trois types de capital humain, une même croissance des revenus ?

L’impact des flux différenciés de capital humain sur la croissance économique pour 152 agglomérations canadiennes, entre 1981 et 2001. »] “Three Types of Human Capital, with the Same Income Growth? The Influence of Human Capital Variation (HK) on Income Growth for 152 Canadian Agglomerations between 1981 and 2001”. We analyse how human capital variation (HK) influences income growth, notably the local output of HK, the net balance of national migration of graduates and international immigration. The study of 152 Canadian agglomerations between 1981 and 2001 indicates that the consolidated variation of HK is occasionally linked with growth for similar periods but without any significant long-term influence. If local output of HK and international immigration remain associated with large cities and the characteristics of agglomeration economies, only the net balance of national migration of graduates is strongly linked with income growth. The explanatory power of spatial variables remains strong. Increasing local HK, notably by local output, thus appears to be a strategy of limited effectiveness regarding short-term economic development.

E.M DÉVOUÉ: [« Croissance et bien-être : le cas des RUP Françaises. »] “Growth and well-being: the case study of French UPR”. The aim of this paper is to see if positive economic growth is related to increase in the well-being of the populations by considering the case study of the four French Ultra Peripheral Regions (UPR): Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion. Economic

growth is analyzed by observing the evolution of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita from 1997 to 2004. The GDP per capita is growing in the French UPR. It posted an increase of 37.1% in Guadeloupe, 16.8% in French Guiana, 31% in Martinique and 38.7% in Réunion during this period. The inadequacy of this indicator as measure of well-being is underlined, as is its use as a criterion of allocation of subsidies by the European Commission. The Human Development Indices (HDI) of the French UPR do not appear in the statistics of United Nations Development Program. The analyses show that the HDI of these regions are better than 0.80. The French UPR form part of the countries with high human development. An objective estimation of well-being is undertaken by constructing an Index of Economic Well-Being. It includes four components: the consumption dimension, the accumulation of stocks of productive wealth, economic inequality and poverty and economic security. The results show that economic growth is related to an increase in well-being. However, the economic security dimension does not always move in a favourable way. A subjective estimation is undertaken presenting the results of a survey of satisfaction of life in Martinique in 2008. It is noticed that the satisfaction of life in Martinique is equal to 2.80 (2.78 for women and 2.83 for men). It is lower than the national average for France which is equal to 3. Explanations of these results draw upon the effect of customs, social comparisons, relative income and adaptation.

S. DALL'ERBA, R. GUILLAIN and J. LE GALLO: [« Un regard nouveau sur les politiques de développement régional en Europe. »] "A New Perspective on Regional Development Policies in Europe". This paper assesses the impact of the European Union's structural funds on the manufacturing sectors of 145 of its regions for the period 1989-2004. Each stage in the EU enlargement process has increased disparities among its regions, threatening European cohesion. Regional development policies were implemented to reduce such inequalities. The examples of Spain, Portugal and Ireland are often quoted when appraising the effectiveness of these policies. Indeed, income in these countries did converge towards the European average after a decade of membership. However, regional policies have also been subject of criticism. From 1989 to 1999, 250 billion Euros were spent on structural funds. Some commentators argue that it was too much money for too few results: disparities increased within countries and most of the regions then eligible under objective 1 (the development of the poorest regions) are still eligible today. Others argue that too little was spent on reducing development inequalities given the scale of the disparities and compared with spending on the Common Agricultural Policy (twice the budget for the agricultural sector alone). In this context, much research has been undertaken to evaluate the impact of regional policies on growth, but without ending the debate. Indeed, the results are very varied: some studies report a positive impact, others argue that policy effects are conditional upon other variables; yet others conclude that the impact has been non-significant or even negative. We argue, therefore, that a fresh approach is called for.

We challenge the neoclassical theoretical model on which earlier studies rely.

Since the advances in economic growth theory and in economic geography indicate that increasing returns to scale affect growth, we introduce such a hypothesis in the context of Verdoorn's law. Furthermore, four main innovations are included. First, we examine the cohesion objective. More specifically, we separate structural fund objectives 1 and 2 (which are the only ones involving the production function) from the other three objectives and we include the additional funds provided by the region or country under EU law on project financing (i.e. the total cost of the project financed is taken into account). Second, we introduce a 5-year time lag to test whether the impact of the funds is deferred. Third, the geographical linkages between regions are explicitly taken into account using spatial econometric techniques that allow for spatial spill-over effects among regions. Fourth, the potential endogeneity of explanatory variables is systematically checked. Two aspects are examined: the potential correlation of the growth rate of output (explanatory variable) with the errors and the endogeneity of two other variables, i.e. the size of structural fund spending and the growth rate of output; because the allocation of structural funds is based on average per capita GDP in the three years before the programme period, endogeneity may occur between the structural funds variable and the growth in output.

The results indicate increasing returns and a significant but small negative impact of the structural funds. When these variables are split by objective, the coefficient associated with objective 1 funds (costs) is significant and negative, and also very small, while that associated with objective 2 is not significant. However, these pessimistic results are open to challenge. First, our time lag may not be long enough to show up the funds' full impact on growth. It may still be too early to capture the full impact of the funds. Second, beyond the stated aim of reducing interregional income inequalities, EU aid is not necessarily correlated with the development gap or development potential. In that sense, the European authorities may have tried to achieve too many objectives through regional funding. Third, a significant part of the funds are spent on transport infrastructure. Even if this contributes to the aims of the Single Market by enabling the free movement of goods, services and people, it may not be the right way to reduce disparities among Europe's regions. Inadequate transport infrastructures may hinder a region's development, but their construction is not necessarily growth-enhancing. As pointed out in the economic geography literature, even if the cost of labour is lower in poorer, peripheral regions, there are advantages in staying in the richer, core regions in the form of increasing returns and agglomeration economies. In this case, improving infrastructures admittedly provides a way for companies in the richest regions to access new markets, but it is not a way to reduce inequalities among European regions. Our results open the door to a more detailed estimation of the funds in the future, as more data will become available.

H. SCHWARTZ: "Toronto Ten Years after Amalgamation". This paper reviews what has happened to the City of Toronto 10 years after it was amalgamated. From 1995 to 2003, the Ontario Government made a number of major changes in the way that its municipalities were governed and financed. Some municipalities were forced to amalgamate despite the opposition of their residents. The government also redistributed certain responsibilities of the province to the municipalities through the Local Services Realignment Programme (LSRP). The process is called "disentanglement". Since the LSRP led to the cost of many of the shared-cost programmes being shifted to the city, the programme can also be termed "downloading". Other major changes include the use of market value for property tax assessment and the provincial government control of education funding for the local school boards.

EL H.M. NDIAYE et R. TREMBLAY: [« Le transport routier au Sénégal : problématique de la gestion des gares routières. »] "Road Transport in Sénégal: The Challenge of Managing Road Transport Stations". Dakar with its 3 million people, representing a quarter of the population of Senegal, is experiencing rapid demographic growth. Adding to this pressure is the unequal spatial distribution of economic and social activities. This has led in part to an important degradation of roads and highways, massive congestion and a lack of parking facilities. Too often, cars park anywhere and everywhere. Thus, the need for more parking facilities is urgent. But how should these car pools be managed? What models can be applied? Two management models are presented in this paper. Both are inspired by the Peterson and the Pompier road station since they are among the most important in Senegal.