

The Journal of Economic Geography in 2024 and beyond

The **Journal of Economic Geography** (JoEG) is 23 years old in 2024. Since its birth in the early years of this century, the journal has continually evolved as successive disruptive forces have transformed the economy and academic research in economics and economic geography. The journal was conceived during and born in the aftermath of the dot-com bubble and has lived through and reported on global shocks, including the severe economic and financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the current climate emergency. It has reflected and documented the local manifestations of such global disruptions and witnessed the increasingly uneven geographical distribution of opportunities and costs of economic globalisation and technological progress. During this time, the editorial team has also evolved. 2023 was a year of change, with three new editors – **Jorge De la Roca** and **Amanda Ross** (economics) and **James Faulconbridge** (economic geography) joining **Stephen Gibbons** (economics) and **Simona Iammarino** (economic geography).

Undoubtedly, the ability to evolve with the times is credited to the editors and advisory board members who have steered the journal over the past 23 years. The current editors are indebted to those who invested time, efforts and creativity to allow the journal to respond to change – editors **Neil Coe** and **Eleonora Patacchini**, who stepped down in 2022 and 2023, respectively, deserving a high mention, as well as each and every member of the **Editorial Board** for their invaluable support.

To maintain the journal's responsiveness to a fast-changing economic world, we briefly outline some new plans for JoEG in 2024 and beyond in this editorial.

A journal 'to redefine and reinvigorate the intersection between economics and geography.'

The aims of JoEG – 'to **redefine and reinvigorate the intersection between economics and geography**, and to provide a **world-class journal in the field**' – remain as relevant now as they were in 2001 when the journal launched. Now more than ever, a journal publishing work by economists and economic geographers is crucial for dealing with the 'grand challenges' facing the economy, society and academic research. JoEG will continue to abide by the founding vision to realise this potential while innovating to respond to the needs and priorities of scholarly research in 2024 and beyond.

JoEG will emphasise **openness and inclusivity**, welcoming **plurality in research across methods, empirical foci, theoretical perspectives and global geographies**. As editors, we will work hard to ensure that the journal's content represents the diverse landscape of academic research. We encourage everyone researching the economy and its geographies, defined in the broadest terms, to submit papers for consideration, across the qualitative and quantitative spectrum, including conceptual/theory-development papers and a diversity of empirical contexts.

To ensure that JoEG provides a space for publishing innovative, diverse and original research, we are launching a number of **new formats within JoEG** that will complement the existing standard paper familiar to readers.

- We will be launching a new paper type – **Emerging voices**. Emerging voice papers will be distinctive in several ways. They will be shorter – typically around 5000 words or less. They will be papers designed to allow quick and impactful publication of recently completed research that addresses timely questions about the economy and its geography. We,

therefore, anticipate that emerging voices papers will make contributions relating to novel empirical phenomena when the author has an original study that illuminates a timely issue; methods, such as innovative new techniques or datasets; fresh theoretical debates introduced to readers via the paper; and geographical perspectives on current economic trends and concerns, that set an agenda for future research. We encourage and will prioritise emerging voice submissions from early career scholars. A paper that is based on a small part of either a PhD project or other innovative piece of research is strongly encouraged. Look out for updates on the journal's website as we anticipate formally launching emerging voices in mid-2024.

- We will be welcoming proposals for **JoEG Special Issues** using a new competitive application process. Details are already on the journal's website at <https://academic.oup.com/joeg/pages/special-issues-guidelines>. The next deadline for proposals is in May 2024. All new special issues will be advertised on the journal's webpage with an open process to allow submissions from across the JoEG research community.
- We will be publishing an **Editors' virtual special issue** to celebrate the value of bringing perspectives from economics and geography together. The virtual special issue will highlight the way papers published in JoEG from economics and economic geography illuminate important contemporary concerns.

As editors, we look forward to working with the journal's community to maintain and grow the vibrancy of JOEG. The plans outlined above are one step in this ongoing journey. We would love to hear from you on any other ideas for how JoEG can evolve in 2024 and into the future.