

Title of special session:
REGIONAL SCIENCE FOOTPRINTS OF WALTER ISARD

Convenors:
Peter Batey, Karima Kourtit, Peter Nijkamp

Number of presentations (estimated):
12-15

Three authors (representatives for the topic) interested to participate:
Peter Batey
Peter Nijkamp
Ake Andersson
Waldemar Ratajczak
John Parr

Brief description of the topic:

The founding father of regional science, Walter Isard, was born on April 19, 1919. Thus, the year 2019 marks his 100th birthday. It seems therefore, logical – and even pertinent – to celebrate this fact by organizing a set of special sessions at international conferences devoted to the scholarly inheritance of Walter Isard. Such sessions would address the theory, methodology, applications and policy studies related to regional science.

The first meeting in honour of Walter Isard will take place at a regional science conference in April 19, 2019 in Beijing. The second meeting will take place during the ERSA conference in Lyon, to be held from August 27-30, 2019, while a concluding meeting will be organized at the NARSC conference in Pittsburgh (November 13-16, 2019).

The ERSA special academic session in Lyon will mainly be devoted to the scholarly footprints Walter Isard left behind in regional science research in various countries in Europe. Isard's work was rigorous and covered many fields and approaches that are still used in modern research. Such traces do not only concern location theory, but also input-output analysis or spatial equilibrium models, and so forth. It is foreseen that this special session will last a full conference day, with approx.. 12-15 papers. Against this background, we expect a great cross-section of various interdisciplinary regional science contributions that are inspired by Isard's seminal work. Thus, this special academic session at ERSA aims to bridge the gap between the past and the future of regional science. It seems plausible that this special session will not only draw the attention of senior scientists, but also of juniors who are keen to hear more about the roots and tracks of regional science.