



## **Regional Economic Development, Analysis, and Planning Strategy, by Robert J. Stimson, Roger R. Stough, and Brian H. Roberts.**

The book *Regional Economic Development, Analysis, and Planning Strategy*, by Robert J. Stimson (Professor of Geographical Sciences and Planning and Convenor, Australian Research Council, Research Network in Spatially Integrated Social Science, University of Queensland), Roger R. Stough (Professor, School of Public Policy, George Mason University), and Brian H. Roberts (Professor, Centre for Developing Cities the University of Canberra), is a comprehensive and informative textbook covering a broad range of topics related to regional economic development.

Being a successor of the original book published in 2001, the Second Edition represents a re-editing and significant rewriting in places, to bring forward to 2006 the original thesis of the book about the need for regions to be prepared to experience increasingly greater shocks and to have increasingly less time to respond in adjusting their economic development to achieve sustainability. Provided that a major concern of regional scientists is the development of a comprehensive tool-kit of methodologies to measure and monitor regional economic characteristics (such as industry sectors, employment, income, the value of production, investment, and the like, using both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis, and focusing on the both static and dynamic analysis), this book focuses on the analysis of regional economic performance and change, and how analysis integrates with strategies for local and regional economic development policy and planning. To this end, the book is organized into 10 chapters covering a broad range of topics related to this major concern.

In particular, the book is structured as follows:

Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the topic of regional economic development, including key concepts and epistemological perspectives;

Chapter 2 examines the evolution of regional economic development strategies from early to contemporary approaches;

Chapters 3 and 4 describe traditional tools for measuring and evaluating regional economic performance (such as including economic base theory, shift-share analysis, and input-output analysis);

Chapter 5 provides an approach to regional economic development futures through the “path setting” strategic conceptualization;

Chapters 6 and 7 discuss two specific tools for assisting regional economic development strategy formulation, the industry cluster (ICA) and multi-sectoral analysis (MSA), to assess regional competitiveness and risk in the context of regional innovation systems;

Chapter 8 highlights the importance of capacity building, leadership, and institutions, for effective regional economic development;

Chapter 9 discusses GIS-based decision support tools for informing regional economic development analysis and strategy; and

Chapter 10 addresses emerging issues in regional economic development, including the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization, regional integration, and sustainability.

The book *Regional Economic Development, Analysis, and Planning Strategy* is a wealth of case studies and practical examples to illustrate key concepts and strategies. However, it may be in places somewhat technical or dense for some readers, particularly for those that are new to the field. Overall, the book *Regional Economic Development, Analysis, and Planning Strategy* constitutes a useful resource and is suggested for the regional science audience, as it provides (i) comprehensive coverage of a range of topics related to regional economic development, from established tools and models to contemporary issues related to globalization and sustainability; (ii) a practical guide including a range of case studies and examples of key concepts and strategies; (iii) a concise introduction to regional economic development for those new to the field, along with a more advanced analysis reference for experienced researchers and practitioners.

**Book Review by**  
**Dimitrios TSIOTAS, Assistant Professor – RSI J**