

## The Spatial Structure of the Economy: The Role of Interregional Trade

Geoffrey J.D. Hewings

Regional Economics Applications Laboratory, University of Illinois

[hewings@illinois.edu](mailto:hewings@illinois.edu)

The New Economic Geography has focused attention once again on the role of trade in the spatial economy. Drawing on analysis of the Brazilian, Chinese, Japanese and US economies, attention will be directed to the consistency of the empirical evidence with some of the theoretical conjectures of NEG. Part of the discord arises from the fact that the empirical record is more recent, making it difficult to evaluate fully the effects of different initial conditions. Further, policy interventions within countries as well as institutional organization have been different generating further variance in outcomes.