

ERSA Congress

Special Session call: Regional Science and Complexity Sessions at ERSA 2010 Congress

Regional Science and Complexity Sessions at ERSA 2010 Congress

Following the complexity sessions in Liverpool in 2008 and in Lodz in 2009, the local organizing committee of 2010 ERSA Congress has given a green light to organize similar special sessions in the coming meeting in Jönköping, Sweden (19-23 August 2010).

The European Regional Science Association (ERSA) 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. Again at the ERSA 2010 congress 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.

By means of this letter I would like to invite you to participate in these sessions by contributing a paper. Come to explore with other scholars the growing dialogue among physicists, economists, geographers, planners and regional scientists concerning spatial phenomena. 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. **The deadline for the abstracts is 31st December 2009.**

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13 Oct. 2009