

Department of Geography

Ron Martin

Professor of Economic Geography

Research Associate, Centre for Business Research, Judge Business School
Professorial Fellow, St Catharine's College

Ron Martin is Professor of Economic Geography. He is also a Research Associate of the [Centre for Business Research](http://www.cbr.cam.ac.uk/) (<http://www.cbr.cam.ac.uk/>) attached to the [Judge Business School](http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/) (<http://www.jbs.cam.ac.uk/>). He is also one of the Team in the [Centre for Geographical Economic Research](/research/projects/cger/) (</research/projects/cger/>). He holds a Professorial Fellowship at St Catharine's College. He will be a Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow for 2015-2017.

Distinctions:

Awarded the British Academy's 'Thank-Offering to Britain' Senior Research Fellowship, 1997-1998
Elected Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences, 2001
Selected by the American Economic Association in 2003 as one of the World's Most Cited Economists
Elected Fellow of the British Academy, 2005
Awarded Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship for 2007-2010
Selected to give the 2009 Roepke Lecture in Economic Geography (AAG Annual Conference, Las Vegas)
Distinguished Speaker Lecture, International Conference on 'The Changing Geography of Money, Banking and Finance in a Post-Crisis World', University of Ancona, October 2010
Awarded 'Best Paper' (with co-author, Harry Garretsen) in *Spatial Economic Analysis*, 2010
Elected President of St Catharine's College, 2010-2013
Selected to give the Twenty-First Annual Gregory Lecture, University of Southampton, 2013
Appointed Member of Lead Expert Group on the Future of Cities, UK Government Office for Science, 2013-2015
Appointed Commissioner on London-Cambridge Growth Corridor Commission, 2015
Elected President of the Regional Studies Association, 2015
Awarded Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship for 2015-2017
Awarded 'Best Paper' in *Territory, Politics, Governance*, 2016
Awarded Victoria Medal by Royal Geographical Society for 'Outstanding Contributions to Regional Economic Development Theory', 2016

Research

Professorial Fellowship at [St Catharine's College](http://www.caths.cam.ac.uk/) (<http://www.caths.cam.ac.uk/>).

Ron is Principal Investigator of a major ESRC project on Structural Transformation and City Economic Evolutions, part of the ESRC's Urban Transformations Initiative. (2015-2018)

He is Co-Investigator on an ESRC project on Manufacturing Renaissance?

Research interests

Ron's research interests fall into five major areas:
The Geographies of Work



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Thematic research

group: Prof Martin is a member of the [Societies, Markets, States](https://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/group) (<https://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/group>).

Current and recent research projects:

[The Competitive Performance of Regions and Cities](/research/projects/regioncity) (</research/projects/regioncity>)
[The Economic Geography of Money and Finance](/research/projects/moneyfin) (</research/projects/moneyfin>)
[Evolutionary Economics and Economic Geography](/research/projects/evolution) (</research/projects/evolution>)
[Structural Transformation, Adaptability and City Economic Evolutions](/research/projects/cityevol) (</research/projects/cityevol>)

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This strand of his research goes back originally to his PhD on wage and employment dynamics in urban labour markets in the United States, and has since broadened to encompass the theory of local labour markets, local unemployment problems, trade union decline, work in the 'new economy', issues of wage and income inequality, and the local impact of workfare schemes. Books published include: *Regional Wage Dynamics and Unemployment*, 1981; *Union Retreat and the Regions* (with P. Sunley and KJ. Wills), 1996; *Unemployment and Social Exclusion* (with P. Lawless and S. Hardy), 1998; *Geographies of Labour Market Inequality* (with P. Morrison) 2003; *Putting Workfare in Place* (with P. Sunley and C. Nativel), 2005

The Geographies of Financial Systems

Over recent years, Ron has played a key role in the development of a new economic geography of money. His research under this theme covers global financial centres, the spatial structure of financial systems, venture capital markets, and the role of finance in regional economic development. Books include: *Money, Power and Space* (with S. Corbridge and N. Thrift), 1994; *Money and the Space Economy*, 1999; *Regional Venture Capital Policy in Germany and the UK* (with C. Berndt, B. Klagge and P. Sunley), 2003

Regional Economic Development

Ron's research under this head covers a numbers of related issues. One is concerned with exploring the meaning, nature and significance of regional and urban competitive advantage. In what sense do regions and cities compete? What are the determinants of regional differences in competitive advantage? What are the implications for long-run regional development? A second theme has to do with the geographies of the so-called 'New Economy', and why this latest phase in capitalist development is emanating from some places rather than others, and how in turn it is reshaping the economic landscape. A third theme is concerned with the scope and limits of the concept of 'clusters' for understanding uneven regional development. Books include: *Regional Development in the 1990s* (with P. Townroe), 1992; *Clusters and Regional Development: Critical Reflections and Explorations* (with B. Asheim and P. Cooke), 2006; *Regional Competitive Advantage* (with M. Kitson and P. Tyler), 2006; *The Competitiveness of English Cities* (with J. Simmie), 2007.

Economic Theory and Economic Geography (and especially Evolutionary Economic Geography)

Economic geography has always drawn, directly or indirectly, on economics as a source of theoretical inspiration. Ron's particular interest is in the application of heterodox forms of economics to economic geography, as well as responding to the recent emergence of the so-called 'new economic geography' within mainstream economics. More especially, his current focus is on the importation of concepts and ideas from evolutionary economics, and on exploring the scope for and nature of an evolutionary economic geography. Key articles include: Paul Krugman's Geographical Economics and Its Implications for Regional Development Theory: A Critical Assessment, (With P. Sunley), *Economic Geography*, 72, 3, pp. 260-293. Slow Convergence? The New Endogenous Growth Theory and Regional Development (With P. Sunley) *Economic Geography*, 74, 3, pp. 201-227. The New 'Geographical Turn' in Economics: Some Critical Reflections, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 23, pp 63-91. Books include: *The Economic Geography Reader* (with J. Bryson, N. Henry, D. Keeble), 1999; *Critical Concepts in Economic Geography, Volumes 1-5* (With P. Sunley), In Press, 2007; *Handbook of Evolutionary Economic Geography* (with R, Boschma), In Press, 2007.

Geography and Public Policy

A common thread running through Ron's research is a strong commitment to the social and policy relevance of economic-geographic research, and firm belief that, wherever possible, academic geography should have public policy relevance. His own work on labour markets (especially on the New Deal), on regional competitiveness, and on regional venture capital markets, embodies this ethos. A current interest is in the spatialities of income inequality and poverty. He also researches how national state policies impact at the local and regional level, and the subnational implications of the ongoing neoliberalisation of state policies.

Editing Roles (Recent and Current)

Honorary Editor of *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 1998-2002
Co-Editor, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 1998 to date

Co-Editor, *Regional Studies*, 2002-2005

Associate Editor, *Journal of Economic Geography*, 2000 to 2016

Editorial Board Member, *Géographie, Économie et Société*, 1999 to date

Editorial Board Member, *International Regional Science Review*, 1999 to date

Editor, *Regional Development and Public Policy*, Book Series (Routledge), 2002 to date

Editor, *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, Oxford University Press, 2008 to date

Consultancy and Advisory Work

Ron regularly provides research advice and consultancy to Government Departments (e.g. BEIS). He is an advisor to the European commission on its programme on Regional Economic Resilience. He has been involved with numerous research projects for the European commission including the Impact of Globalisation on the European regions, the Determinants of Regional Economic Growth, The Competitiveness of European Regions, and the Rethinking Policy for Europe's Lagging Region. He has been involved in the preparation of evidence for the Core Cities Group and the Key Cities Group for submission to the UK Government's Industrial Strategy Green Paper (2017). He also provides economic-geographic advice and consultancy to a number of private sector consultancies, including Local Futures (London), Cambridge Econometrics (Cambridge), Trends Business Research (Newcastle); Segal Quince Wicksteed, London.

Research Students

Ron has supervised numerous PhD students (both UK and overseas), and welcomes enquiries from prospective applicants interested in pursuing [PhD research at Cambridge \(/graduate/phd/\)](#) on topics related to his own research. Recent and current PhD topics include:

The Geographies of European Monetary Policy

The Role of the Old in New Economic Geography: The Survival and Significance of Mature Industrial Districts

The Local Geographies of Workfare: Lone Parent Jobless in Sheffield and Buffalo

Globalisation, Regulation and Geography: The Bahamas and Cayman Islands Offshore Financial Centres

Local Dimensions of the Impact of Workfare Schemes in British Cities

Information Technology and the Development Process: Caribbean Micro-States in the Global Economy

The Role of Financing Constraints in the Development of Italian Industrial Districts

The Dynamic Competitiveness of Industrial Clusters: The Footwear sector in Felgueiras, Portugal

The Geographies of Parallel Trade: The Case of Pharmaceuticals

The Competitive Advantages and Performance of Firms Inside and outside Industry Clusters.

The Economic Resilience of Cities and Regions

Publications

Books

Martin, R. and Pollard, J., 2017. *Handbook on the Geographies of Money and Finance* (<http://www.e-elgar.com/shop/handbook-on-the-geographies-of-money-and-finance>) , Edward Elgar. 672pp.

Gardiner, B., **Martin, R.** and Tyler, P., 2012. *Competitiveness, productivity and economic growth across the European regions*. p.55-78. doi:10.4324/9780203607046 (<http://doi.org/10.4324/9780203607046>) .

Asheim, B.T., Cooke, P., Boschma, R., **Martin, R.** and Schwartz, D., 2011. *Handbook of Regional Innovation and Growth*, Edward Elgar Publishing. 656pp.

Cooke, P., Asheim, B., Boschma, R., **Martin, R.**, Schwartz, D. and Tödtling, F., 2011. *Preface*.

Cooke, P., Asheim, B., Boschma, R., **Martin, R.**, Schwartz, D. and Tödtling, F., 2011. *Introduction to the handbook of regional innovation and growth*. p.1-26.

Cooke, P., **Martin, R.**, Schwarz, D., Asheim, B. and Toedtling, F. (eds.), 2011. *Regional Competitiveness: From Endowments to Externalities to Evolution*, Routledge. 12pp.

Martin, R.L. and Boschma, R.A. (eds.), 2010. *The handbook of evolutionary economic geography*, Edward Elgar Pub. 559pp.

Boschma, R.A. and **Martin, R.L.** (eds.), 2010. *Complexity Thinking and Evolutionary Economic Geography*, Edward Elgar Pub. 27pp.

Martin, R. (ed.), 2008. *Economy: Critical Essays in Human Geography*, Ashgate Pub Co. 549pp.

Martin, R. (ed.), 2008. *Geographies of Economies*, Ashgate Pub Co. v. 8, 27pp.

Martin, R., Kitson, M. and Tyler, P. (eds.), 2006. *Regional competitiveness* (http://www.routledge.com/shopping_cart/products/product_detail.asp?

sku=&parent_id=2332&pc=/shopping_cart/categories/category_id%3D2332%26so%3D1) , Routledge.

Asheim, B., Cooke, P. and **Martin, R.**, 2006. *Clusters and regional development: Critical reflections and explorations*. p.1-300. doi:10.4324/9780203640890

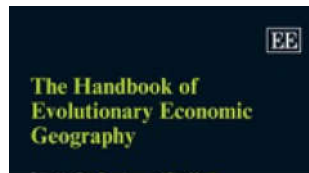
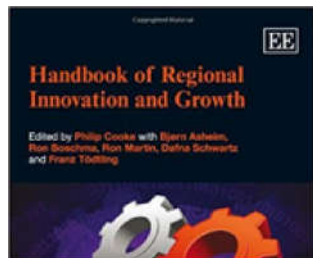
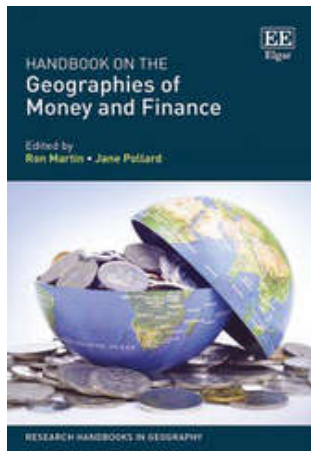
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Asheim, B., Cooke, P. and **Martin, R.**, 2006. *Preface*. p.xvii-xviii. doi:10.4324/9780203640890

(<http://doi.org/10.4324/9780203640890>) .

Martin, R., 1986. *Industrial restructuring, labour shake-out and the geography of recession*. p.1-22.

Martin, R., 1986. *Thatcherism and Britain's industrial landscape*. p.238-290.



Journal articles

2016

Clarke, G., **Martin, R.** and Tyler, P., 2016. Divergent cities? Unequal urban growth and development. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, v. 9, p.259-268.

doi:10.1093/cjres/rsw011 (<http://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsw011>) .

Cuadrado-Roura, J.R., **Martin, R.** and Rodríguez-Pose, A., 2016. The economic crisis in Europe: urban and regional consequences. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, v. 9, p.3-11.

doi:10.1093/cjres/rsv036 (<http://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsv036>) .

Martin, R., Pike, A., Tyler, P. and Gardiner, B., 2016. Spatially Rebalancing the UK Economy: Towards a New Policy Model?. *Regional Studies*, v. 50, p.342-357.

doi:10.1080/00343404.2015.1118450 (<http://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2015.1118450>) .

Martin, R., Sunley, P., Gardiner, B. and Tyler, P., 2016. How Regions React to Recessions: Resilience and the Role of Economic Structure. *Regional Studies*, v. 50, p.561-585.

doi:10.1080/00343404.2015.1136410 (<http://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2015.1136410>) .

Martin, R., Sunley, P., Tyler, P. and Gardiner, B., 2016. Divergent cities in post-industrial Britain (<https://academic.oup.com/cjres/article/9/2/269/1745231#35831090>) . *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, v. 9, p.269-299. doi:10.1093/cjres/rsw005

(<http://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsw005>) .

2015

Fingleton, B., Garretsen, H. and **Martin, R.**, 2015. Shocking aspects of monetary union: the vulnerability of regions in Euroland. *Journal of Economic Geography*, v. 15, p.907-934.

doi:10.1093/jeg/lbu055 (<http://doi.org/10.1093/jeg/lbu055>) .

Martin, R. and Sunley, P., 2015. Towards a Developmental Turn in Evolutionary Economic Geography?. *Regional Studies*, v. 49, p.712-732. doi:10.1080/00343404.2014.899431

(<http://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2014.899431>) .

Martin, R. and Sunley, P., 2015. On the notion of regional economic resilience: conceptualization and explanation. *Journal of Economic Geography*, v. 15, p.1-42. [doi:10.1093/jeg/lbu015](https://doi.org/10.1093/jeg/lbu015) (<http://doi.org/10.1093/jeg/lbu015>) .

Martin, R., Sunley, P. and Tyler, P., 2015. Local growth evolutions: recession, resilience and recovery. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, v. 8, p.141-148. [doi:10.1093/cjres/rsv012](https://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsv012) (<http://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsv012>) .

2014

Christopherson, S., **Martin, R.**, Sunley, P. and Tyler, P., 2014. Reindustrialising regions: rebuilding the manufacturing economy?. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, v. 7, p.351-358. [doi:10.1093/cjres/rsu023](https://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsu023) (<http://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsu023>) .

Martin, R., 2014. Keys to the City: How Economics, Institutions, Social Interaction, and Politics Shape Development. *ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY*, v. 90, p.341-344. [doi:10.1111/ecge.12058](https://doi.org/10.1111/ecge.12058) (<http://doi.org/10.1111/ecge.12058>) .

2013

Christopherson, S., **Martin, R.** and Pollard, J., 2013. Financialisation: roots and repercussions. *CAMBRIDGE JOURNAL OF REGIONS ECONOMY AND SOCIETY*, v. 6, p.351-357. [doi:10.1093/cjres/rst023](https://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rst023) (<http://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rst023>) .

Garretsen, H., McCann, P., **Martin, R.** and Tyler, P., 2013. The future of regional policy. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, v. 6, p.179-186. [doi:10.1093/cjres/rst013](https://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rst013) (<http://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rst013>) .

Martin, R., 2013. Why Edit Books? In Defence of an Oft-Disparaged Academic Activity. *REGIONAL STUDIES*, v. 47, p.1611-1613. [doi:10.1080/00343404.2013.843770](https://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2013.843770) (<http://doi.org/10.1080/00343404.2013.843770>) .

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Book chapters

Gray, M. and Zhang, B., 2017. [Crowdfunding: understanding diversity](http://www.e-elgar.com/shop/handbook-on-the-geographies-of-money-and-finance) (<http://www.e-elgar.com/shop/handbook-on-the-geographies-of-money-and-finance>) , in Martin, R. and Pollard, J. (eds.) *Handbook on the Geographies of Money and Finance*, Edward Elgar Publishing. p.580-609.

Martin, R., 2013. London's Economy: From Resurgence to Recession to Rebalancing, in *The Planning Imagination: Peter Hall and the Study of Urban and Regional Planning*. p.67-84. [doi:10.4324/9781315858609](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315858609) (<http://doi.org/10.4324/9781315858609>) .

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