

ABSTRACTS

POLESE, M.: "Economic Integration, National Policies and the Rationality of Regional Separatism": If we consider the region as a rational actor, it should formulate its autonomist demands in such a way as to minimize costs to itself and to maximize benefits. In this paper we propose a framework for analyzing the costs and benefits of political separation, given different conditions at the outset and varying levels of economic autonomy for the region. Our framework breaks down the economic aspects of separation into three distinct and related dimensions: barriers to trade; common economic policies; and interregional transfer payments. The region must consider costs and benefits on each dimension. Relying heavily on factual material drawn from the recent Quebec experience, we find that costs on one dimension may often entail benefits on another and that a region will in general be faced with trade-offs which are difficult to calculate.

THIBODEAU, J.-C.: "Les effets d'entraînement du secteur manufacturier dans une région de polarisation de second niveau : le cas de l'Outaouais": Economic base theory and much of regional policy are founded on the premise that the location of the manufacturing sector is in part determined by comparative advantage and that, in turn, backward and forward linkages will induce additional economic activities in the region. By an empirical analysis of the behaviour of manufacturing firms in the Outaouais region of Quebec, in terms of the flow of goods and services, we attempt to obtain a better understanding of regional linkage effects: What is the relative importance of backward and forward linkages of the manufacturing sector within the region; what is the importance of the polarization effects of Montreal and Toronto on the purchasing patterns for different types of inputs; how may we determine the capacity of the region to retain a greater part of the forward effects? Finally, we examine the links between the firm's characteristics and its degree of regional integration.

BOYER, M., M.G. DAGENAIS, et F. MARTIN: "Identification de grappes industrielles pour la génération de projets d'investissement": This article introduces an industrial cluster identification procedure aimed at the generation of investment projects. The method is part of a larger research scheme dealing with the characterization and evaluation of industrial in-

vestments best suited to contribute to the objectives of an industrial strategy. The proposed method rests on the economic interdependence of industries in developed economies. Some empirical results on the "petroleum", "chemistry" and "iron and steel" clusters are discussed.

VOOGD, H.: "Qualitative Multicriteria Evaluation Methods for Development Planning": This paper focuses attention upon several new multicriteria methods that can be used for a qualitative evaluation of alternative choice possibilities (e.g., plans or projects). These qualitative multicriteria methods are distinguished into three categories: ratio-scale methods, where the rankings are considered as measurements on a ratio-scale; frequency methods, which transform ordinal information into binary information; and scaling models, which treat ordinal information in a theoretically consistent way. Each method has certain arbitrary elements, which can influence the final outcomes. A number of qualitative evaluation methods are illustrated by means of an application to alternative development strategies for the western part of The Netherlands.

BRUMMELL, A.C.: "A Test of Spatial Submarkets in Urban Housing": The hypothesis that an urban housing market is not a single well-connected market but a series of quasi-independent submarkets is analyzed. Spatial submarkets distinguished primarily on the basis of urban and suburban areas are emphasized. Hedonic price equations are estimated for each potential submarket as well as for the total market. The submarket hypothesis implies that the estimated coefficients, reflecting implicit prices of housing attributes, should vary across submarket areas. Comparisons of the estimated coefficients do not provide support for the hypothesis. Differences in the results with respect to the form of the model and overall levels of explanation raise questions concerning the specification of the model and future research.

GOUX, J.-F.: "Les fondements de la loi de la densité urbaine de C. Clark": The law of diminution of the urban population density according to a negative exponential function, in terms of the distance to a city-centre, seems to be one of the soundest in urban analysis. Justifications have been attempted, whether in an empirical or theoretical way. Our research work will be conducted in the latter course. The interpretation that we propose lays stress on the following idea: Clark's pattern is a composite one that blends two densities (the density of occupation and the residential density) into a single one, which it is then possible to

deal with separately. In particular, such a method permits one to justify and to explain most of the attempts to generalize the urban population density function.