

2016 SPRING METRANS RESEARCH SEMINAR

*Wednesday, April 13, 2016
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM
USC – Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall (RGL) 101*

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Cities and Economic Growth

Presented by Peter Gordon, Ph.D.

APA
USC CHAPTER

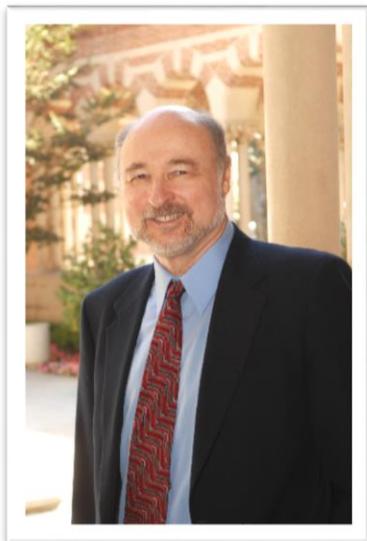
This seminar is jointly sponsored by the American Planning Association USC Chapter (APA USC).

Prosperity and economic growth require robust specialization and exchange. This means the formation and maintenance of numerous complex supply chains. These are emergent and include supply chains for things and supply chains for ideas. The latter can be via transactions and/or realized positive externalities.

All supply chains have a geographic dimension. Firms carefully choose what to make vs what to buy and also where to buy it, from near or far. The whole system tends to a pattern of locations that denote realized transactions (and transactions costs) as well as realized externalities. The city remains a competitive producer if these costs are contained.

Cities have been seen as “engines of growth.” This means they offer attractive supply chain formation and management opportunities. Networking and location opportunities are significant as these choices are made. Flexible land markets can denote more such opportunities.

The few available measures that compare U.S. metropolitan area land market flexibility and regulation provide some corroborating evidence that growing metropolitan areas sustain affordable housing opportunities where land use regulations are relatively light-touch. Gordon argues that this is the light touch that enables cities to be engines of growth – and innovation and prosperity.



Peter Gordon, Ph.D., is an Emeritus Professor of the Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. He retired in 2013 after 43 years at USC. He now teaches each summer at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China.

Gordon’s interests are in urban economics and urban transportation economics. He is currently at work on a book that explores how modern cities contribute to economic growth.

Previous work included the development of spatial models used to estimate the effects of disruptions, including natural disasters. Gordon is a Fellow of the Regional Science Association International, a past president of the Western Regional Science Association and received the PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1971.