

EDITORIAL: THE EARLY CAREER FOCUS SERIES

This issue includes an initial contribution to an occasional “early career” series whose concept we introduced in a previous issue (Rice and Kalafsky 2008). Although the first entry in the series has been some time in coming, we believe this article has been worth the wait.

Before introducing the premier article in the series, it would be helpful to repeat the rationale for the overall venture. To quote the relevant passage from the 2008 editorial:

“[W]e believe one key area of need in economic geography focuses on the promotion of what might be called an increased “intergenerational exchange” of ideas and research priorities in economic geography... [W]e... think it would be helpful if “early-career” economic geographers were to have a focused venue for discussion of the emerging research problems, ideas, and opportunities they see as most important.” (Rice and Kalafsky 2008, 2)¹

Matthew Fry provides the first contribution to this exchange, with a focus on building block manufacturing in the central Veracruz region of Mexico (Fry 2011). Fry analyzes empirical evidence that provides valuable perspective on issues surrounding the development of the building products industry; however, he also provides some interesting discussion relating to the interface between traditional location theory ideas

and newer approaches in the field. It is this skillful combination of *empirical contribution* and *conceptual insight* that makes this a fine initial entry for our series. We invite submissions with this same combination from other early career scholars in the months and years ahead.

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Notes

1. It is important to keep in mind that the “intergenerational exchange” envisioned here must, for balance, also include some input from researchers at the other end of the career spectrum. We invite contributions to our exchange from experienced researchers as well.

References

- Rice, M.D. and Kalafsky, R.V. 2008. Editorial transitions and the development of *The Industrial Geographer*. *The Industrial Geographer* 5(2): 1-2.
- Fry, M. 2011. Manufacturing a city in the tropics: the building material industrial in Xalapa, Mexico. *The Industrial Geographer* 8(2): 45-62.