A little more than a year ago I solicited papers for a special issue of this journal on lifestyle migration and the response was such that I had enough papers to do a second edition that hopefully you will all be reading soon. Casual observations of conference proceedings and programs suggest that this phenomenon is increasingly grabbing the attention of researchers across the social sciences. As the research continues to accumulate, the destinations examined, the methodologies employed, and the research questions asked and answered continue to diversify making this an exciting, yet obviously fertile research area. Continuing with this trend are the three papers presented here.

The first article by Iranzu Gárriz Fernández frames lifestyle migration to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, a long-standing destination for migrants from the North, within Lefebvre’s notion of the right to the city. In this case, she utilizes an inclusion-exclusion typology focused on the food industry to illustrate the social dynamic that the growing presence of foreigners fosters. More precisely, she argues that this north-south migration grants foreigners a privileged position over locals in the right to the city. This research is based on extensive periods spent in the study site and offers a unique perspective on an often overlooked aspect of this phenomenon.

The second article by Maria Thulemark further illustrates the diversity of this research subfield by examining the motivations for lifestyle/amenity migration to rural New Zealand. While this article stretches the geographical purview of this journal, I feel it is a worthy inclusion because of the methodology employed, which is certainly applicable to lifestyle migration/residential tourism research in all locations. Moreover, it highlights this movement to rural areas providing a nice contrast to the first article of this issue. The author takes a qualitative approach to her research by conducting semi-structured interviews with individuals who have moved to this area since
2003. The paper is littered with quotes highlighting the motives that lured people to this relatively remote location.

The third article by María Paula Barrantes-Reynolds uses the terminology of residential tourism, even though she is obviously not satisfied with its limitations, to discuss the migration of northerners to Guanacaste, Costa Rica. She broadens the discussion by examining the real estate industry in this area convincing us that this is unlikely to be a sustainable path for Costa Rica or any other country. She points out in great detail that the very nature of the real estate industry is contradictory to the goals of sustainable development and demands greater scrutiny and regulation.

Despite the great diversity of topics, approaches, and destinations examined in these two issues, there is one theme that remains constant for me: this increasingly significant migration of a diverse range of individuals is placing great social, economic and environmental pressure on what are often times, highly vulnerable areas. Ideally, some of this research will influence decision-makers, whether they be governments, real estate industry professionals, activists or potential migrants themselves and allow them to make well-informed decisions that will not permanently degrade local environments and societies.

In closing, it has been my great pleasure to edit these two issues of JRSAALA for several reasons. One, this is a relatively new avenue of inquiry for myself and my knowledge of the breadth of the subject area has expanded greatly. Two, the various methodologies and conceptual frameworks employed by these scholars have given me new insights into how to approach my own research. Finally, I am optimistic that by engaging with these researchers, there is now great potential for future collaborations at professional conferences, additional scholarly publications, or in the field doing what we love the most. Enjoy!