



An Invitation
Regional Science and Complexity at ERSA 2009

I would like to invite you to participate in what is promising to be an exciting follow up to the complexity sessions at the Liverpool, ERSA 2008 meeting. Come to explore with other scholars the growing dialogue among physicists, economists, geographers, planners and regional scientists concerning complex spatial phenomena.

The Regional Science Association (RSA) is a natural venue to explore spatial phenomena by means of ideas from statistical mechanics concerning micro-behavior and macro-states. While such analyses have been around for some forty years now, dynamic simulation in Regional Science is relatively new. This is despite the obvious analogies of economies as self-organizing, emergent systems. Recently, research in the spirit of the New Economic Geography has illustrated the emergence of the urban patterns from some very basic economic principles.

Heretofore a major obstacle to a fruitful dialogue among these disciplines has been the intention of regional scientists to reproduce reality and the aim of statistical physicists to capture the essence of phenomena, making the explanation "simple as possible, but not simpler". It is our presumption that there is a possible meeting point that can be identified and that lies at some mid-point between the real and the essential.

At the 2009 European RSA meeting in Lodz (25-29 August 2009) we intend to explore the possibility of finding this meeting point among regional scientists and physicists. We think that the joint exploration of this topic by statistical mechanics and regional science can be interesting and fruitful.

It is our intention to organize several sessions at which physicists and regional scientists will present relevant work in order to foster an interdisciplinary discussion. We are issuing this invitation almost a year before the meeting hoping that we can receive commitments early and so that we may be able to organize a book that will include the papers to be presented at the meeting.

We would like you to submit an abstract of a paper to be considered for these sessions and for the book. **The deadline for the abstracts is 31 January 2009.**

Looking forward to hearing from you soon. **Please send your abstract as soon as possible to Danny Czamanski at danny@czamanski.com.**

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Danny Czamanski