

Geoffrey Hewings

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By:

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Geoffrey John Dennis Hewings is born in 1943 in Wales; now he is American citizen. He began his university life with a *Bachelor of Arts* at the University of Birmingham (England) in 1965, then he went for a *Master of Arts* in 1967 and a *Ph.D.* in 1969 to the University of Washington in Seattle, being established then in the United States and adopting the American citizenship. His early research interests were on geographical and climate problems and on inter-industry trade. He is currently Professor of Geography and Regional Science, Economics and Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, close to Chicago, since 1983, after being Associate Professor (1974-1983).

Geoffrey Hewings plays a central role in the scientific community, concerned with what is called regional science, which is at the intersection of economics and geography and involves economic geography, urban economics, rural economics, structural analysis and input-output analysis, the latter created by the Nobel Prize winners Leontief and Stone. For over twenty years, he is thus a main pivot of the RSAI (*Regional Science Association International*, an interdisciplinary international association of more than 3 000 members), as Executive Director (1978-1996) then as President (2001-2002), but also of many other scientific associations that play an important role in the diffusion of Regional Science. It is necessary to add that he is one of those that made known in the United States and in the Anglo-Saxon world the French School of Regional Science, particularly the work of François Perroux or Claude Ponsard. His principal effort of research was directed towards the modeling urban, regional and interregional economic systems. His list of publications is particularly long with 158 publications: 9 monographs, 47 chapters in books, 102 articles (alone or in collaboration) in the most prestigious publications in Regional Science such as *Journal of Regional Science*, *The Annals of Regional Science*, *Regional Studies*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Geographical Analysis Environment and Planning*, *Papers of Regional Science*, ...

A large part of his work is based on input-output econometric models, which were developed for several metropolitan areas and States of the United States as well as for Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia and Japan. He devoted considerable efforts to improve the way in which these models are used for the formation and the evaluation of the public policy. Recently, this work was integrated into a model of network system to analyze the consequences of earthquake, into a model of generation of pollution to help determine the options of re-development of Chicago's old industrial area, and was applied to Brazil for the allocation of water resources under scarcity constraints. His theoretical work remains directed towards the questions of economic structure and structural changes interpreted through input-output models, Social Accounting and National Accounts. Geoffrey Hewings is also the Founding Director of the Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL). REAL, was created in 1989 as a joint venture between the University of Illinois and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to give an organizational structure able to promote applied Regional Science. REAL is one of the world's most important laboratories in its field. Geoffrey Hewings has within this framework been responsible of an incalculable number of economic expert reports for South and North America. REAL accommodates also many foreign students, including in programs enabling them to spend one year within REAL to finish their thesis. In 15 years, more than 20 Ph.D. graduates have received their degree within the context of REAL: a

large majority of international students became academics everywhere in the world and still collaborate with REAL. Dijon is now involved with the University of Illinois and other American and European universities in a vast program of graduate students exchange.

This brings us to speak about Geoffrey Hewings' collaboration relations with Dijon. They are very old since they go back to Claude Ponsard, like it was pointed out earlier, but they are also very recent since several researchers from Dijon are related to REAL, either as researchers, post-docs, or as guests. Let us wish that this title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the Université de Bourgogne awarded to Geoffrey Hewings be a pledge of further development of this collaboration in the future.