

Discovering American Regions

Jay Rickabaugh

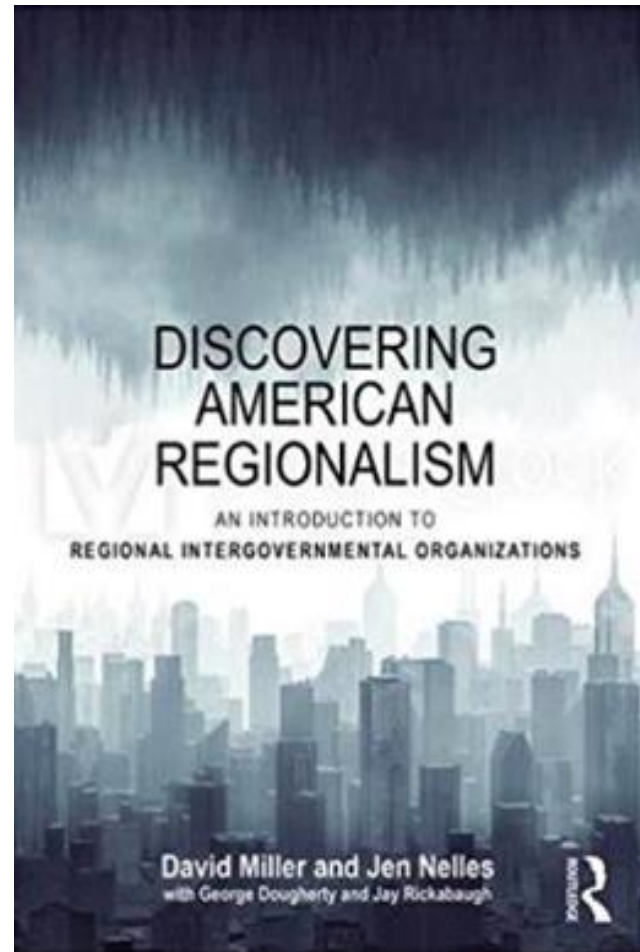
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Center for Metropolitan Studies

University of Pittsburgh

Discovering American Regionalism

- Available July 25
- Written by:
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 - Jen Nelles
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- Project of the Center for Metropolitan Studies at the University of Pittsburgh



Regional Intergovernmental Organizations (RIGOs)

- Five traits of RIGOs:
 - Majority local-government membership
 - Broad policy agenda
 - Ambition to speak for the region
 - Federal or state legitimacy
 - Largest geographic footprint
- Creates a population of cross-boundary intergovernmental organizations with holistic regional purposes

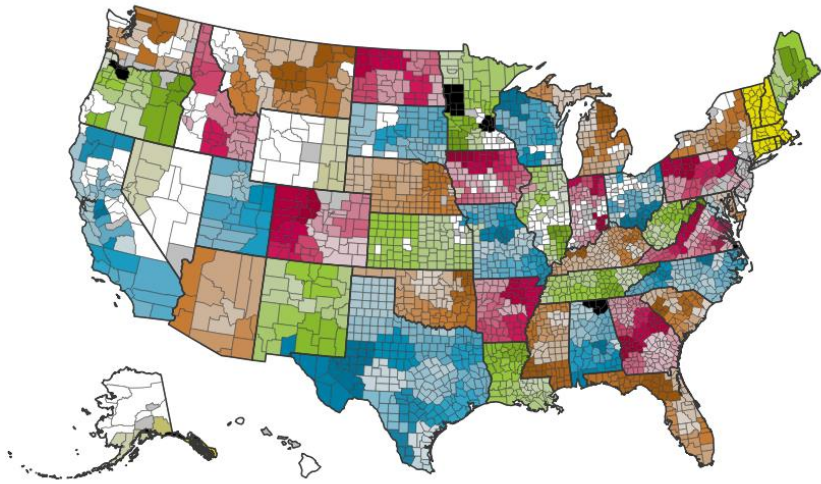
Who are RIGOs? Who are not?

- RIGOs (more than 450 in total):
 - Strong overlap with NADO, NARC, and SERDI membership
- Not RIGOs:
 - Portland Metro / Twin Cities' Met Council
 - Indianapolis / Buffalo MPO
 - Orange County Council of Governments (CA)

In the RIGO Databases...

- FIPS and RIGO Codes for Relevant Geographies:
 - Counties (and County Equivalents) in 46 States
 - Municipalities/Independent Cities in a Few States
 - Tied to a 4 Digit Code (MI03)
- Organizational Information about RIGOs:
 - Staff Size
 - EDD / MPO Status
 - Other Activities in Which the RIGO Engages
- Allows for Aggregation to RIGO Boundaries for Any Census Information (Starter STATA Code Included)

RIGOs are Everywhere...



- More than 83% of Americans live somewhere where their local government belongs to a RIGO
- 47 States have at least one RIGO

Structure of the Book

- Introduction and the Origins of Regional Cross-Boundary Organizations
- State Approaches to Cross-Boundary Organizations
- Defining Regions and RIGOs
- RIGOs, MPOs, MSAs, and Smaller Cross-Boundary Organizations
- The Landscape and Roles of Local Governments on RIGO Boards
- The Role of the Civic, Private, and Other Public Sector Actors on RIGO Boards
- Conclusion: What a Framework for RIGOs Allows Us to Do

Reach Out with Questions and Ideas...

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How Do Local Governments Create Collective Choice Arrangements?

- Previous Literature Suggests One-Member, One-Vote Structures Dominate
 - Based on surveys of executive directors
 - This structure would disadvantage many large cities
 - See citations (ACIR 1973, Wyman 1994, Sanchez 2006)
- Instead, I code original governance documents by local government members:
 - More directly measures the governance
 - Allows for measurement of population (dis-)proportionality

Research Methods

- Random Sample of 150 RIGOs
 - Bylaws or Other Governance Documents Collected
 - 27 of these RIGOs Have at Least One City with a Population of 200,000+ (37 cities in total)
- Coded Chamber or Voting Rules with the Most Demographic, Geographic, or Political Criteria
- Coded by Local Government Member, Aggregated Using Cluster Sampling Methods

Calculating Values

- Institutional Membership Score (IMS – y axis):

$$\frac{(\text{Fewest Votes for Any One Member}) * (\text{Number of Total Members})}{\text{Total Votes in RIGO}}$$

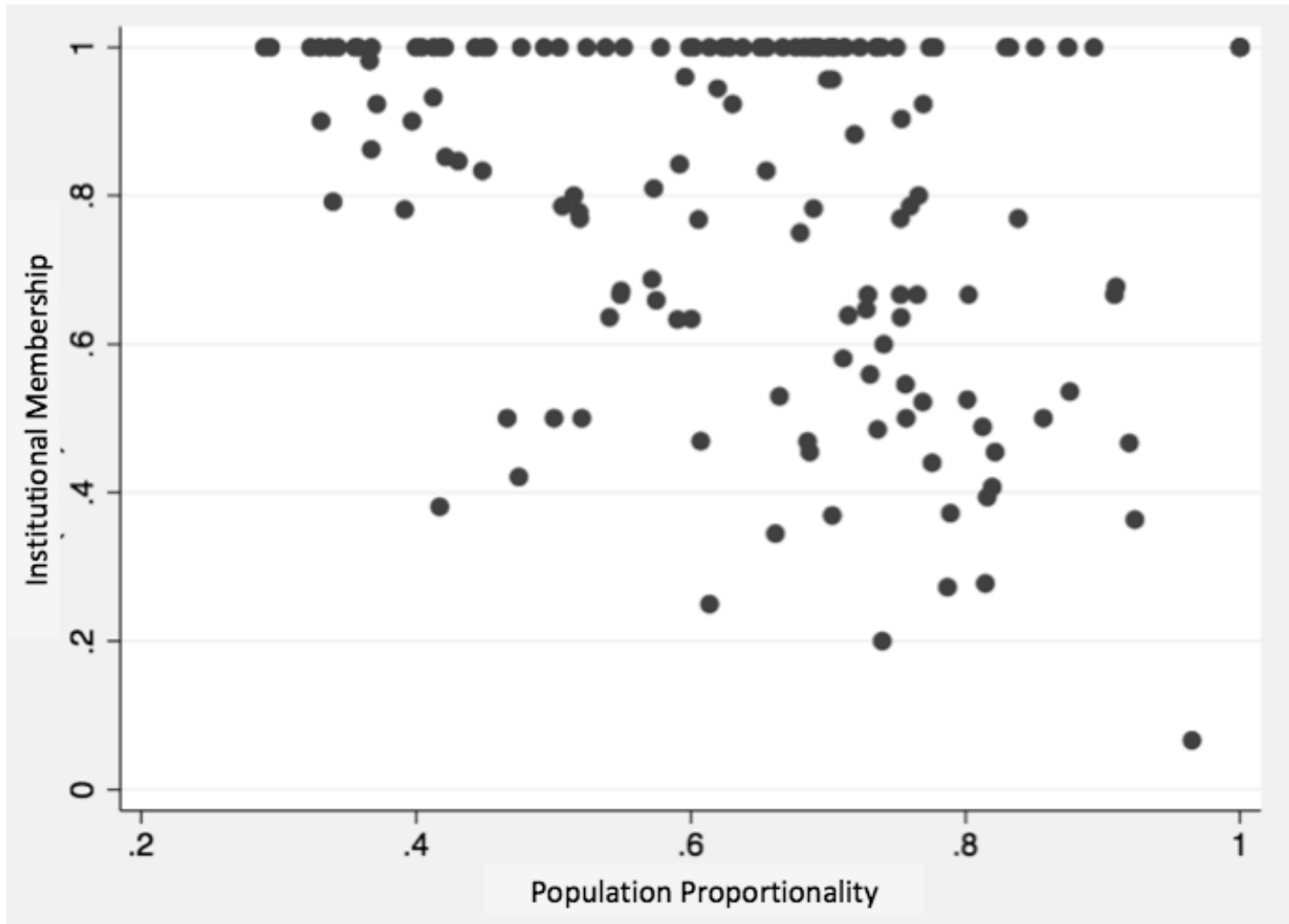
- Population Proportionality Score (PPS – x axis):

$$D = \frac{1}{2} \sum |s_i - p_i|$$

Based on Lewis & Sprague's 1997 Deviation Index (D), Reflected and Slightly Modified

- IMS and PPS Generate Values Between 0 and 1

Scatter-plot of IMS and PPS (n=149)



Current and Future Research...

- Profiles of Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (Kalamazoo) and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments
- Survey of elected officials on RIGO boards to determine priorities and sources of input in decision-making (with Tom Skuzinski at Virginia Tech)