Report to the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS).

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KEY ELEMENTS

1) Coastal and Marine geography mostly focussed on the 'physical' side, mainly in the fields of geophysics, coastal degradation, and GIS applications for environmental and scientific research.
2) There is a vast interest in combining ecological research &preservation, and policy across the entire AAG community,
3) Overall, the conference has confirmed a high-profile, high-number of attendees from Europe and the U.K. in particular, with all the major national universities represented.
4) Major shifts are occurring in the fields of evolutionary economic geography and transition theory, with a clear attempt to integrate and complete concepts from both these reals for a better understanding of our society.
5) The urge to overcome the rural/urban divide, implementing continuous, complex spatial and temporal model has now been fully accepted by the AAG community.
6) In relation to 5), the lack of research in coastal areas is quite striking, and represents an opportunity for the MASTS community.

COMMENTS

Sessions on Renewable Energy and the Environment

Differently from the most recent AAGs, sessions on renewable energy and the environment (REE) have been focussing once again on the policies, values, and the diffusion of REE-related technologies and policies. In addition, several sessions have been focusing on bioenergy although the lack of technical expertise combined with a focus on first-generation bioenergy have undermined the possibility for these scholars to make significant contribution in the field.

Evolutionary Economic Geography (EEG) and Transition Theory (TT)

EEG and TT are currently undertaking efforts to enrich each other's' perspectives, thus initiating one of the most exciting advancements in the field since Time-Geography. These integration of ideas will not simply contribute to enrich theoretical models, but, most importantly, it is bringing together analytical methodologies for delivering better analyses. The most evident case is the call for spatial

and policy-smart models for economic analysis in the field of economic and environmental development.

Big Data and Local Analysis

Several new models for dealing with local regressions in the context of big data have been presented by the Spatial Analysis Group. Advancements beyond Geographically Weighted Regressions in the past year have been impressive mostly thanks to the integration within the GeoDa centre of Professor Stewart Fotheringham's team expertise. These advancements will provide users with more powerful and more time-robust models and approaches for dealing with cloud and big data.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Differently from the past editions of the AAG, GIS have played a central role methodologically, but not theoretically. This change marks an important shift in that GIS is now an integral part of the spatial analysis and geographical realm, and not a novelty anymore. This is a welcome change, as the theories and scientific objectives of GIS research have now become more important than the development of models *per se*.

Paper Presented: Marcello Graziano, *The Influence of Spatial Setting and Socioeconomic Profile of Urban Areas in the Diffusion of Residential PV Systems*.