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Turbulent Times: Rethinking Regions and Cities

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PLENARY ABSTRACTS

PLENARY ABSTRACT

Gillian Bristow, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

The UK2070 Commission is an independent inquiry into city and regional inequalities in the United Kingdom. Chaired by Lord Kerslake, it has been set up to conduct a review of the policy and spatial issues related to the UK's long-term city and regional development. Confronting spatial economic inequalities across the UK means confronting issues of governance and the new configurations of power and economic relationships emerging with the devolved administrations and city regions. It also raises numerous questions around how well we understand the UK's diverse 'strength in places', how might we take advantage of them for our collective benefit, and what are the mechanisms for collaboration, risk-sharing and re-distribution.

PRIORITIES FOR REGIONAL POLICIES AND STUDIES IN TURBULENT TIMES

Lewis Dijkstra, EU Commission, Belgium

European regions and cities are indeed going through turbulent times. Since the crisis, regional disparities in GDP per head have stopped shrinking. Discontent has increased, fuelled by economic stagnation and fanned by populist exploiting and exacerbating fear of migration. Trust in institutions, including in the EU, have dropped since the crisis and have only recently started to recover. Higher levels of economic development do not necessarily reduce discontent. Regional policies and studies need to understand what it is driving these changes. Discontent grows when people feel their voices are not heard. Measuring, monitoring and discussing issues at the local and regional level, i.e. a spatial scale people experience in their daily lives, can reduce the feeling of not being heard. Discontent also feeds on lack of agency. If people feel their vote doesn't matter and that politicians cannot or will not address their issues, they will disengage or vote for fringe parties. Depending on the country, addressing this may require changes in electoral systems, more decentralisation, more public investment and more public engagement. Referenda can both help and hinder. A citizens' assembly may help to address more complex issues in a balanced manner. Turbulent times can breed fear. Regional policies and studies need to address the fear of the future through policies that anticipate future changes and challenges and regional studies can investigate future scenarios and trends and how to respond to them.

INFRASTRUCTURE, STRATEGIC COUPLING AND THE POLITICS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Infrastructural provision is fundamental to the 'strategic coupling' of regions and global production networks (GPNs). High profile examples include the oil pipelines connecting Alberta to the Pacific Ocean in Canada; the transcontinental railway between multiple city-regions in China and the European Union; and the enhancement of liquefied natural gas 'bunkering' capacities in Singapore. Yet it remains unclear why infrastructural projects impact on the ability of policymakers in subnational regions to attract and embed transnational corporations (TNCs). Specifically, the literature has not adequately explained why particular regions were able to

enrol in extra-local production networks and supply chains through infrastructural projects. The central aim of this paper is to bridge this gap.

Two interrelated arguments are presented to support the formation of a fresh conceptual framework and research agenda. First, strategic coupling is not sufficient on its own to explain regional developmental outcomes. The coupling process is shaped by politics between key stakeholders across different geographical scales, which makes it important to conceptualise strategic coupling as a political process in the first instance. Second, the current GPN framework has to be refined to explain the increasing politicisation of large-scale infrastructural provision. While regional policymakers recognise the importance of cutting-edge infrastructure in embedding TNCs, it is proving difficult to invest in infrastructure without the risk of quick duplication by competitors. This in turn makes it necessary for regional policymakers to proactively ensure they could out-manoeuvre other competitors in infrastructural provision. To this end, many regional policymakers worldwide actively lobby institutional actors located at the national and supranational levels in order to gain political support and protection.

These related processes jointly underscore how the relationship between infrastructure and strategic coupling is underpinned by the politics of regional development. While this politics could potentially enable some regions to become 'winners', they also highlight the intrinsic turbulence associated with strategic coupling.

REGIONAL INEQUALITIES AND INDUSTRY 4.0

Cecilia Wong, The University Of Manchester, United Kingdom

The UKIS has focused national attention to play a part in the global economic race by heightening the country's competitiveness, but is more ambiguous about how the industrial strategy could reduce the severe spatial disparities that have such negative consequences for the overall economy. A more geographical balanced approach in transport and infrastructure investment is mentioned as the government's approach to the entrenched spatially imbalanced economy. However, there is a need to have greater sensitivity to the implication of the spatial pattern of local economic strengths and weaknesses across the country. By adopting a spatial perspective, this presentation will highlight the uneven geographical patterns of the required economic contexts, labour markets, skills and associated infrastructure, through mapping analysis, to inform the debates around the delivery of the UKIS and the UK's prospects of taking part in the fourth industrial revolution.

PARALLEL SESSION ABSTRACTS

HOW ENTREPRENEURS EMPLOY SOCIAL CAPITAL TO COPE WITH INSTITUTIONAL VOIDS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM IN EMERGING REGIONS; THE CASE OF EGYPT

Dina Ashour, Edinburgh Business School, United Kingdom

There is a gap in the literature towards addressing entrepreneurship ecosystem from the perspective of the institutional theory within the context of emerging nations. Entrepreneurship ecosystem (EE) postulates that high impact entrepreneurship requires the coherence of three 'fully-developed' domains; human, financial and market. However, emerging economies have institutional market, capital and labour voids which threaten the multiplier effect of productive entrepreneurs. Institutional voids, act as a lacuna in the communication between the buyer and the seller, creating transactional difficulties and rendering business transactions as 'uncertain'.

Addressing such a gap in the literature, this paper offers a framework suggesting that social capital acts as a coping mechanism enabling Egyptian entrepreneurs to rely on their direct circle of family and friends to gain access to high growth business-related resources which is not available elsewhere. First, Egyptian entrepreneurs rely on 'bartering' and the 'depth of connections' with their family to supply them with financial resources at zero costs rather than national financial institutions requiring high collateral and high interest rates. Second, entrepreneurs also rely on their 'bonding' with their 'personal connections' to gain access to technically-qualified human capital in a region having highly uneducated labor with mediocre skills. Finally, social capital acted as an alternative mechanism to offer entrepreneurs with business-related 'exclusive' information in a region which legally sanctions circulating information from third parties without written consent. Therefore, it is understood that social capital acts as a way towards addressing entrepreneurship ecosystem theory within the context of institutional voids.

This paper contributes to the literature by addressing the gap of the sparse literature on social capital in emerging economies relative to the developed world. Second, this paper seeks to untangle the uni-dimensional featuring of institutional void by dividing it into 3 dimensions of voids offering a deeper understanding of each instead of the usage of the abstract terminology. Finally, this paper seeks to investigate Egypt, as an under-studied country per se compared to its referral as part of the MENA region, specifically that Egypt scored as low as 7%, yet below 56% average in the networking effect of the MENA region, as part of the GEDI report 2018.

An implication of such a paper is necessitating efforts on the micro, meso and macro levels, towards supporting mentorship, networking events, hackathons, coworking and incubation spaces. This is to promote social activities for productive entrepreneurship during the regional current institutional reformations as part of its 2030 economic plan.

HOUSE PRICES AND BANK CREDIT PORTFOLIOS IN TURKEY

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With the recent regulations and incentives, the growth of the Turkish economy mostly relies on construction and construction-related sectors as a part of the government strategy. Government involvement has also been striking in the lending side as well. Besides their effort to cut mortgage rates to stimulate housing sales, Government also provides funding for mega projects. Between the last quarter of 2007-2017, total real mortgage growth is approximately 164%. Given these, we aim to examine the impact of rising house prices on the bank loan

portfolio with a focus on the government-owned banks. Since the government's growth strategy relies heavily on the construction, we expect government banks to be less sensitive to housing price change for mortgage and construction loans compared to other bank types. To estimate the effect of house price on bank loan growth, we use fixed effect methodology. We control provincial shocks by province-time fixed effects and bank characteristics by bank-province fixed effects. The potential endogeneity problem is tried to be solved using the procedure similar to Chakraborty et al. (2018), i.e., by creating interaction variables between undevelopable land and interest rate on mortgages. We will further analyze how banks' loan distribution decision affects the growth of cities and employment. This study contributes to the existing literature in two ways. First, we investigate whether the support provided by government-owned banks benefit to the growth of provinces. Second, we provide evidence on how housing price shocks affect the lending behavior of banks with different ownership or business models.

AGENCY, STRUCTURE, DISCOURSE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSITION OF FORMER AUTO REGIONS

Andrew Beer, UniSA Business School, Australia

This presentation sets out to better understand how regions that have experienced a major economic shock can establish a new economic future. It examines the recent writings of Grillitsch et al (2019) to better understand the drivers of agency, focussing in particular on the capacity of entrepreneurs to drive innovation leading to growth; the role of institutions as critical actors in change processes, and the part played by place leaders. This perspective is considered alongside the work of Moulert et al (2016) and the emphasis they have placed on the role of discourse. These ideas are then applied to the examination of the community impacts of the closure of Australia's automotive sector.

THE ROLE OF ECOSYSTEM ENABLERS WITHIN AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

Laura Bennett, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

Over recent years, "entrepreneurial ecosystems" has gained traction as a way of stimulating and supporting entrepreneurship. In parallel, a growing body of literature has considered the phenomenon of entrepreneurial ecosystems. Despite the increasing popularity of the phrase, its definition remains somewhat elusive. Empirical research has predominantly focussed on identifying elements of entrepreneurial ecosystems and developing explanatory frameworks comprised of institutional elements. The approach of listing common elements is an oversimplification of what is a complex system of interactions. Without the nuance of how those elements relate, our understanding of entrepreneurial ecosystems remains limited. The entrepreneur is often placed front and centre as the key individual within an ecosystem, but this approach overlooks the contribution(s) made by other individual actors, or "dealmakers", who develop and maintain the ecosystem.

Drawing on ongoing empirical research in Bristol, comprising of 34 interviews conducted over 7 months, the role of "Ecosystem Enablers" is newly conceptualised to demonstrate their three-pronged role. First, Ecosystem Enablers fulfil an entrepreneur-facing role by making introductions which help individual entrepreneurs. Second, they fulfil an ecosystem-facing role by easing information flows throughout the entrepreneurial ecosystem and enabling disparate elements to interact in ways that support entrepreneurs. Third, they fulfil an internal and external-facing role in that they construct the narrative and identity of an entrepreneurial ecosystem through their language and actions. This research contributes to the literature on the

processes within ecosystems—and the ecosystem as a process—and provides new insight into the somewhat precarious sustainability of entrepreneurial ecosystems.

ADDRESSING RURAL NEEDS THROUGH MOBILITY INNOVATIONS

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Current transport strategy in the UK is strongly urban-focused, with assumptions that technological advances in mobility will simply trickle down into rural areas. In this paper we challenge such a view and instead draw on rural development thinking which emphasises the need for place-based approaches. Survey and interview methods are employed to develop a framework of rural needs associated with older people, younger people and businesses. This framework is employed to assess a range of mobility innovations that could most effectively address these needs in different rural contexts. In presenting visions of future rural mobility, the paper also identifies key infrastructure as well as institutional and financial changes that are required to facilitate the roll-out of new technologies across rural areas.

'NEW' INVESTORS? THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONALISED DIFFERENCE IN SHAPING NEW INVESTMENT IMPACTS

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Sara Özogul, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

This paper draws on comparative analysis of Amsterdam and London's housing production systems, to demonstrate the spatiality of new financial instruments and investments' impact. Building on existing research on the financialization of housing (see Aalbers, 2017; 2019) we argue that the contrasting examples of Amsterdam and London speak to the variegation of this process. Specifically, we show how attending to the different existing investor types - and how these are responding to the perceived "cloud of money" (see Rolnik, 2019) - is vital in understanding historical investment patterns when interrogating the consequences of changing actors now. Using a mix of quantitative mapping and interviews with investors and house builders, we demonstrate how such a historically informed approach reveals the contrasts between periphery and centre, and question what this means for each city's wider region. Specifically, we look at how Amsterdam relates to its wider multi-city region and compare this to how London's inner and outer boroughs are responding to new investor approaches. We argue that changing approaches to financing housing production and housing systems necessarily contest and relate to existing institutionalised approaches and that a close interrogation of how this process happens reveals moments for potential governance and policy reform. Moreover, in attending to the spatiality of this process we highlight both inter and intra-city variety.

HIRING BY START-UPS AND REGIONAL LABOR SUPPLY

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Young firms find it difficult to attract workers and in particular skilled workers. Using linked employer-employee data for Germany we investigate how local labor market conditions affect

the hiring success of young firms. We estimate in a first step how the regional supply and price of labour affects the probability of founders to become employers. In a second step we analyse how the local labour supply impacts the probability of hiring skilled human capital using a two-stage Heckman selection model. The results show a positive relationship between the local level of labour supply and the hiring probability of young firms. But this relationship not is driven by all founders, but certain groups. We also find a positive correlation for the supply of highly qualified workers, but this likewise applies only to certain groups.

IMPLICATIONS OF MOBILITY-AS-A-SERVICE (MAAS) LOGICS FOR CITY DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

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The implications of Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS), a technology-enabled innovation in urban transportation, for city development, are still poorly understood. Enabled by digital infrastructures and the platform economy, MaaS brokers aim to offer mobility bundles to customers, potentially facilitating a shift away from individual car ownership and usage. Not surprisingly, MaaS is raising hopes for accelerating sustainability transitions, and as such, MaaS has become one of the hot topics in the smart city sector. However, given the limited empirical evidence on the impacts of MaaS-as-realised rather than MaaS-as-imagined, a more nuanced consideration of this development appears desirable. Here we present the case study of one MaaS project in the UK, to understand which stakeholder characteristics, behaviours and relationships are desired by the MaaS operator, and conversely, which ways of thinking and audiences are backgrounded in the unfolding mobility-as-a-service discourse. We consider the contradictions that arise from this analysis and reflect on the implications for persistent and pressing problems associated with urban transportation systems development in and for cities. Finally, we close by considering opportunities for collective learning in cities, given the distributed, networked nature of innovation of which MaaS appears to be an instance.

GEOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL MOBILITY IN A CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY – THE CASE STUDY OF THE MODERN ULTRA-ORTHODOXY IN THE ISRAELI URBAN SPACES

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The trend toward isolation that characterizes Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) society (an insular, conservative-religious community in Israel), contradicts the processes of demographic growth, spatial expansion, social diversification and social involvement displayed by that society within the Israeli space. These processes have implications both for the Haredi community's changing profile and for its place in Israeli society. They challenge the Haredi community's fundamentally conservative identity within its own internal geographic spaces.

This lecture will focus on the social and spatial characteristics of a growing subgroup that is itself highly diverse – modern ultra-Orthodoxy. The lecture will attempt to illuminate the attributes of this Haredi group, which sees itself as part of Haredi society without excluding itself from the broader Israeli, Western, and secular community. The geographic spaces in which modern ultra-Orthodoxy is concentrated will be identified, and life on the cultural and geographic "seam line" at the periphery of a homogeneous Haredi city and within the mixed-city space will be characterized. The lecture will call attention to the existence of a spatial pattern that encompasses the variety of modern Haredi identities – the "liminal space." The concept of a "liminal space," manifested geographically, points to the need (whether originating in desire or repression) to live on the "seam line" in an in-between state, at the edge of two spaces of differing social identities – and thereby to have "the best of both worlds." The lecture's main

argument is that these liminal spaces are unstable and dependent on dynamic social and spatial processes, and that the various identities involved in constructing these spaces are not fixed and are themselves engaged in a transitional process. Moreover: the intrinsic need for religious and social community reinforces activist spatialization-of-identity processes within the "liminal space" – given that today's changing modern-Haredi identity finds itself defined vis-à-vis new groups, a process that may ultimately result in self-segregation and the emergence of a new enclave. And, consequently, the move to a "new liminal space" by those seeking a heterogeneous and less-communal human space.

The study methodology is qualitative, and based on in-depth interviews (44) with self-defined modern Haredim, and with figures from local municipalities dealing with the aforementioned communal diversity and seam groups. Tours were also made of the urban seam spaces where modern-identified Haredim reside.

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, HOUSING INVESTMENT AND HOUSE POLICY IN CHINA: A CASE STUDY ON JINAN

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China's urban housing market has been under intensive government regulation and intervention (Macro Control) from 2005 to 2019 to curb price inflation. This paper studies both induced and imposed institutional changes in China's housing market by focusing on the national housing investment market (NHIM) and the implementation of housing policies on both supply and demand sides to improve affordability. It argues that NHIM offers opportunities to the private sector and local governments for profits and revenues by generating housing price inflation. National housing policies imposed to hamper NHIM were resisted by the private sector and local governments resulting in institutional battlefields. The Jinan case illustrates that NHIM has been selective so a one-size-fits-all Macro Control should give way to localised regulation. The paper concludes that NHIM, an induced institutional change, has a better chance of survival and housing policies aiming to impose institutional changes to improve market affordability and alleviate price inflation should be developed from tried local practices.

Key words: institutional arrangements, housing, investment, policies, China

GLOBAL CITIES, CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND THEIR REPRESENTATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA: A MICRO-DATA ANALYSIS OF TWITTER DATA ON THE FASHION INDUSTRY

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Urban policymakers have long been concerned with the symbolic representation of cities, using place-branding strategies to shape perceptions of cities and, in turn, their economies. These strategies have increasingly focused on notions of creativity and culture, yet it has been hard for researchers to investigate how creative industries and perceptions of places are linked. In this paper we address this problem using data from the social media platform Twitter. We focus on one highly creative and symbolic industry, fashion design, in the four major cities in global fashion: London, New York, Milan, and Paris. We find considerable diversity in how these cities are represented. Milan and Paris are seen in terms of national fashion houses, artisanal production and traditional institutions such as galleries and exhibitions. New York is focused on media and entertainment, independent designers and a 'buzzy' social life. London is portrayed in the most diverse ways, with events, shopping, education, social movements, political issues and the royal family all prominent. In each case, the historical legacy and built environment form important parts of the city's image. Understanding how cities are portrayed on social media

should play an increasingly important role in theoretical work on urban symbolism and creativity.

THE SOFT SIDE OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL APPROACHES IN-BETWEEN EU-LED POLICY INITIATIVES AND NATIONAL STATUTORY CONTEXTS: A VIEW FROM SOUTHERN EUROPE

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In the last decades, the prefix “soft” has been increasingly used to explain the flexibilization of hard concepts and processes such as planning (soft planning) or law (soft law). Soft planning can be understood as a planning process that crosses and dissolves traditional administrative territorial boundaries and introduces new governance practices between formal structures and institutions, aiming at promote place-based integrated territorial approaches. Under the umbrella of soft planning, a growing number of integrated territorial approaches emerged together with, although outside the statutory system.

In Portugal, place-based integrated territorial approaches have been particularly associated with EU-led policy initiatives.

Focused on the concept of soft planning and using the Region of Lisbon and Tagus Valley as a case study, this paper analyses place-based integrated territorial approaches in Portugal. It shapes a brief overview on the implementation of place-based integrated territorial approaches since the 80s. It intends to identify the several generations and forms of integrated approaches, their origin, configuration and implementation, before and after Portugal’s EU membership. The analysis is structured upon the several Community Support Frameworks (CSF I 1989-93; CSF II 1994-99; CSF III 2000-2006; QREN 2007-2013 and Portugal 2020 2014-2020) and gives a particular emphasis to sub-national/supra-municipal approaches and partnerships.

Placing the discussion at different levels (planning actors; political spheres; nature of policy instruments; etc.), the paper aims to discuss how integrated territorial approaches have been leading to a general softening of statutory planning tools fostering the dissolution of borders and partnership arrangements between stakeholders.

RETAIL PUBLIC SPACES – A RESILIENCE PERSPECTIVE ON SHOPPING STREETS TRANSFORMATIONS

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For centuries urban retail has played an important role in the creation of public spaces, that as a result can be called “retail public spaces”. Shopping streets and markets were not only places of selling and buying, but also social interaction, local community building, or political manifestation. In the last few decades this role of retail has been heavily transformed, first by the proliferation of new large-scale shopping formats, and recently by the emergence and rapid expansion of e-commerce. The high street is under pressure from two sides: in economic terms competition of e-commerce as well as shops in managed shopping centres affects retailers, especially of some types, causing increasing vacancy rates and shopping environment decline, while managed shopping centres additionally compete with shopping streets in terms of attractive shopping environment, designed in order to create a convenient, modern retail public space aimed at increasing profits rather than providing valuable and inclusive communal

environment. The results of this competitive impact depends on the resilience of traditional retail public spaces. It can be defined as a dynamic and evolutionary process of adaptation of public space in retail areas to changes, crises or shocks without failing to perform its functions in a sustainable way. The aim of the paper is to present theoretical framework of retail public space resilience in the face of shopping malls and e-commerce competitive conditions. The starting point for this task is the retail resilience analytical framework proposed by L. Dolega and D. Celinska-Janowicz (2015).

Dolega Les, Celińska-Janowicz Dorota (2015) Retail resilience: A theoretical framework for understanding town centre dynamics. *Studia Regionalne i Lokalne*, Nr 2(60), ss. 8-31.

THE IMPACT OF RESIDENTIAL ECONOMY IN DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIUM SIZED CITIES THE CASE OF MOROCCO

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Researches about the development of medium-sized cities have been mainly based on the productive approach, which stipulates that the level of development of a territory depends on its productive capacity. However, few studies have focused on analyzing the development of medium-sized cities, according to the residential economy approach. This study aims to highlight the role of the residential economy in the development of medium-sized cities. We are especially interested in analyzing the weight of residential economy and understanding the impact of the residential economy in the development of medium-sized cities. We will mobilize data from the general census of population and housing and income data to estimate the weight of the residential economy. The analysis has classified Moroccan medium-sized cities in four categories, these results indicate also that the development of medium-sized cities are based on residential economy.

THE MANY ROLES OF ACCELERATORS IN DEVELOPING AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM

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Accelerators are a popular concept in entrepreneurship research and practice. Many emerging markets are adopting the acceleration model to support the entrepreneurial activities. The debate on relation between acceleration and entrepreneurial ecosystem is gaining importance in literature and public discourse. However, it is not yet clear that how accelerators, as a subsystem, contribute in strengthening a less-than-perfect entrepreneurial ecosystem.

This paper argues that influence of acceleration on social, cultural and material attributes of entrepreneurial ecosystem can be divided into three-fold support offered for transformative entrepreneurship in a region. These include; 1) Micro-level (cohorts), 2) Meso-level (culture) and 3) Macro-level (economy). The model is illustrated with the case study of Invest2Innovate (i2i), a for-profit accelerator in Islamabad, Pakistan. Understanding the special requirements of a developing entrepreneurial ecosystem, i2i demonstrates potential to be more than just an acceleration process. Aside from finding, selecting & vetting impact entrepreneurs, i2i also operates two more verticals – Invest, which works to strengthen access to capital in growth markets, and Insight, which provides research, data and analysis to provide a deeper understanding of the markets.

This paper contributes to the growing literature on acceleration and ecosystems with focus on less explored topic of acceleration in developing entrepreneurial ecosystems. The article offers a re-thought role of acceleration programs with focus on nested entrepreneurial actors and factors to support the development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem.

DOES BROADBAND INVESTMENT INFLUENCE THE GROWTH OF LOCAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS: PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE FROM ENGLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

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Peter Tyler, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

We investigate the relationship between broadband and the growth of business establishments in England in the United Kingdom, over the period 2011 to 2015, using high-resolution geographical panel data. We utilise the latest Next Generation Access (NGA) data, a type of broadband which has yet to be widely studied but has been essential for the development of the digital economy over the past decade. Our results indicate that the rollout of Fibre-To-The-Cabinet (FTTC) broadband infrastructure had a positive and significant effect on the growth rate of business establishments at the local level.

AN EVALUATION OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA'S LAND USE POLICY – THE LINK POLICY: A CASE STUDY FROM EZHOU, HUBEI PROVINCE

Long Cheng, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China

Economic reform in China has resulted in rapid urbanisation over the past three decades, changing the urban and rural landscape dramatically. A large amount of farmland was developed, leading to conflict between construction demand and farmland protection. In response, the “Link Policy” was proposed in 2005 that seeks to concurrently preserve farmland while providing for urban expansion through land exchange. The effectiveness of the Link Policy has not been systematically investigated. The purpose of this study is to analyse and evaluate outcomes of Link Policy objectives from both a participant and investigator’s interpretive perspective. Ezhou, the first experimental city to implement the Link Policy in Hubei Province in central China, was selected as a case study area. Eight different communities in Ezhou were visited and 160 semi-structured interviews were conducted with resettled rural residents in March 2016. A combination of interviews and investigator field observations were used to evaluate Link Policy objectives. The results show that participants recognize and support improving rural living conditions and coordinating urban-rural development, but the Link Policy failed to achieve the objectives of preserving farmland, protecting farmers’ land use rights and interests, and facilitating agricultural production. Participants perceived concentrated resettlement communities to be more efficient in land use compared to more expansive rural settlements, but vacant apartments for commercial use in resettlement areas account for a large proportion of land suggesting inefficiency in the land exchanges. We suggest policy changes to achieve more successful implementation of the Link Policy.

GEOGRAPHICALLY WEIGHTED FLOW MODELLING IN DEMO-ECONOMIC SPACE

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Lianfa Zhang, Central China Normal University, China

In the era of big data, increasing availability of mobility data captured through sensors, smart card, transaction and users/citizens has offered great opportunity for spatio-temporal

modelling of flows (e.g. commuting, migration and tourism). Geographically weighted (local) modelling method, has been extensively applied for analysing spatial non-stationarity. However, flow data, resulting from spatial and temporal interactions, usually exhibit an over-dispersion statistical pattern and a complicated spatial structure, which make it hard to visualise, model and interpret these spatial patterns. This study aims to explore these challenges by proposing innovative methods of representing such flow space, visualising flow clusters and calibrating the flow models using geographically weighted negative binomial regression but within a user-defined relative demo-economic space. These methods and the comparative results from empirical studies will be discussed during the seminar.

EXPLORING EVIDENCE OF SPATIAL ECONOMIC AGGLOMERATION IN EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG, SOUTH AFRICA

Koech, Kenneth Cheruiyot, Gauteng City-Region Observatory, South Africa

Since Marshall's (1890) work on industrial districts in 19th century England, agglomeration economies are credited for providing the needed catalytic role to economic growth and development. It does this by allowing critical masses, where knowledge spillovers among firms; labour market pooling; and sharing of industry-specific non-traded inputs, prosper. This research employs exploratory spatial data analysis approaches to analyse the spatial locations and economic sectors data of about 14 000 firms in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, a major sub-regional economy in Gauteng economic metropolis and in South Africa. It attempts to answer the following questions; Is there evidence of spatial sectoral clusters, and if present, which kind of spatial economic clusters are they? What is the footprint of these spatial business clusters? The results of four selected industrial clusters show evidence of varying global and localised agglomeration. Localised agglomeration was established to be statistically significant as well. This research complements existing research in suggesting policies that ensure economic growth and development of the regional economy benefits from agglomeration economies.

GRASPING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS - TOWARDS A CONCEPT OF TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Camilla Chlebna, Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg, Germany

Hanna Martin, Karlstad University, Sweden

Jannika Mattes, Carl von Ossietzky University,

The debates on regional path development on one side, and transition studies on the other side, despite apparently both theorizing regional development dynamics appear surprisingly separate. Although numerous recent contributions identify this, concrete suggestions on how to bridge this divide are missing from the debate.

Having identified this research gap we offer a comprehensive perspective aiming to aid our understanding of regional sustainability transitions and how they are shaped by and in turn affect regional industrial path development. Our framework draws from the path development debate in economic geography its focus on industrial paths evolving through technological innovation which is seen as essential for achieving regional sustainability transitions, and complement this with elements of the debate on socio-technical transitions which is concerned with inter-dependencies and interactions between technologies and the societal context.

We illustrate our argument with a comparative case study on two regions in Germany which undergo transitions.

NEW THINKING ON THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF HOUSING ON REGIONAL GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

Linda Christie, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

Duncan MacLennan, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

There is a long understood and well-measured concern of the impact of housing outcomes on national income and employment. Building on previous work in Australia by MacLennan et.al. (2018) on the implications of housing outcomes for productivity, the research presents the results from an ESRC Productivity Innovation Network (PIN) project to review local government economic development and housing policy in the UK. The results reveal how policy has failed to take sufficient account of the importance of housing as essential economic infrastructure. The fieldwork involved a systematic review of academic and practitioner evidence on housing and planning policy across three metropolitan areas: Cambridge, Edinburgh and Newcastle. A wide range of empirical evidence suggests, prima facie, that housing outcomes can impact growth and productivity, supporting the development of a new conceptual framing of the relationship between housing and productivity and how diverse housing outcomes impact the productivity behaviours and performance of households and firms. Expert interviews and in-depth document reviews shed light on the strategic framing of housing as important economic infrastructure, to reveal how local government policy fails to grasp the nature of growth and productivity effects of housing outcomes. Productivity effects are overlooked as an important dimension of regional growth and economic change. The findings support calls for a new narrative and conceptual framing in housing policy, to take better account of the regional growth and productivity importance of housing as economic infrastructure in the UK.

GOVERNING THE MULTICULTURAL CITY: EUROPE'S 'GREAT URBAN EXPECTATIONS' FACING AUSTERITY AND RESURGENT NATIVISM

Licia Cianetti, Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdom

Ethnic minorities, old and new, tend to be concentrated in urban settings, making cities the primary sites of majority–minority encounter, adjustment, and contentious politics. This has spurred 'great urban expectations' among European academic and policy circles that cities hold the key to governing ethno-culturally diverse societies. This paper looks at the reality of these 'great expectations' by analysing European discourses on 'optimal' urban inclusion policies, as they are embodied in EU-sponsored city networking initiatives. Drawing from the scholarships on multiculturalism and urban austerity, it builds a policy matrix that identifies four ideal-typical agendas on ethnic and racial inclusion: multicultural, diversity inclusion, community cohesion, and neoliberalised diversity. It identifies discursive shifts towards mainstreaming and depoliticising and argues that (a) they should be understood as the result of mutually-reinforcing pressures of 'anti-multiculturalism' and austerity, and (b) inconsistencies in network discourses suggest a pragmatic-adaptive logic rather than full-blown accommodation of nativist and austerity imperatives.

HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. EUROPEAN AND REGIONAL DISPARITIES

Sabrina Colombo, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

In Mediterranean countries the labour market is characterised by a relatively low demand of qualified personnel (graduates and professionals). The economic system is mostly composed by

small firms and/or firms with low degree of innovation, such as to shape the employment demand in the lower-medium qualification levels. Most Mediterranean countries (Italy, Portugal, Greece) register low percentage of graduates and low percentage of professionals. On the contrary most of the Northern countries register high percentages of skilled workers. Countries with a dual educational system show good performance in matching supply and demand by field of study, while Mediterranean countries display a high mismatch. In these countries the training system does not have the capacity of designing courses and subjects that can find suitable responses in the labour market. If in countries with dual systems, the disciplines, contents and learning paths are conceived and designed together with the companies, in the Mediterranean countries this co-design is less present. The outcome tends to be a disconnection between the demand and the supply. The paper will show how much Mediterranean Countries differs from other European Countries in the investments of human capital. It will be also analysed if internal regional differences can be a factor to explain the distance from the European average.

RETHINKING REGIONAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS IN MULTILEVEL JURISDICTIONS: CANADA'S PURSUIT OF SUPERCLUSTERS

Charles Conteh, Brock University, Canada

The economic trajectory of most city-regions nested in multi-tiered systems are shaped by forces and trends originating from outside these regions. Yet much of the extant literature's construct of regional economic resilience often privileges explanations that focus on the internal dynamics of sub-national regions, their geo-spatial assets, talent pool, institutional characteristics and the like. The proposed paper seeks to build on accounts that shift the focus of explanation to the political forces, institutional structures and policy processes of multi-tiered jurisdictions and how they substantially influence the divergent trajectories of sub-national regions and their adaptive capacities in the face of seismic economic perturbation and change. The paper will examine Canada's recent Superclusters Initiative that seeks to transform a select number of regional innovation systems across the country into wider economic conurbations consisting of a constellation of cities and regions with vast networks bringing together businesses, post-secondary and research institutions, public officials and other social and policy entrepreneurs to pursue ambitious innovation policy goals and strategies. Drawing insights from the multilevel governance literature, the paper will explore the tensions and synergies between Canada's national Supercluster Initiative and its mosaic of disparate regional innovation systems to shed light on how multi-tiered jurisdictions shape economic winners and losers. The discussion will contribute to our understanding of the constraints and opportunities confronting city-regions in multi-tiered systems as well as shed light on the daunting challenges of program misalignments and inconsistencies across tiers of government as city-regions pursue spatially integrated, sustainable and inclusive models of innovation policy.

MAKING PLACES FOR MAKING LIVELIHOODS: EXPLORING (MIS)ALIGNMENTS IN CITY FUTURING

David Corbett, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Marcus Foth, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Markus Rittenbruch, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Nancy Odendaal, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Irina Anastasiu, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

The development of a greenfield smart city was alluded to in the 2019 South African State of the Nation Address. The imagery used to describe it leans towards neoliberal conceptions of a smart city, including technocratic and corporate aims for efficiency and productivity. The national acknowledgement of the future importance of cities is promising. However, to avoid the perpetuation of injustice rife in South African cities, conceptions must engage with existing complexities rather than circumnavigating them through tabula-rasa urbanism.

Participatory methods are required to engage with stakeholders who experience marginalisation, operate within the informal sector, are familiar with the 'cracks' in existing urbanism and have developed responsive livelihood strategies. These stakeholders are often excluded in planning processes. Misinformed attempts at 'formalisation' exacerbate instead of reduce the precarity of living and working informally. Over 66 percent of non-agricultural employment in Sub-Saharan Africa exists within the informal economy. Working with and learning from informality should be a priority for future governance.

How do these stakeholders' conceive a city that works for them? How does their vision compare with those of built environment professionals? This paper reports on focus groups and interviews conducted in Cape Town with informal traders and built environment professionals. Insights are used to derive similarities and differences between the participant groups' respective visions of a 'good' city. We explore the implications of juxtaposing these contrasting perspectives. We discuss how our findings can inform novel planning and governance approaches that (a) allow community to thrive in an informal economy environment (without being at odds with the local laws/by-laws) and (b) focus on sustaining livelihoods.

UNLOCKING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF SMART SPECIALISATION: TOWARDS A NEW CONFIGURATION OF PLACE-BASED INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS SUPPORTING A NEW INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

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Richard Tuffs, Independent expert
Jan Larosse, Independent expert

The concept of Smart Specialisation (S3) introduced first by a high level group of economists working for the European Commission (Foray et al. 2009) has already made a significant impact in the ways EU Cohesion policy actions on innovation are conceived, orchestrated and implemented. Having been integrated in the current regulations governing the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for the programming period (2014-20) as an ex-ante conditionality, it became widely known as a guiding analytical and planning framework across Europe's local communities. Smart specialisation is nowadays understood as a place-based approach characterised by the identification of strategic areas for intervention, based both on the analysis of strengths and potential of local or national economies powered by the so-called Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP) which involves wide stakeholder involvement.

While S3, marks a significant departure from the past bringing back to the fore the ambiguous concept of specialisation, it provides a new opening for (re) considering a 'smarter' industrial strategy for the European Union. Through a more 'intelligent' Entrepreneurial Discovery Process involving integration of clusters and development of subsequent skills we argue that it

is actually possible to proceed to a more genuine identification of future industrial growth drivers for Europe and reach consensus on future co-investment strategies for a more competitive presence in the context of Global Value Chains (GVC). We also argue that S3 should be de-coupled from its single-use within Cohesion policy and proceed through a new configuration of place-based innovation ecosystems to support a broad new industrial strategy.

INNOVATIVE BUZZ AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: MERGING EVIDENCE FROM GEM AND BIG DATA ACROSS UK REGIONS

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Emma Folmer, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
Anna Rebmann, King's College London, United Kingdom

In this paper, we explore how to expand our knowledge of informal and intangible regional determinants of entrepreneurship by analysing big data to listen to the ‘buzz’ – the vibrancy of localised informal communication flows. In particular, we combine insights from entrepreneurship research and the discussion on place-specific informal institutional to argue individual entrepreneurship may be fostered more effectively within regions defined by an innovative buzz characterised by a forward-looking atmosphere supporting experimentation with new ideas and innovative practices. To this end, we merge Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) data with over 300 million geo-tagged Tweets across 168 NUTS3 regions in the UK for the year 2014 and explore different ways to capture the presence of innovative buzz within localised communities and test the seminal observation by Marshall that knowledge spillovers are “as it were in the air”. Thus, we offer a first look into the opportunities offered by big data for entrepreneurship and regional research. Controlling for established individual and regional determinants of entrepreneurship, our results provide evidence of a significant effect of innovative buzz on both start-up rates and opportunities for entrepreneurship. These findings highlight the importance of expanding our understanding of the role of the context and localised informal institutions for entrepreneurship research. Finally, we discuss policy and methodological implications of the paper.

PRESENT AND FUTURE POPULIST POLICIES IN EUROPE: THE CASES OF HUNGARY AND BULGARIA

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In contemporary European politics, populism is considered one of the main threats to economic growth and liberal values. However, the literature on how populist governments act in terms of policies is quite scarce. This paper will map the ideological positions of all the contemporary European parties, and then focus on the cases of Hungary and Bulgaria in terms of perspective consequences. These countries are particularly relevant because they have a populist government in power and represent the case of divergence from the democratic transition that we are assisting in Central and Eastern Europe. A drift from the convergence path could, in fact, impede the post-2020 European funds. The paper will use a machine learning model to try to predict the future policies of the two countries based on their actual ones.

TERRITORIAL DESIGN: BUILDING A BRIDGE BETWEEN SOFT AND HARD PLANNING SPACES

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In the last decade, soft spaces and soft planning have emerged as new spatial planning and governance concepts. Despite a strong common influence, i.e. EU Cohesion Policy, soft planning practices differ substantially throughout Europe.

In Portugal, while statutory planning instruments have failed to fruitfully accommodate territorial dynamics and development demands, soft planning practices have so far been scarce and inconclusive.

Under the banner of EU Structural Funds a set of new soft planning policy initiatives endorsing integrated territorial approaches was set up in 2014 under the scope of Portugal 2020. These instruments profit from an associated financial envelope and a non-statutory framework that potentially enhances its effectiveness on promoting spatial transformation. However, they also risk introducing disruption and ambiguity into the planning system.

The paper considers as a research hypothesis that regional design/territorial design is a potential fruitful mediator to promote closer articulation between soft and hard planning practices. Territorial design allows for the construction of shared planning agendas in complex governance settings and emergent spatial rescaling movements.

Focused on the Portuguese case study, namely on the policy initiatives framed within Portugal 2020 – the EU-Portugal Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 community programming cycle and their articulation with the statutory planning system, this paper aims to discuss how territorial design can help on the mediation soft and hard planning spaces.

SPECIALIZATION, COMMUNICATION COSTS & THE LOCATION DECISIONS OF FIRMS' R&D ACTIVITIES

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Sergio Petralia, London School of Economics, United Kingdom

David Arnold, London Business School, United Kingdom

This paper explores the spatial reconfiguration of corporate R&D activities on a global scale and aims to understand how the location decisions of firms' R&D activities relate to the coordination of their inventor workforce. The empirical analysis is based on multiple sources of data providing information about domestic and international R&D activities of highly innovative firms in the USA and worldwide, developing a comprehensive picture of the geographical location of firms' patenting activities, the area(s) of expertise of their inventor workforce and areas of technological activity as well as on foreign investment decisions. The regression analysis suggests that the division of labor among inventors within firms can geographically bind the deployment of firms' R&D activities. This depends on two factors, on the one hand, the division of labor determines firms' balance between generalist and specialist inventors. We find that firms with more specialist inventors tend to be more spatially concentrated both domestically and internationally. On the other hand, this division of labor determines which technologies are ubiquitous for the firm and which ones are not. We find that firms with a higher proportion of non-ubiquitous technologies, i.e. those technologies for which the expertise needed is not abundant in the organization, also tend to concentrate in space both domestically and internationally.

CITY REGIONAL IMAGINARIES AND POLITICS OF RESCALING

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This paper brings together two separate bodies of literature on scale and imaginary to propose a new conceptualization of scale not just as an entity (material) or just as an episteme (ideal), but as a performative imaginary. We argue that this perspective helps us to forge linkages between a structuralist focus on political economic factors and the role of the state, and a poststructuralist emphasis on cultural factors and the role of discourse. It shows how scales are called into being through theorizing, map making and storytelling as well as road building and land grabbing. Seeing scale as a performative imaginary foregrounds the tensions between the ontological fluidity of scale and the rigidifying tendencies of sociospatial practices. The paper examines how, in England, the invocation of the city-regional imaginary as an economic and city-centric (ECC) space has been constitutive of rescaling projects, and how its normalisation has been imbricated with the politics of scalar fixing. Responding to Neil Brenner's call for a plural understanding of rescaling politics, we examine the role of knowledge in rationalizing the scalar positioning of this imaginary and in demarcating its spatial boundaries. We argue that successful institutionalisation of a particular scale depends on, though not determined by, how closely the enacted scale, the scalar imaginary and the political project that they serve are aligned. However, despite such alignment, resistance to the institutionalisation of the ECC city-regional imaginary in England has led to variable geometries of sub-national governance

THE IMPACTS OF REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP: EVIDENCE FROM TURKISH REGIONS

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Ayda Eraydın, Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi, Turkey
Javier Revilla Diez, Cologne University, Germany

It has been widely recognized that entrepreneurship or new business formations by generating new employment, innovation and welfare effects are the crucial mechanism for economic development both at regional and national levels (Acs and Audretsch 1988; Wennekers and Thurik 1999; Baumol 2002; Acs et al., 2008). For this reason, various governments have started to support and encourage the formation of new businesses to achieve high levels of economic growth and development.

However, in recent years, increasing attention has been devoted to investigating how existing regional characteristics and attributes determine the level of regional entrepreneurial activity, although less attention is paid to the effects of changing regional characteristics and attributes on regional entrepreneurship. The present paper provides an explanation of the differences in levels of regional entrepreneurship, taking into account both existing and changing regional factors. The study goes further to identify the associations between these factors and regional entrepreneurship in an economically unstable period and in a period of steady growth. The findings reveal that both existing and changing regional factors play a key role in explaining variations in the level of regional entrepreneurship, but a comparison with the results of similar studies in developed countries reveals some surprising results. It is also evident that the relationship between entrepreneurship and regional factors has changed significantly between the two given periods, which have their own distinct characteristics.

LOOKING AHEAD IN ANGER: A COMPREHENSIVE DISTRICT-LEVEL ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF FOREIGN MIGRATION ON YOUTH RESENTMENT IN ENGLAND

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By building a unique dataset merging individual data on bullying victimization among 15-years-old with administrative data on the socioeconomic outlook of the 150 English upper-tier local authorities, this paper analyzes the salience and the influence of sudden and sizeable changes in local cultural groups composition on school violence. Results from a two-level hierarchical logit model and a generalized estimating equation logit highlight: (i) robust effect of sudden and sizeable migration on school violence, even when controlling for endogeneity of immigrants' location choice and other confounding factors; (ii) robust influence of places; (iii) among controls, spatial economic polarization acting as risk factor for school bullying, whereas local economic deprivation is not; (iv) lack of cultural assimilation among pre-existing cultural groups is a moderator for the effect of the migration shock. Overall, findings reveal that sociotropic threats from migration are related to social tension also with regards to young people, extending existing evidence about adult cohorts. Moreover, they support place-based policy versus place-neutral policy targeting bullying prevention.

Keywords: resentment, bullying, migration, conflict, cultural threat, inequality, England

THE IMPACT OF FDI ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. WHAT ROLE FOR INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES?

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Mara Giua, Roma Tre University, Italy

Investment promotion agencies (IPAs) are one of the most widespread public policies adopted by national and regional governments to attract investment from multinational firms. Recent research has shown that, in Europe, regional IPAs represent an effective policy tool to increase the inflow of FDI, particularly in economically disadvantaged regions (Crescenzi et al., 2019). Is this additional FDI determined by the presence of investment promotion agencies contributing to generate value added for the host economies? The existing literature is of little help to answer these questions. This paper leverages unique information on the presence and activity of IPAs in European regions and countries to fill this gap and study the extent to which foreign capital obtained through the effort of IPAs is beneficial to the economic development of countries/regions where the agencies are operating. In particular, it develops a difference-in-differences model estimating whether the attracted FDI contributes to generate additional jobs, improvement in wages, and structural transformation in the country/region. Furthermore, it analyses the heterogeneous impact of attracted FDI across different types of sectors and regions, as well as the differential impact of national vs. regional IPAs. Our research aims to provide evidence that can inform policy-makers in their search of the most effective tools for attracting beneficial investments for their regions and countries.

REGIONAL GROWTH IN TURBULENT TIMES: THE ROLE OF HYBRIDIZATION IN EXPLAINING SUCCESSFUL PATH CREATIONS

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Hybridization aims to provide an alternative explanation for regional development, assuming that regions are complex systems open to global flows of ideas, knowledge and technology.

Hybridization explains the uneven levels of development through the different compatibility of new concepts, models, solutions (CMS) with the asymmetric contexts in which these novelties are implemented. Hybridization is a new theory that has not yet been studied at a macro scale in the long term. The aim of the presentation is, therefore, to fill this gap and find empirical evidence of the positive role of hybridization in the new paths' creation in Poland between 1931 and 2018. New path creation as CMS can be measured by the emergence of a new industry in a symmetrical context causing imitation of existing activities or in an asymmetrical context indicating the need to hybridize well-established activity with this context. The success of the hybridization process depends on both the level of contextual asymmetry and CMS compatibility. Hence understanding of this two-dimensional relationship is crucial for development policy, especially in less developed regions, which often face adapting CMS from other regions.

The presentation is divided into three parts. The first part outlines the process of hybridization and its effects. The second part empirically explains the successes and failures in creating paths (CMS) by analysing the asymmetry in different regional contexts and compatibility of new industries with the hosting context. Finally, references to regional policies for less developed regions on increasing the effectiveness of smart specialisation strategies are derived.

DECARBONATED ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHIES

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Aidan While, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom

The aim of this paper is to provide a framework for taking forward research on the geographically patterned employment and economic development impacts of decarbonisation. We consider what it means to think about decarbonisation as a form of 'economic restructuring' and its potential implications in reinforcing and working against the grain of existing patterns of uneven spatial development. The implications for employment are emphasised. The paper highlights eight key sites where decarbonisation as restructuring is unfolding. One of the distinctive contributions of the paper is to link debates about green jobs to ideas of just transition. Attention is drawn to the crucial role of the state in managing the restructuring effects of decarbonisation.

Decarbonisation is exerting growing influence on production and consumption, representing a new logic at the heart of economic activity with important implications for the spatial distribution of jobs and investment; it is a source of economic restructuring. But relatively little is known about the ways in which decarbonisation is working through business practices, employment and local economic development. In part this is because the economic and employment impacts of decarbonisation are complex as they encompass a range of economic activities and sectors and indirect and direct impacts through supply chains. Decarbonisation is also an emergent process that is changing over time in response to the opening up of new markets and the impacts of climate legislation, regulation and new carbon economies.

An increasingly amount of work is being undertaken on the implications of decarbonisation for economic development, employment and skills at national level and also at sub-national level. The notion of the 'Low Carbon and Environment Goods and Services' economic sector is now well established and forms the basis for analysis. However much of that research is at a high level of abstraction. For example, employment levels are mapped, but LCEGS analysis says little about the type or quality of employment or the characteristics of firms operating within this sector. Sales, imports and exports are mapped but this reveals little about the implications for particular firms and what that might mean for the future. At sub-national level much of the analysis is about general economic potential. Our argument is that there is a much more complex set of questions about the nature of economic change and its geographical patterning, and that understanding that complexity is crucial is appropriate choices are to be made about

intervention in economic development and employment support at national and sub-national scales.

STITCHING THE CITY: RETHINKING DOWNTOWN CAIRO THROUGH URBAN ACUPUNCTURE AFTER THE GOVERNMENT'S RELOCATION TO THE DESERT

Momen El-Husseiny, American University in Cairo, Egypt

Basil Kamel, American University in Cairo, Egypt

In the aftermath of Tahrir Square revolution of 2011, the Egyptian state decided to build an administrative capital at the eastern desert to relocate all ministries off the center leaving the future of Downtown at stake with high risks of public-space decay and gentrification. Since 2005 and the heart of the city has been the platform for political dissent leading the state to hold a set of international competitions to revitalize the city and control its dilapidating conditions: economically, socially, and environmentally – none of which were realized. This paper addresses what will happen after the governmental void in Downtown Cairo, why previous international competitions and masterplans remain obsolete and instead propose the necessity for an “organically-growing” and innovative framework for an acupuncture development that is incremental, hub-networked and people-centered. Through empirical research and content analysis, the paper challenges the frameworks of “urban design masterplans” of the international design schemes. The paper argues for an urban design approach of creative-economic hubs in Downtown empowering the role of youth-startups and venture labs already existing in universities such as the American University in Cairo. The proposed regional-hub network is based on the revolutionary work of tactical urbanism of Michel de Certeau (1980), Donn Logan and Wayne Attoe (1989), Mike Lydon and Anthony Garcia (2015), Jamie Lerner (2014), Kim Dovey (2010), Jan Gehl (2011), Jeff Speck (2018, 2012), Matthew Carmona (2007), Jannette Sadik-Khan (2017), and Mark Wyckoff (2018), towards everyday lively urbanism and creative placemaking.

LEAVING SILICON VALLEY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE HIGH-TECH REGIONS

Akira Endo, Yokohama National University, Japan

The high-tech business tends to concentrate in a few metropolitan areas. Silicon Valley (or San Francisco Bay Area) is a representative area and positioned in the top tier of the world's high-tech centers. In recent years, the venture-oriented development of Silicon Valley has faced serious urban problems (e.g. wage inequality, housing cost), that leading to the outflow of talents and companies, and decentralization of high-tech business to alternative regions (e.g. Austin, Portland, Denver in USA). There is a lot of attention to the regions, but it is still unclear what economic and spatial relationship they have had with Silicon Valley (e.g. core-periphery, coexistence without relationship, interdependent development). For examining the changing relationship, this paper picks up Portland in Oregon as a case study. Based on interviews with companies and some related statistics, we will show some signs of the growing autonomy of the Portland economy and the interdependent development with Silicon Valley. Finally, we will discuss the theoretical implication for geography of the high-tech business.

ASSESSING LOCAL COMMUNITY ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENERGY TRANSITION: THE CASE OF PORTO MARGHERA AND GELA

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Enrica Imbert, Unitelma Sapienza - University of Rome, Italy

Piergiuseppe Morone, Unitelma Sapienza - University of Rome, Italy

Edgardo Sica, University of Foggia, Italy

Cities are on the leading edge of climate change adaptation and resilience (Meerow et. al, 2016), implementing more efficient and innovative solutions to adapt to change, and to quickly transform urban systems. However, socio technical processes able to spur energy transitions appear to be still too slow (OECD/IEA, 2014:12). A key restraint on attaining such has been the fundamental challenges of managing socio-political aspects. An effective urban energy transition will require a joint effort by all concerned parties taking place also from a social and governance point of views, stimulating awareness and common knowledge able to bring all involved stakeholders to a more conscious behaviour for better supporting and accepting innovations in social structures. Building on these assumptions, this paper aims at investigating how narratives used by landscape actors could influence local policy making in the process of energy transition, by focusing on two comparative case studies, sharing a common transition path and originating in small urban contexts, namely Gela and Porto Marghera (Italy). This study employs a three-fold methodological approach. Firstly, landscape actors are identified through a stakeholder analysis. Subsequently, an assessment of the sources of pressure exerted by these actors is performed employing a discourse analysis. Finally, the actual impact of these emerging narratives in the reconversion process of the Gela and Porto Marghera refineries are assessed through semi-structured interviews addressed to different urban players (i.e. urban planners and municipal managers, community organizers and activists, etc.). Our findings can contribute to the development an informed policy view about socio-political energy insights and strategies capable of dealing with the social and institutional perspectives that influence decision-making.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL VEHICLES IN CHINA: A CASE STUDY OF JIAXING CHENGTOU

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Financial instruments have been widely used in urban development. Since the global financial crisis, it has been an urgent task to understand their operation and implications for financial risks. This paper examines emerging local government financial vehicles (LGFVs) in China. We review their history, current status and underlying financial mechanisms. Confronting the global financial crisis, China has taken a proactive strategy of investing in urban development to stimulate the economy. LGFVs have been the major instruments to finance the fiscal stimulus package. This paper investigates the case of Jiaxing urban development and investment corporation (Jiaxing Chengtou) and finds that it mainly uses bank loans and bonds to finance land and infrastructure development. To borrow from the capital market, the corporation collateralizes allocated state-owned land and enhances credits by build and transfer protocols with the city government. However, the corporation failed to pay back its loans, which has led to further borrowing. Due to the central government's control, Jiaxing Chengtou has been nominally detached from the municipal government since 2012, but it maintains a financial role. It has been re-packaged with other LGFVs to access foreign bond markets. The paper reveals how LGFVs act as a financial conduit to connect local governments with the financial market in China.

THE TERRITORIAL DETERMINANTS OF COHESION POLICY IMPACT: A TWO-STAGE ANALYSIS

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Aim of the paper is to look at what local characteristics determine the different impacts of cohesion policy in different regions. In this sense, the paper extends the new burgeoning literature investigating under what conditions regional policy is more effective.

In particular, the paper wants to test whether the differential impacts on firm growth which cohesion policy obtains in different regions are related to the characteristics of these regions, to the type of general policy support which the regions obtain or to the interactions between the two.

Methodologically, in the first step we apply propensity score matching to obtain, for the programming period 2007-13, the impact of cohesion policy support on manufacturing firms on a large sample of European Nuts2 regions. This will be the dependent variable for the second step in which, using the techniques of meta-analysis, the paper will explain why some regions get a higher and others a lower policy impact.

Conceptually, the framework of territorial capital will be used, so that the determinants of policy effectiveness will come from territorial capital database at regional level, investigated in a systemic way.

Additionally, the specific characteristics of the policy deployment will also be investigated, individually and in combination with the presence of territorial characteristics.

TERRITORIES OF SPIRITUALITIES: WHEN EXPERIENCES WITH THE SACRED CONDITION THE RELATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AND IN THE TERRITORY

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The different territories that the regions host are built between fields of social forces. In the case of contemporary spiritualities, they have been tensioning cultural traditions, dimensioning other territorial boundaries based on the codes and conventions proper to the newly constructed identities.

As new territorial dynamics present themselves, theoretical dialogues about the territory of spirituality in the New Age remain limited, putting in check the battle fought by this area of knowledge to account for the heterogeneity of regions. Therefore, if the rationalization of the social world brought with it the rejection of superstitions and genealogical traditions in favor of science and technology; New Age spiritualities have introduced individuals to a whole new lifestyle, thus transforming them into a new type of persona. In this way, more than the search for a meaning to life or self-knowledge, contemporary spiritualities express a new social dynamic.

If we recall that rational thinking has triggered profound changes in structural, social and cultural terms; It seems that the new spiritualities imbricate another philosophy to the contemporary world. Are these a new way to post abyssal thinking? The rites and codes particular to this phenomenon give rise to top down transformations through the action of individuals. Therefore, the materiality of the phenomenon is not trivial insofar as individuals are not isolated beings from the world; they are social beings inserted in a multidimensional and multiscale space of relationships. Although constituted by a notorious degree of freedom, they nonetheless present institutionalities and vertical relations that culturally delimit their territory and promote changes in social (and cultural) structures.

The new spiritual expressions are, therefore, the language of individuals as an externalization of their experiences in society. They understand other positions and new actions of individuals as a society, whose interactions in the territory are still little explored.

Everyday (intentional) actions are influenced by more reflective and much less rational thinking. These actions are forms of communication, that is, the essence of these actions convey subjective messages about the social totality. In this way, the intentional action comes from a reflective thinking that fits within the ecology of knowledge, that is, the actions materialize the semantics of the space of lived and experienced relations. However, in addition to causing changes in power structures, they also announce something. Understanding the meaning of this communication is essential to understanding the fragmentation of society.

This experience with the sacred has connected the territories with other regions, not only through (spatial and cyber) displacements, for the realization of spiritual practices and encounters, but also as strongholds of cultural and artistic expressions of social groups that live according to their own rules but in co-presence with the institutionalizations of the capitalist world. This characteristic gives territories their own identities while inserting them into the globalized world through their particularities.

The discrediting of all that is not visible has created a society of little reflective capacity. However, all praxis is validated by experience with the sensible. She who moves individuals timelessly and spatially. Therefore, language as a pillar of the organization of life in society is the link to the weaving of discourses about the subjective through the concrete.

Anchored in these explanations, we ask: How do contemporary spiritualities, through the new forms of institutionalization of the relationship with the sacred, condition the dynamics of social construction of the territory?

MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES TO 'GLOBALISE' REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF JAPAN

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Research from the perspective of clusters and innovation systems indicates that networks are important in promoting the competitiveness of regions, such as incorporating knowledge from outside the region and upgrading the regional economy in the global production network. A key driver of regional growth is the ability of a region's institutions to use appropriate regional resources. Two questions must be addressed regarding regional industrial policy: How can municipalities as regional institutions intervene to 'globalise' regional development? What are the appropriate policies for various scales of regions and municipalities? Limited research has been conducted, however, on the individual aspects of support programs or on municipalities' implemented policies. Based on a survey of the formulation and content of the international strategies of Japan's 47 prefectures and its 20 largest and 31 medium-sized city-level municipalities, we offer a regional innovation model to support a 'globalised' regional development, increasing the capability of the region to participate in global production networks by incorporating outside knowledge and increasing diversity for regional innovation. Furthermore, municipalities' participations and government-to-government connections outside the region (as 'network capital') are critical to supporting direct investment in regions, the internationalisation of supply chains and international partnerships of research and development among both local and overseas companies. Municipalities' initiatives can enhance the trust of overseas areas through intergovernmental relationships to increase the credibility of local companies and reduce transaction costs related to the international business of a globalised economy.

INNOVATION IN WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ITS FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES: A CASE OF GREECE

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There is a general shift in technology incorporation in efficiently managing cities and regions, as well as an increase for waste minimization, recycling and energy saving. This study examines the economic short and long-term consequences for Greek municipalities in waste management investment, as part of the integration in the broader “smart city” plan. We hypothesize that the financial impact varies across larger, medium and smaller-sized municipalities and is conditional on the perceived societal benefit. Partitioning our sample, we found that the financial and societal benefits are inversely correlated to the size of the considered regions, thus the higher increase occurs in medium and smaller-sized municipalities, rather than larger ones. Consistent with these results, we also document evidence of the importance of seasonality in those regions. However, such investment must also be perceived to be operational, as this can be costly and discouraging for the municipal authorities to make. These findings and observations combined, suggest that while there is a will for innovation and “smart city” implementation, the final decision depends on both the budget and the financial and societal short and long-term return on investment.

RETHINKING METROPOLITAN REGIONS: A THEMATIC-TEMPORAL-PHRONETIC APPROACH TO UNDERSTAND CONTEMPORARY METROPOLITAN CHANGE

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Despite an inspiring debate on issues around metropolitan change, planning and governance contributions which develop and operationalise broader frameworks for analysis are relatively scarce. Approaching metropolitan regions and metropolitan questions has typically taken one of two perspectives – the specificities of individual cases or establishing general principles. In this paper we argue for an alternative approach to conceptualising the planning and governance of metropolitan regions. We develop a heuristic perspective which, due to its focus on thematic, temporal, and phronetic dimensions we refer to as the TTP framework. The aim of the paper is to highlight the value of its tripartite rationale while exploring its potential to facilitate alternative international comparative research across disciplines. The paper concludes by assessing the potential application of the TTP framework beyond planning and governance.

URBAN PLANNING POLICY STYLES AND SPATIAL TRANSITIONS

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The urban environment, as a diverse socio-cultural and political context, provides the ground to shape innovations for the sustainable transformation of cities. However, the ongoing debate about sustainability transitions and its pathways towards an implementation of sustainable living conditions lacks a crucial perspective: the spatial dimension about how cities and city-regions have to facilitate, prepare, promote or implement a more sustainable future. This ‘spatial blindness’ increases factual challenges on the local level, seen both as a spatio-physical space where (new) technologies, settlements, buildings or infrastructures have to be planned, tested

and constructed, as well as socio-cultural and political environments where different actors, institutions and political arenas implement sustainability in practice.

The sustainable transformation of cities involves specific policy styles, including institutional arrangements, new forms of urban governance, political agendas, power constellations, actors, change dynamics and many other aspects. These policy styles differ between European cities, indicating that the diversity of urban planning systems and policies that influence sustainable transformations and development practices is not only a function of the plurality of legal-administrative arrangements but is influenced by an array of internal and external driving forces such as planning cultures, political cultures, social models and governance traditions.

To explain the role of urban policy styles for the sustainable transformation of cities, this paper focuses on a series of conceptual considerations aimed at developing a comparative research framework geared towards understanding recent reorientations associated with sustainability transitions of cities from a 'policy style' perspective.

Key words: urban planning; policy styles; policy instruments; policy implementation; modes of governance.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT, GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS, AND LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY: FIRM-LEVEL EVIDENCE FROM ITALY AND SPAIN

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Riccardo Crescenzi, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

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Scholars and policy makers have put great attention to the role played by inward Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) on the performance of firms in the host country. Indeed, whether and how inward FDI generates positive impacts in the host economies is still disputed. The rise of economic nationalism has called into question the benefits of economic integration, while the generalised contraction in global investment flows has alarmed economies highly reliant on foreign capital in their development model. In this context, supra-national economic (e.g. OECD) and political (e.g. European Commission) institutions continue to underline the importance of international openness and economic networking for both individual firms and territories to succeed in the global market. In particular, emphasis has been put on Global Value Chains (GVC), and on the role played by FDI and multinational companies. In this respect, heterogeneous positioning, i.e. whether a firm operates as supplier or final firm along the GVC, could help explaining why some firms and their local territorial contexts are differently gaining from FDI-related activities.

This paper aims to shed new light on these questions by disentangling the role played by GVC firms' positioning in order to explain the relationship between inward FDI and firm-level labour productivity in the host economy. To this aim, the empirical analysis employs a dataset that combines firm-level information on GVC positioning with detailed inward FDI data on geographic location and industry. The analysis covers the recent crisis period 2010-2014, and focuses on manufacturing firms from Italy and Spain – two Mediterranean countries showing a relevant participation to GVC, as well as highly diversified internal economic and labour market conditions.

SPATIAL STRUCTURE AND LONG-TERM REGIONAL INDUSTRIALISATION IN ITALY

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The topics of urban structure and regional industrial development in Italy have been widely investigated by traditional geographers and economic historians. Scholars agree that crucial events such as the redefinition of internal political borders following the unification of the country, and the early diffusion of modern infrastructures – above all, railways –, reshaped considerably the country's urban hierarchy. However, the idea that polycentric regions, as opposed to monocentric ones characterised by few large cities, could have had a different impact on regional industrialisation processes in Italy has been largely overlooked in the literature. This paper contributes to the literature by analysing whether and to which extent monocentrism – as opposed to polycentrism – shaped the industrialisation process – and, consequently, the emergence of different types of production activities – at the regional level, thus partially explaining the long-term regional disparities that still characterise the Italian economy. The empirical analysis employs a recent dataset at the level of the 20 Italian regions, that covers the period 1871-2011. The preliminary results suggest that monocentric regional structures have been associated with higher industrialisation patterns. In particular, this seems to be the case for northern and central Italian regions during the post-World War II period, as opposed to regions in the Italian Mezzogiorno, where industrialisation processes seem to have been promoted by a polycentric structure over the 1871-1951 period.

COOPERATION AGAINST THE ODDS: EU POLICIES AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN A COUNTRY WITH SMALL FIRMS AND SMALL FARMS

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Inter-firm cooperation is a way to enhance productivity in economies characterised by high fragmentation in land and business ownership. The challenge is that inter-firm cooperation is often thwarted by intractable collective action problems that are particularly difficult to resolve in institutionally-thin, low-trust settings such as Greece. Despite this difficulty, several examples of stable patterns of intense cooperation among producers do, in fact, exist in Greece. Hence, the question arises: Under what conditions can inter-firm cooperation arise at local level in Greece and other similar socioeconomic settings?

To approach this question, the paper draws on qualitative empirical evidence collected through fieldwork in five particular areas of Greece where specific types of cooperation were observed among firms in the agri-food and tourism sectors, compared to five otherwise similar (matching) cases where such patterns of cooperation failed to occur. In total, the paper relies on 83 semi-structured interviews, as well as on relevant documentary evidence (particularly on records of agricultural cooperatives and the local press).

The paper uses Elinor Ostrom's theoretical framework, according to which the supply of cooperative institutions requires a particular set of local-level conditions, and the existence of a facilitative political regime, which reduces the costs of resolving collective action problems. The paper argues that particular aspects of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy and regional policies provide some of the benefits associated with facilitative political regimes, thereby to an extent thereby mitigating some of the deficiencies of Greek formal institutions. The paper also examines the local-level conditions that need to be in place for the EU's policies to have beneficial effects on cooperation, with a focus on the importance of leadership for the formation of networks, beneficial informal institutions and trust-based relationships at the local level.

LOCAL EMBEDDEDNESS OF PRODUCTIONS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS IN ITALY

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The Geographical Indications (GIs) system represents a worldwide recognized institution that identifies and endorses, at the local level, those forms of sectorial productions which are strictly embedded with the territory where they take place. A certain production lead to be entitled as Geographical Indication if it is bearer of a territory – i.e. region-of-origin – where a series of informal habits, traditions, entrepreneurship and channels of collaboration were spontaneously born and consolidated, eventually attracting the GIs label. Do territories characterized by such a fertile contexts experiment better paths of local economic development?

We answered this question by considering most of the major GIs in the world, i.e. the wines produced in some localized Italian areas with the certification of Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita – DOCG. In order to identify the DOCG temporal and spatial dimensions, i.e. the involved areas and the starting year of the entitlement, we analysed the code of practice of all GIs existing in Italy, so that arranging a original database at the municipality level. By using Difference in Differences models, we therefore compare the dynamic performances of rural municipalities entitled with the GIs status with the correspondent performances experimented without the GIs status (a counterfactual group of similar municipalities is constructed by leveraging on a broad set of data available at the municipality level).

Preliminary results are obtained with respect to population and employment growth. They suggest that being equal all other characteristics, municipalities where GIs exist experience a better local economic development.

TWO MASS FALLACIES IN STUDIES ON REGIONAL INEQUALITY

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There are two widespread fallacious methodologies applied for analyzing regional inequality (mainly, income inequality).

The first is testing for beta-convergence, i.e. an inverse relationship between current income per capita and its initial level. Such a relationship is considered as evidence of decreasing income inequality over time. Despite criticism by Milton Friedman and others, this methodology spread progressively more since the 1990s. I prove that beta-convergence of identical economies can be compatible with time-invariant and even rising inequality (divergence). As regards conditional beta-convergence (that takes account of heterogeneity of economies), it can be accompanied with any pattern of income dynamics: global convergence, club convergence, invariability, and divergence. Besides, the fact that conditional beta-convergence holds suggests that regional income inequality would decrease, if economies were identical. Then what is an applied value of such an implication?

The second fallacy is the use of inequality indices weighted by the regions' proportions of the national population to measure regional inequality. Although such an approach arose more than fifty years ago, it did not receive a serious substantiation to this day. And it could not: I prove that this methodology is conceptually inconsistent, yielding an estimate of interpersonal inequality among the whole population of the country rather than an estimate of regional inequality. (And be it considered as a measure of interpersonal inequality, such an estimate is overly rough – up to misleading – and not always has an intuitive interpretation.) Moreover, the

population-weighted inequality indices do not meet the requirements for an adequate inequality measure.

RESOURCE FORMATION AND MULTISCALAR INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES IN LOCAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: THE ONLINE GAME INDUSTRY IN SHANGHAI AND HAMBURG

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The question why the same industry shows distinct fates in different regions is interesting from an economic-geographical point of view. So far, the mechanism through which such different developmental trajectories occur has not been explored satisfactorily. Based on the development paths of one industry—the online game industry, in two city-regions—Shanghai and Hamburg, this paper fills this gap. It contributes to the recent industrial path development literature by linking resource mobilization processes to the multiscalar institutional structures. The central argument is that the dynamic agency-structure relations serve as the causal mechanism that leads to different local industrial development outcomes. Furthermore, it also brings the ‘national’ back into the existing ‘multiscalar’ views on regional path development.

ASPIRATION AMIDST INEQUALITY: MIDDLE-CLASS MIGRANTS TO ‘LEFT BEHIND’ REGIONS

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So-called ‘left behind’ regions have lately gained infamy as sites of working-class discontent, wont to take their revenge. Yet, as researchers and the media alike descend upon the darker blots of electoral and economic maps, another phenomenon has gone unremarked: the making of middle-class lives amidst spatial inequalities. In this paper, we examine how middle-class migrants (defined by economic, social and cultural capital) to left behind regions envisage and enact their lifestyle aspirations. While policy typically presumes migration to economically successful urban centres, or to regions offering employment opportunities, we argue that migrant trajectories that appear on the surface as a socio-economic ‘downgrade’ actually reveal how quality of life and spatial inequalities can intersect. Our analysis proceeds through a qualitative case study of West Wales and the Valleys, a ‘less developed’ NUTS2 region predominantly composed of rural and post-industrial geographies correlated with out-migration. Drawing on interviews with in-migrants from Germany, Romania and elsewhere in the UK, alongside long-term ‘stayers,’ we illustrate how three dimensions of quality of life – material, relational, and subjective – are mobilised in middle-class migrants’ placemaking amidst economic peripherality. We demonstrate: 1) how spatial inequalities can offer those whose class position is less secure the ability to afford aspirational lifestyles; 2) how middle-class migrants to left behind regions intentionally pass over career opportunities in favour of material affordability; and, 3) how a ‘middle-class gaze’ enables migrants to identify aspects of the region that they can transform into cultural capital, despite – and sometimes due to – its economic peripherality.

THE ROLE OF PLACE BASED ACTORS AND INSTITUTIONS IN LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT ECOSYSTEMS PROMOTING SMALL FIRMS' PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

Anne Green, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Small businesses lie at the heart of many local economies. Maximising their employment potential and promotion of their adoption of productivity enhancing practices are central features of regional and local economic development strategies. Although small firms may have an intuitive interest in productivity, their understanding of it is often partial. They tend to prioritise other aspects of performance. Short-term issues of business survival demand foremost attention and they may lack the resources or management capability to see how they could improve productivity. This paper examines the role of place-based actors and institutions in supporting productivity in small businesses. It draws on ongoing work on microbusinesses in the West Midlands and key features of the changing business support ecosystem. It also reflects on the experience of selected government and businesses/intermediaries co-investment projects under the UK Futures Programme (run by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills), which tested different means of tackling low productivity. It looks specifically at sustainability of these projects and the contributors and barriers to success. In the context of ongoing change in provision of business support it highlights the role of universities and other local anchor institutions in developing leadership and entrepreneurship skills in small firms in low productivity regions. It emphasises how geography can motivate and enable small business engagement in productivity improvement initiatives and also the importance of creating time and space for serendipity to operate.

BREXIT AND THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE UK'S FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR

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Despite largely flat growth since the 2007-8 financial crisis, financial services remain an important part of the UK's economy. In 2018, it contributed £131.9bn to the UK economy, or 6.9% of the total. Moreover, UK financial services (including insurance) are estimated to make total tax contributions of £75bn in 2018, 10.9% of total tax receipts (including income tax, national insurance, corporation tax VAT and business rates). This paper examines the implications of the UK's changing relationship with the EU on this sector. Brexit has already impacted UK financial services with largely flat growth since the 2016 referendum result. However, the impacts of Brexit will be geographically uneven and extend beyond London's international financial centre where the majority of academic, popular and political attention has focused to date. In response, in this paper I explore the impacts of Brexit on regional financial centres across the UK, revealing how for some cities, the relative impacts will be much more marked than in London, despite their seemingly smaller reliance on financial services. In so doing, I reveal the importance of attending to the legal and regulatory basis of financial services and the ways in which these networks underpin the changing relations between London, other UK cities and the EU's financial services market.

WHITHER REGIONAL PLANNING?

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Mark Tewdwr-Jones, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Since Regional Studies was founded in 1967, planning and planners have been central to understanding cities and regions. In the first ever issue of the journal the opening four papers all

had “regional plan” or “regional planning” in their title. Yet as Regional Studies celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017 planning is facing powerful challenges – professionally, intellectually, practically – in ways arguably not seen before. Recent developments and trends are therefore raising fundamental questions about the ‘p’ word (planning) in academic and policy circles. We can point to how planning is no longer solely the domain of professional planners but has been opened up to a diverse group of actors who are involved in place-making and place-shaping. We can observe how the study of cities and regions traditionally had a disciplinary home in planning schools (geography departments, and the like) but this link with place and space disciplines is being steadily eroded as research increasingly takes place in and through interdisciplinary research institutes. We can point to the advent of real-time modelling of cities and regions, and the challenges this poses for the type of long-term perspective that planning has traditionally afforded at a time, and in a society, where immediacy and short-termism are the watchwords. We can reflect on ‘regional planning’ and its mixed record of achievement. And we can also recognise how the link between ‘region’ and ‘planning’ has been decoupled as alternative regional (and other spatial) approaches to planning have emerged in conjunction with more networked and relational forms of place-making, and the re-imagination of the urban and the region in the current period. In this paper we move beyond the narrow confines of existing debate to outline a new agenda and provide a forum for debating what planning is, and should be, for in regional studies.

ON THE SLIPPERY SLOPES OF DECONTEXTUALIZATION IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Robert Hassink, Kiel University, Germany

Huiwen Gong, Kiel University, Germany

Economic geography is essentially about describing, analyzing and explaining economic activities in real places. Current paradigms and perspectives in economic geography share a critical stance to positivistic thinking in geographical economics and criticize universal spatial laws developed by geographical economists, which are apparently able to accurately predict the behavior and decisions of economic actors in any place (neutral space), disregarding context. Instead, they emphasize the importance of geographical context, particularity and differentiation, as well as historical contingency and often use critical realism as an epistemological foundation. Logically following from that is the use of qualitative case-study research, based on thick descriptions and deep contextualization. However, this does not mean that research findings cannot have any trans-contextual relevance. Therefore, the key challenge is to identify the part of the research findings that can be decontextualized. However, this is by no means an easy task and several attempts have actually led to dangerous “half-way de-contextualization” (Maloutas, 2011: 40). Moreover, so far decontextualization has hardly been discussed in economic geography, remaining largely a black box. This paper therefore focuses on the process, possibilities and limitations of decontextualization for theorizing in economic geography. It does so by discussing and analyzing the emergence, development and diffusion of two recent popular concepts, namely related and unrelated variety and the differentiated knowledge base approach. Overall, this paper helps to make sure that economic geography finds its way between overly descriptive accounts of individual cases without general validity and grossly, cursory and dangerously decontextualizing research findings.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY INSTITUTIONS – CONCEPTIONS OF SPATIAL RELATIONS OF INSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES

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Bo Persson, Linköping University, Sweden

This paper discusses how institutions for regional development changes in interaction with economic development. The aim is to investigate the interplay between regional development and sub-national policy institutions for economic development. The research design is a comparative study of three cities. The theoretical context of this paper is the scholarly debate of regional studies integrating concepts of historical institutionalism for analysing industrial restructuring and uneven regional development. The discussion of the paper centres around how the employment of institutionalism into regional studies relates to considerations on policy institutions, place contexts/spatial relations, and trajectories of path-dependency over time. The empirical cases comprise three second-tier cities in Sweden representing urban environments with different development pathways. The empirical material for the paper comprises secondary data on industrial structure and economic development, primary data from interviews with informants for policy institutions for the cities, and political documents. The analytical scheme focuses institutional processes of feedback effects, layering, conversion and recombination. The empirical results reveal how institutional processes play out in different ways for the different cities. The study identifies how feedback effects may trigger lock-in situations and primarily path extension as well as dynamic development through path branching and path modernisation. The concluding section explores the question on spatial relations of institutional processes and how these may be multi-scalar or local. It is argued that spatial relations of institutional processes have important policy implications through the way it impacts the capacity of regional policy coalitions to mobilise for regional development.

THE TERRITORIAL COMPONENT OF ISRAEL'S MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE REFORM

Tali-Noy Hindi, Technion, Israel

Globalization and technological changes positively affect the Israeli economy growth. However, it deepens the spatial inequality between the center and the Israeli periphery and even creates a 'dual-economy' phenomena.

Furthermore, the institutional structure of the Israeli governance system is characterized by administrative dysfunction of government ministries and local authorities in solving complex problems and providing quality services to the residents in the periphery. These mega-trends lead to deprivation feelings and disaffection among residents and communities in Israel.

Since 2008, the Ministry of Interior has been promoting a new strategy known as the 'New Regionalism for Israel' aimed at encouraging regional development and promoting voluntary collaborations (inspired by the French Communauté de Communes model) between local authorities. This initiative has expanded to government piloting and resulting in legal recognition.

Against this backdrop, an Advisory Team of experts and researchers was formed in order to design a vision, policy alternatives and operational goals for a broad decentralization reform, which calls for a redistribution of authority, responsibility, and resources between the central government and subnational hierarchies.

One of the key tasks of the advisory team was to outline the geographical distribution of the new regional stratum. This work of territorial decentralization was done by a four-step methodology: (a) Choosing variables for GIS Data-layers (b) Analyzing & creating alternatives (c) criteria debate (d) scoring process.

Then another discussion was held, at the center of which was whether the chosen alternative would create an optimal balance between economies of scale and community needs, accessibility and cohesion.

COMETH THE MARKET, COMETH THE COMMUNITY— INSTITUTIONAL LOGICS OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Meiling Hong, Ningbo University of Finance & Economics, China

Prior studies have acknowledged that entrepreneurial ecosystems are shaped by place-based culture, and the influences of culture can be signalled by entrepreneurs' behaviours. Institutional logic serves as an effective tool to uncover the patterns of related behaviours, schemas, and goals in entrepreneurial ecosystems. However, there are limited tools to conduct empirical research about institutional logics that entrepreneurs widely sense and follow to conduct their behaviours. This paper identifies the institutional logics dominating entrepreneurial ecosystems and guiding entrepreneurs, market logic and community logic. Market logic involves activities that are profit-oriented, such as marketing, R&D, and the pursuit of low-cost. Community logic involves activities that are altruism, such as entrepreneur-peers social and investment recommendation. Through a qualitative analysis of 34 interviews with technology entrepreneurs in Shenzhen, China, this paper initially lists measurement items of institutional logics in ecosystems. Further, with 118 questionnaires, the items are tested and refined via structured equation model. This paper establishes measurements for the institutional logics dominating entrepreneurial ecosystems which provide an empirical approach to cross-ecosystem studies, and contributes to the understanding place-based culture that guiding entrepreneurs' behaviours in ecosystems.

Keywords: entrepreneurial ecosystem, institutional logic, market logic, community logic

EU FUNDS IN NUTS3 REGIONS: GAP IN THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE OR INSUFFICIENT DATA?

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Over the years the European Union's regional policy generated a considerable amount of scientific studies. The different researches I have reviewed are rarely focusing on the NUTS3 level distribution of the beneficiaries of EU funds. Additionally to that, even if the criterion to decide which region could benefit from Cohesion Fund, ESF and ERDF is GDP/capita, I could not find articles answering the following question: is there a statistically significant relation between the territorial distribution of EU funds beneficiaries and the GDP of NUTS3 regions (mostly counties).

I would like to focus my presentation at the RSA Winter conference on the following question: is there a statistically significant relation between the territorial distribution of EU funds beneficiaries (EUR/inhabitant) and the GDP per capita of NUTS3 regions. In my presentation I will use two types of data. The first database contains the EU funded projects at NUTS3 level for the 2007-2013 budgetary period and I will analyze the cases of Hungary, Poland and Romania. The second database is The historic EU payments - regionalized and modeled of the European Commission, which will allow to put the same question at the EU level, and to verify if there is a difference between Objective 1 regions and all other regions.

Finally, at the end of my presentation, I will discuss the limitations of this approach and what could it add to the ongoing discussions about the role and scope of the EU's regional policy.

EMERGING LOCAL RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN CHINA

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To support regional development of metropolitan areas such as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, the Yangtze River Delta and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei agglomerations in China, multi-tier local railway system is proposed and developed by the joint efforts of the provincial and city governments. The development of local railway system adopted a more complicated financing model integrating various land value capture tools and government financial arrangement. Local railway development corporations are playing an emerging role in the fund raising and investment process.

This paper will explore the organization and financing structure of ongoing intercity railway and city metro projects in Guangdong Province over the last decade. Implications for transit-oriented development such as coordination between railway network pattern and urban land use restructuring will also be discussed.

'STEPPING UP' IN REGIONAL HORTICULTURE VALUE CHAINS THROUGH STATE REGULATION AND COLLECTIVE ACTION: POTENTIALS AND LIMITS IN NORTH-EASTERN NAMIBIA

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Against the background of ongoing debates on uneven development caused by non-participation in Global Value Chains, this contribution addresses the role of institutions in upgrading rudimental regional value chains in agriculture. Recent debates on smallholder producers in countries of the Global South have empathised on the potential of endogenous collective action to achieve value chain participation and livelihood wellbeing. In addition, top-down institutions are generally understood as central drivers of connecting regions to Global Value Chains.

Based on qualitative data from two field phases in Namibia in 2018 and 2019, we focus on potentials and limits of state-driven and endogenous, collective initiatives for 'stepping up' strategies (invest in scale and productivity and diversification of existing activities) in horticulture value chains. Our results show that although the government is facilitating the sector through production forecasting and border-closing, horticulture farmers on communal land still face several market- and environment-related insecurities in their daily activities. On the one hand, the domestic market is protected from outside competition but on the other market irregularities have aggravated farmers to exploit their full productive potential. Simultaneously, farmers increasingly engage in collective action to cope with insecurities especially in regard to marketization. This empirical case contributes to theoretical and development-policy debates on how to organise sustainable agrarian pathways in rural areas of the Global South and the potential of endogenous initiatives compared to governmental facilitation.

UNIVERSITIES, STUDENTS AND REGIONAL ECONOMIES: A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP?

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This paper examines the effect of Higher Education Institutions' (HEI) students on regional economies in the UK using a general equilibrium perspective. Most of the current estimates are based on the direct expenditure effect generated, assuming that local economies are equally capable to benefit from this spending. We argue that, since regional industrial structures differ, the capacity to benefit from local expenditure varies, and this significantly affects the benefits a region receives from a local university. Our hypothesis is that a student with a typical consumption pattern, has a different impact on each regional economy once we account for production leakages, spillovers to other regions and feedback effects.

We use the novel EUREGIO dataset to develop a Multiregional Input-Output model for UK NUTS2 regions and data from the Living Costs and Food Survey and the Bridge Matrix from ONS' Supply and Use Tables to obtain student consumption patterns. The results show the share of the regional Gross Value Added (GVA) and jobs by skill levels that depend on students, but also the different multiplier effects per each pound spent in a local economy.

The analysis identifies a symbiotic relationship between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and their host regions and highlights the varying capacity of regions to benefit from students within their area. The policy implications suggest that increasing the number of students is not the only – and may not be the best – approach in increasing regional benefits from local HEIs.

Keywords: Regional Economies, Higher Education Institutions, Impact Multipliers, Consumption Patterns, Multiregional Input-Output Model

THE CHALLENGES OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS IN POLAND: THE CASES OF KRAKOW AND WARSAW

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The concept of entrepreneurial ecosystems (EEs) has attracted the attention of both academic and policy circles (Stam, 2015; Spigel, 2017; Szerb et al., 2019). However, the concept has also attracted recent criticism with scholars raising a number of key issues ranging from a lack of a widely accepted definition of EEs (Mason and Brown, 2014) to the better understanding of causal links within it (Alvedalen and Boschma, 2017) and to how EEs benefit the entrepreneur (Spigel, 2018).

In particular, there is a need to better understand the consequences of deficiencies in EE elements and their interaction (Mack and Mayer, 2016). At the same time, 'place' has come to occupy a prominent position in recent economic development debates (Barca et al., 2012), yet more needs to be understood about the place-based nature of EEs (O'Connor et al., 2018). In this sense, Alvedalen and Boschma (2017) call for more comparative case study research on EEs. Moreover, there has been little focus on how regional policy can address EE deficiencies through a place-based approach (Mack and Mayer, 2016).

This paper addresses these debates through a case study of entrepreneurial ecosystems in Poland, drawing on 23 preliminary in-depth interviews with entrepreneurs and stakeholders from the cities of Krakow, Malopolska, and Warsaw, Mazowieckie. The interviews highlight that both EEs are constrained by different deficiencies in their elements and disjointedness in their interaction. The insights highlight the need for a place-based policy approach to address the challenges and facilitate the development of EEs.

EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CHANGE OF POPULATION MOVEMENT FACTORS USING PUBLIC OPEN BIG DATA: FOCUSED ON THE SEOUL METROPOLITAN AREA

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Population movement, a common socioeconomic phenomenon around the world, take place in a variety of ways, from voluntary shifts from low-living to higher-living areas to compulsory shifts such as gentrification. From an urban and regional perspective, this population movement is critical in that it can naturally reduce the socioeconomic gap between individuals that may arise from spatial inequality, such as the supply and demand of housing, infrastructure and jobs. Meanwhile, socioeconomic changes such as the second demographic transition, conflict in the WTO system and the return of manufacturing to the First World, and refugees from Central Asia have recently emerged, which cannot be explained by existing research on population movement. Therefore, this study aims to further understand the impact of rapidly changing socioeconomic changes on population movement by utilizing public open big data. First, the analysis method utilizes the gravity model. Second, the spatial scope is set to Korea, which is suitable for tracking population movement, by rapidly achieving democratization and industrialization after World War II. Third, the time scope is set from 1995 to 2018 when Korea was incorporated into the WTO regime. Variables are population movement, distance and various socioeconomic regional characteristics. As a result, the younger the generation were, the more likely the socioeconomic changes, such as the demographic structure, were to have effect on population movement. On the other hand, the older the generation were, the more likely the impact of traditional factors such as housing supply and jobs on population movement was.

IS HIGH-SKILLED MIGRATION BENEFICIAL FOR GROWTH IN THE SOURCE ECONOMIES?

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In the last decades high-skilled migration as a complex and non-unidirectional process has become an increasingly discussed topic among researchers and policy makers. This study seeks to identify the economic effects of high-skilled migration to the UK for the source countries in Central and Eastern Europe (EU8). By using newly available data for the 2004 – 2016 period, provided by International Passenger Survey, Eurostat and country-specific statistical data authorities, econometric time series analysis methods of structural vector autoregression and cointegration were applied. The results have shown a positive short-term and a negative long-term effect of brain emigration on regions' economic indicators. Overall, the study findings imply a negative view of high-skilled migration from EU8 and are broadly consistent with the findings of previous "harmful brain drain" scholars. The study ends by calling for a more sophisticated debate on free flows of brains and on a more accurate and effective policy. Structural reforms in education and targeted investments in R&D in sending countries may save the investment in human capital, offset the migration of high-skilled and encourage return of brains.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING POLICIES IN SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED TOWNS

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We build on an earlier study that scrutinized the development of employment towards business centres or bedroom communities in all 152 Swiss small and medium-sized towns (SMSTs) (Kaufmann and Wittwer 2019). Swiss SMSTs are interesting objects to study because they are integrated in a polycentric urban system and they enjoy a comparatively very high local autonomy. In this study, we examine regional and local explanatory factors that affect the development of employment by making use of multimethod research techniques (Seawright 2016). The case selection of four SMSTs for a qualitative case analysis is based on spatial regression models. We chose two pairs of cases to control for regional explanatory factors (Bülach and Dübendorf located in Zürich North; Schlieren and Spreitenbach located in Zürich West). The comparative case study suggests that sophisticated local spatial planning policies (so-called archipelago zoning via detailed land use plans) are the only relevant local policy instruments that can influence employment development in SMSTs. In a next analytical step, we try to incorporate these local spatial planning policies into our regression model. It seems that spatial planning and especially zoning is important beyond their main purpose because these policies are able to influence not only the spatial development but also the economic development of Swiss SMST.

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AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION MOBILITY AND INDUSTRY DECLINE: A CASE STUDY OF LOCAL CITIES IN KOREA

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Recently, in cities around the world, there is a phenomenon in which cities shrink along with a decrease in population. Accordingly, research on shrinking cities is under way in Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan. The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between population movement and industrial decline to identify the causes of the creation of shrinking cities. Through this, we will analyze the characteristics of shrinking cities. To analyze the relationship between population movement and industrial decline, local cities in Korea were studied. Korea entered a period of low growth since 2000 after a period of high growth from the 1970s to the 1990s. Provincial cities declined due to the outflow of population to other cities due to industrial decline, development of transportation, and development of new cities. For this reason, it is easy to observe the relationship between population movement and industrial decline.

I used system dynamics to analyze the relationship between population movement and industrial decline. The analysis was conducted using variables such as business establishment permit, population movement, changes in traffic conditions, and construction of nearby new cities.

As a result of the analysis, there is an interaction between population movement and industrial decline. The decline in manufacturing caused a movement in population, which reduced the purchasing power of the city, causing the service industry to decline. Conversely, areas with

reduced populations due to the development of new cities saw the service industry first decline and manufacturing industry declined.

SPATIAL DISPARITIES AND GOVERNANCE OF LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS IN THE UK AND JAPAN

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With the growing prominence of “cities”, “city regions” and “mega-city regions” in the global economy as well as a global trend to devolution, institutional dynamics of both urban and non-urban, as well as regional policy governance remains a promising avenue of comparative research. The (re)configurations of local institutions are often conditioned by place-specific change dynamics, which are increasingly characterised and portrayed as entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems. We discuss the role and scope of industrial and innovation policy in relation to spatial disparities and governance by examining two different national contexts over the last three decades. While the UK and Japan have both been traditionally understood as centralised systems, “core-periphery structures” in the two countries have been changing somewhat differently, with varying width and depth of local government initiatives. In this context, better knowledge about governance arrangements in specific national and local contexts is needed in order to understand how a particular place and its ecosystem, including various intermediaries and support organisations, can leverage their local assets and capabilities to meet diverse national and local goals. The paper situates the UK and Japanese experiences within their evolving historical contexts, and examines the policy development, changes in the scope and impacts respectively, by reviewing policy goals (metrics), evaluative methodologies, and complementarities.

DIGITAL ECONOMY IN THE UK REGIONS: THE PRODUCTIVITY EFFECTS FOR EARLY ADOPTERS

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The importance of the digital economy and infrastructure on the national economic performance in recent years is well documented. However, most studies tend to focus on the contemporaneous effects of access to infrastructure and adoption of technology on economic performance without considering lagged effects.

In this paper we propose a framework where the engagement with the digital economy has an effect on the productivity of UK regions. In particular, we map the early adoption patterns of digital economic activities in UK regions and test whether they can explain differential productivity among UK regions. Gaining an understanding of such effects can provide valuable design and evaluation insights to digital economy strategies.

We use a unique dataset from the Internet Archive, which contains millions of URLs of webpages within the .uk domain. While the geographical dimension of these data enables us to study the spatiality of the online commercial activities, its time dimension enables us to identify regions with early adopters of such technologies.

These proxies are utilised in an econometric framework using panel data techniques to test the effect of early adoption of digital technologies on regional productivity subject to several controls. The results highlight the importance of early engagement with the digital economy and provide implications for the design and evaluation of policy interventions that improve access to digital infrastructure for lagging regions in the UK.

WHAT DRIVES THE LOCATION CHOICE OF NEW MANUFACTURING PLANTS IN GERMANY?

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About 30 years after German reunification a persistent gap in different firm performance measures exists between East and West Germany. In this paper I focus on the differences in new German manufacturing plants' location choices across the German district-free cities and districts and investigate its regional determinants. For that purpose, I construct a novel, rich regional- and firm-level dataset based on the Official Firm Statistics from the German Federal Statistical Office and the Offices of the Laender. The analysis provides first time evidence how in particular the location decision of firms in the German economy is influenced by regional road infrastructure as well as regional structural funding. The effects are economically important and significant. The results reveal that a 10 percent increase in firm agglomeration increases the odds of a new plant to locate in the region by 12 percent. A 10 percent decrease of travel time on roads increases the odds of a plant to locate by 4 percent in overall Germany, by 7.6 percent among East German regions and by 26.5 percent in particular for large plants in the East German regions. A 10 percent larger population increases the odds to locate by 8.7 percent. A 10 percent increase in regional structural funding for infrastructure purposes increases the odds to locate in a region in East Germany by 8.3 percent in particular for large plants. Policy implications emerge that address in particular the improvement of infrastructure and support to reap off benefits that arise from agglomeration externalities.

EU FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER THE BIGGEST ENLARGEMENT. ONE-, TWO- OR MULTI-SPEED UNION?

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The fifteenth anniversary of the EU's biggest expansion is an excellent opportunity to tilt and reflect on the social policy of the European Union in a regional context. For the 'new' Member States, joining the EU held the implicit promise of convergence to the Western European standard of living. Those expectations were accompanied by some concerns, among others related to the loss of identity or independence. On the other hand, beforehand on May 1, 2004, the European Union has never been so diversified. The abolition of these differences has become one of the principles of EU „the notion of convergence is at the heart of our Economic Union.” (EC, 2015).

It turned out, that during these 15 years events that could not be foreseen, such as economic crisis, Brexit, refugees crisis and upsurge of anti-European political forces. Therefore, questions about the place of convergence in an increasingly differentiated future of the EU's integration arise. Multi-speed Europe in various forms and guises is considered.

The paper aims to analyse the paths of social convergence, according to the new methodology developed by Eurofound (2018). Such a procedure allows showing how the EU's regions of developed over the last 15 years. Indicate clearly whether the one-speed union is possible or are we already in multi-speed reality. The article will also attempt to indicate the desired directions of changes in regional policy in the social context.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF INTER-REGIONAL POLICY TRANSFER: THE IMPORTATION OF DUTCH AND GERMAN SELF-BUILT HOUSING MODELS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

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The government of the United Kingdom is keen to address the fact that self-build housing accounts for a mere 8% of new homes constructed, standing in stark contrast to the likes of Germany (60%) and Austria (80%). Having identified a number of benefits of greater owner-involvement, this is seen as a significant missed opportunity for delivering lower carbon homes in the aftermath of the government's much maligned zero-carbon homes policy. Seeking to get beyond the numbers, in this paper we report on the findings from empirical engagement with two recent case studies where innovative, self-provided housing policy instruments have been imported into the UK from elsewhere in Europe in order to facilitate the delivery of better quality homes. Rather than being driven by national government, the importation of these ideas is the result of forward thinking local and regional authorities as well as climate concerned private citizens. By engaging both recent regional studies scholarship on policy transfer (Dabrowski et al. 2018), and more established work on 'policy mobility' within urban geography (Baker et al. 2016), the paper argues for conceptual space in which to encourage place-based innovation which consists of engaged citizens drawing on policy cultures from elsewhere. While work on policy mobility powerfully argues about the neoliberal roll-back of the state's mandate, in the era of city and place-based action on the climate-emergency, understanding how to maximise both the innovation and aspirations of impassioned citizens offers a powerful tool for local and regional governments seeking to steer the zero-carbon transition.

HOW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY TRANSITION REGULATIONS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS IN A NATIONAL CONTEXT PERTAINING TO THE EU-15 MEMBER STATES. THE CASE OF THE FRENCH ENERGY TRANSITION LAW FOR GREEN GROWTH

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This study aims at examining how the implementation of energy transition regulations may contribute to the accomplishment of the SDGs in EU national context. The method of research is based on an in-depth analysis of the French Energy Transition Law for Green Growth and its multiples interconnections and potential repercussions for energy transition processes in society, environmental sustainability and social design of future urban environment. Its results may suggest that ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all implies associating other social variables to account in the design of policy proposals. From a theoretical perspective, this work contributes to policy-making processes on the subject of the multilevel implementation and the prevention of those underlying organizational constituents that might potentially undermine its accomplishment. From a utilitarian perspective, the findings of this research encapsulate promising implications not only for policy makers but also for any public or private institution that pursue the continual conjunction between a more clean and natural energy provision and the achievement of the most ambitious challenge concerning environment humankind is facing: combating climate change.

THE BLACK BOX OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Consistent regional development efforts are a matter of setting the right understanding framework for the regional development projects. Each project descriptions thus serve as an understanding framework to either enable or constrain the potential of regional development projects to rise from networking to partnership. In an analysis of five regional development projects understanding, all five projects emphasize on knowledge sharing, relationship building and developing competence mirroring OECD's description of Innovation as a growth driver. But to secure growth by producing opportunities for the involved actors, a changed understanding among project development actors is needed, which starts with identifying the black box and then turn it from opaque to transparent.

RESEARCHERS AS BOUNDARY SPANNERS

Peter Wilgaard Larsen, Aalborg University, Denmark

For universities to accomplish their 'third mission', researchers are supposed to engage themselves in problem solving processes with external actors, but to successfully cross organizational boundaries between the universities and the outside world is easier said than done. Rather than developing new collaborative approaches in dealing with practitioners, this paper applies action research as a dual process of participation that elaborates the exchange knowledge process of boundary spanning. Two comparative case studies have been selected because of their similarities in practice and their differences in outcome making them suitable for studying a researcher performing boundary spanning activities. This study has shown that when contact, negotiation and knowledge exchange have been completed in an effort to advance the change process in the organization and certify preliminary findings in the research process, the researcher has succeeded as a boundary spanner. But to be involved in an organization's change process and concurrently involve practitioners in the research process calls upon a certain degree of chaos, uncertainty and messiness why boundary spanning activities such as establishing contact, upholding contact, re-establishing contact, negotiating collaborative terms, and satisfying practitioners' non-research related demands take a great amount of time away from doing research. Hence, this paper argues for the necessity of earmarking university resources to researchers that assume the role as boundary spanners.

FINANCIALISATION AND HOUSING DEBTS IN CHINA

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A booming property market during the past two decades has boosted the financialisation process of housing purchases in China, particularly for commercial bank mortgage loan and housing provident fund (HPF) development. This paper pioneers the 2017 Chinese Urban Housing Questionnaire Survey among six cities to explore the impact of using financial instruments on housing debt levels and debt ratios at household level, specifically focusing on housing type attributes and socio-economic factors. In the first part, the empirical framework estimates that second-hand commercial housing buyers in fact bear higher debt than new commercial house buyers, one explanation would be that new housing buyers aim for investment with sufficient capitals. In addition, the paper identifies that government employees have higher debt level but lower debt ratios in comparison with other occupations, reflecting

their special job status to access bank mortgages and HPF loans for purchasing high quality houses. In the second part, this paper attempts to update the results of Li (2010) for analysing loan-to-value ratio (LTV) and commercial bank mortgage usages at city level. In the descriptive section, we find that individual savings and parental contributions are still the main sources for housing purchase in China on both one-time payment and down payment. Further, people in the family formation stage tend to use a mortgage loan and socio-economic factors are not significant at city level. These results are consistent with Li (2010) to a large extent.

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY AND POPULISM: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Recent populist movements, including Brexit, Trump, and the Gilets Jaune, have been intrinsically geographical. Since the financial crisis, a large literature has developed on the geographical determinants of populism in advanced democracies. This paper systematically reviews this literature. It considers determinants such as changing economic structure, relative economic decline, austerity and changing public service provision, migration patterns, population sorting, and political movements. It identifies differences in the causes of different populist movements and highlights some of the main empirical challenges facing research in this area, including consideration of the problem of the ecological fallacy. It concludes with implications for future research.

ANIMATING THE ANCHOR ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES: TOWARDS A 'VISIBLE' AND SUSTAINABLE MODEL OF ENGAGING WITH EXPERTS IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

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Lisa Goodson, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Community-engaged research within the higher education or university sector is wide-ranging. However, because working with communities is often time-consuming and difficult to carry out it does not fall into the business model of universities. Consequently, staff often get involved in community-led research where they have close ties to particular communities or have a specialist interests. This results in a patchwork of community engaged activities across the HE sector and often means that relationships between communities and the HE sector are dependent on key individuals. When these change the relationship can be lost. Such networks and relationships are increasingly threatened because of the push to commodify the HE sector and its services and compete globally and as universities become ever more 'privatised' spaces. However, there is an increasing need for communities to be supported and understand the wider context in which community development takes place. This is especially the case as globalisation and urbanisation intensifies resulting in increased financialization and pressure on urban areas. In this context there is an increasing need to strengthen the link between local communities and corporate/civic society at all spatial scales. Drawing on research and community engagement as part of a 3 year, multi-partner ERDF project (USE-IT! - Unlocking Social and Economic Innovation Together), this paper sets out an agenda for a new relationship with experts in communities and universities as leverage 'anchor' institutions to create an anchor out of community.

ANALYSING THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF USING HOUSING PROPERTY TAX AS A CONTINUOUS LAND VALUE CAPTURE MECHANISM IN CHINA: A REVIEW OF STAKEHOLDERS' PERCEPTIONS

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China, the largest developing country in the world, has experienced rapid urbanization. This process needed considerable financial support, and by making use of the state-owned status of urban land local governments in China successfully captured the increment in land value by selling land use right through auction. This was a successful case of land value capture (LVC), in which public investments have been effectively recovered. However, though China has an effective LVC mechanism during urbanization, it lacks continuous, long-term LVC mechanisms which can recover the cost of maintenance of public services. Combining with other factors such as the development stage of the country and heated housing speculation, China needs a more sustainable LVC mechanism. Housing property tax has been considered as a tool to control speculation and an alternative to land-selling income in China. There are worries, though, that introducing housing property tax may generate panic in the real estate market and threaten the economy. However, these worries are mostly theoretical and the opinions of the stakeholders have not been fully researched. Therefore, this research considers normal residents and local governments as the major stakeholders and identify their perceptions of the prospective housing property tax. The results indicate that market panic may not occur and people are unlikely to drastically dispose their housing properties. However, in order to control the impact government may take a conservative approach at the beginning, which means housing property tax could not be an effective LVC mechanism in the near future.

RAIL PLUS PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA--TOWARDS TRANSIT-CENTERED VALUE CAPTURE APPROACH

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In recent years, Chinese cities experienced unprecedented infrastructure boom, especially the construction and extension of subway networks in big and medium-sized cities. This phenomenon is pushed forward by 'developmental state', under the belief that infrastructure spending is an effective stimulus for GDP growth. Aggressive state-led spending relies on the approach of land financing, which is a mechanism of city-wide macro-value capture that generates one-off revenue through exploitation of urban-rural divide. The author explores a current shift from land finance towards transit-centered land value capture approach, by examining the pilot case of Rail plus Property (R+P) model in Shenzhen, under the influence of Hong Kong's R+P model. The study traces the trial-and-error approach in experimentation of R+P model that leverages partnership between transit company, public sector and developer to capture land value premiums surrounding transit projects and policies that informed such changes. As a result, Shenzhen metro company has turned into an experienced real estate developer. The finding provides empirical support for feasibility of R+P development for state-owned metro company in mainland China which is comparatively important for other Chinese cities as well as highlight challenges and risks to the current model in the case of real estate market downturn.

DOMESTIC TERRITORIAL POLITICS AS A PRECONDITION OF THE 'BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE': THE EMERGENCE OF THE CHINA-EU TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAY

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The emergence and expansion of China's 'Go Abroad' and 'Belt and Road Initiative' has received significant research attention in the social sciences. Less explored, though no less important, is the relationship between these strategies and a major condition of possibility – inter-city territorial politics as expressed through the urbanization of capital. This paper explores this competitive dynamic through exploring how three Chinese cities – Chengdu, Chongqing and Zhengzhou – established large scale transcontinental rail links to the European Union. These links shortened travel time between interior China and the EU to under two weeks, which in turn enhanced these cities' domestic positions as manufacturing and logistical hubs. More labour power thus migrated to these cities, jumpstarting a new wave of growth. While these developments may appear to be underpinned by a coherent national-scale strategy, they reflect intense competitive impulses, with municipal and provincial governments aiming to outdo one another through lobbying and convincing the central government for the approval of these mega infrastructural projects. Presenting evidence from interviews, statistics and archival materials, this paper argues that an incisive conceptualization of China's 'Go Abroad' and 'Belt and Road' policies has to incorporate the constitutive role of domestic territorial politics, in particular the urbanization of capital intrinsic to this process.

COMMODIFICATION VERSUS EMPOWERMENT: PLACE BRANDING OUR 'LEFT BEHIND' CITIES AND REGIONS

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This paper addresses the potential role of place branding in the re-engagement of 'left behind' communities and regions with the necessary project of economic reconstruction following the UK's Brexit hiatus.

The divisions within Greater Manchester, a conurbation with complex and overlapping identities and histories, typify this problem with the smaller, less connected 'Leave' towns in opposition to the more urban 'Remain' core communities.

Understandably place branding can be regarded as a form of neoliberal commodification of place, where local 'colour' is utilised as a means of attracting inward investment, typified by Florida's (2002) 'creative class' thesis. In the UK attempts at redressing regional inequalities through branding range from the vacuous slogan of 'Northern Powerhouse' to the more grounded utilisation of resources such as the European Capital of Culture or the hosting of high-profile events. Such efforts, however, often result in nothing more than a real estate driven increase in asset values. Local authorities impoverished by austerity are encouraged to see the construction of such financialised assets as a public good despite their irrelevance to local priorities.

If local and regional governments are to contribute to an economic recovery requiring substantial redirection along the lines of the proposed Green New Deal, they will have to engage communities with narratives that offer a meaningful pathway to empowerment.

Examples of contestation and subversion of top-down branding narratives suggest that such pathways can be developed through the co-development of brand portfolios and this paper explores how this might be achieved.

URBAN-RURAL INTEGRATION AND RURAL REVITALIZATION IN THE NEW ERA IN CHINA

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Cities and villages are components of a specific organism. Urban-rural integration and sustainable development can't separate urban and rural areas. To resolve the increasingly serious rural diseases in the process of rapid urbanization, the Chinese government has put forward to implement rural revitalization strategy to promote the rural sustainable development and urban-rural integration. This study explores the basic theories of urban-rural integration and rural revitalization, analyzes the main problems and causes of rural development in the new era, and proposes problem-oriented scientific approaches to realize rural revitalization and urban-rural integration. Results show that the objects of urban-rural integration and rural revitalization is a regional multi-body system, including urban-rural integration, rural complex, village-town organism, and housing-industry symbiosis. Rural revitalization focuses on promoting the reconstruction of urban-rural integration system and constructs a multi-level goal system including urban-rural infrastructure networks, zones of rural development, fields of village-town space and poles of rural revitalization. Currently, China's rural development is facing the five problems: high-speed non-agricultural transformation of agriculture production factors, over-fast aging and weakening of rural subjects, increasingly hollowing and abandoning of rural construction land, severe fouling of rural soil and water environment and deep pauperization of rural poverty-stricken areas. The rural revitalization focuses on establishing the institutional mechanism for integrated urban-rural development and constructs the comprehensive development system of rural regional system. Geography on rural revitalization should focus on the complexity and dynamics of rural regional system and explore new schemes, models and scientific approaches for the construction of villages and towns.

Keywords: urban-rural integrated system, rural regional system, village-town organism, rural revitalization pole, rural revitalization strategy

FROM STATE ACCUMULATION TO BRI: CHALLENGES OF STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE OPENING POST-SOVIET UZBEKISTAN

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Since independence in 1991 The Uzbek Government has pursued a strategy of industrialization based on heterodox economic policies driven by the so-called Primitive socialist accumulation. This was implemented through strong state presence in the production, exchange and consumption of commodities. Import substitution industrialization and public ownership in strategic sectors made of Uzbekistan an interesting case study to analyse for its capacity to trigger a process of structural transformation. Evidence from different industry in the agricultural sector prove the distinctive mechanisms and outcome of this strategy. Examples from cotton, wheat, HVC, sugar, but also infant manufacturing are presented.

However, starting in 2016 it is notable a transition towards openness to privatization and private accumulation. This shift is arguably happening through a complex and multifaceted set of reasons. First, the need for more (non-state thus foreign) capital to boost investment and productivity which is driving a slow institutional innovation; second, the pressure from international financial institutions; third, the opportunity of BRI offered by China. The contributions of the paper is threefold: first, to assess the outcome of the first wave of state accumulation. Second, investigate the determinants of the changing patterns of market-oriented accumulation pursued by the government since 2016. Finally, to highlight the contradictions of development as expansion of capitalism and current challenges of transition from state accumulation to accumulation in regional global capitalism

POSSIBLE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF BA AND MBA EDUCATION PROVISION IN RURAL NORWAY

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Norwegian educational policy has since the late 1960's prioritised regional distribution of higher education and created higher education in all regions. The aim was to increase the educational competence of the labour force. Argument was that regions with a skilled work force are more adaptive to new technologies and towards knowledge-intensive goods and service industries.

BA-programme was established in almost every county. Sogn og Fjordane, a rural region with 110 000 inhabitants, launched BA-programme in 1983. Until the 90`s the only MBA-program in Norway was in Bergen. Nowadays, most Universities provide an MBA but there are no MBA in this county. The region have an out-migration challenge of young people move to urban areas and this stifles regional economic growth.

Marking the BA- programme`s 30th anniversary we conducted a survey to analyse the benefits that former students have achieved and the benefits for those who continued on to a master`s degree elsewhere. The result show there are social benefits both on an individual as well as on a county level. Persons from Sogn og Fjordane consider their bachelor degree to be more relevant for their careers than others and 75 percent of the locals still lived in the county at the time of the survey, whereas only 10 percent of those who moved to do a BA-study remained in the region. People that migrated and took an MBA increased their wages by 40 percent compared to the average wage of a bachelor candidate, but mostly lost for the region.

THE FINANCIALIZATION OF RENTAL HOUSING WITH NEW CHARACTERISTICS IN CHINA

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Existing literature on financialization proposes that mobile capital transforms commodities and economic activities into increasingly investable financial products, by making them highly leveraged, standardized, liquid and globally tradable. At the center of financialization is urban space, particularly housing and the built environment, which has been noted as playing a crucial role for capital accumulation. Pervious research on the financialization of housing generally focuses on owner-occupied housing sector. Rental housing sector, however, is commonly thought as unattractive to financial capital, and thus it is immune from financialization. Nevertheless, over the last few years, billions of dollars of capital have flowed into the rental housing market in China, since the central government stressed rental housing development as a solution to ease the housing unaffordability issue in mega-cities. Innovations of financial products have rapidly emerged for the buoyant market. Against this background, this paper examines the recent dynamics of financialization of Chinese rental housing sector and its new characteristics. It focuses on the interactive relations between rental housing company, financial institution, local government, landlords and renters. Using Shanghai as a case study, this article explores how rental housing is financialized and how tensions between different stakeholders are created and addressed. Particular attention is paid to how broker companies capitalize the rights of rental leases into financial assets that attractive to investments from financial institutions, especially the venture capital.

MULTI-SCALAR INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND THE EMERGENCE OF OFFSHORE WIND POWER IN THE UK AND GERMANY

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Recent research suggests that institutional and socio-political processes of legitimation and system-building play a key role in on-going processes of energy transition. This is particularly the case for green industries which derive much of their initial impetus and legitimacy from national and supra-national climate change targets. Furthermore, for natural resource-based sectors such as offshore wind, sovereign national states assume vital roles as owner, regulator and allocator of licenses to operate. For most new renewable energy sectors, state action also underpins the process of (niche) market formation. In response, this paper develops a dynamic and multi-scalar conception of varieties of capitalism (VoC) that: I) relates national-level institutions to both the supra-national level and to new actor constellations in regions and their coupling to extra-regional resources including global production (and innovation) networks and II) considers the inter-relations between institutional contexts and regional industrial development as iterative. A key aim of the paper is thus to examine how shifting institutional and policy logics shape the evolution of new industries as regional and national resources are harnessed by distributed actors. We compare renewable energy policies and energy transition pathways in Germany (CME) and UK (LME) and include illustrative regional examples from the subnational level in these countries. Our findings suggest that attempts to anchor extra-regional resources via transplantation are more common in LMEs due to a political strategy dominated by a short-term market logic. By contrast, a longer-term strategy based on state, industry and R&D collaboration provides more fertile ground for indigenous industrial development in CMEs. As part of the process of industrial maturation and legitimation in offshore wind, we emphasise the convergence of national institutional logics towards a centralized market-based support system.

REDUCTIONISM, REGULATION AND THE REAL ECONOMICS OF METROPOLITAN HOUSING CHALLENGES

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Deepening and widening problems of paying for housing have become a predominant feature of metropolitan economies. There is now a growing realisation that house price and rent outcomes impact not only affordability but also stability and productivity (MacLennan et al, 2019). The emerging conventional wisdom, emerging from a sustained stream of US urban economics papers, as in Glaeser and Gyrko (2018), is that municipal planning regulations lie at the heart of metropolitan affordability and productivity challenges. Others, notably Rodrigues-Portes and Storper (2019), discount such consequences of planning for metropolitan economic change because they dismiss housing outcomes as having economic significance. Both perspectives are, in different ways, misleading and unduly reductionist in their theoretical framing. The General Spatial Equilibrium model is an inappropriate guide to the evolution of housing markets characterised by sustained disequilibrium. The longstanding failure of urban and regional economics failure to 'frame' housing as an essential form of economic infrastructure ignores much microeconomic evidence of the impact of the multiple attributes of housing on growth let alone recognise that housing typically comprises more than half of household wealth in advanced economy cities and absorbs a quarter of household incomes. It is argued that the

stylised facts of the operation and outcomes of major metropolitan housing markets in the UK, Canada and Australia, reviewed in this paper demand, for both research and policy purposes, a more nuanced understanding of metropolitan economy-housing market interactions and a more sophisticated and better evidenced understanding of the factors shaping adverse affordability and productivity outcomes.

BRITAIN'S DISUNITED ECONOMY: THE LEFT BEHIND PLACES, WHY THEY MATTER AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

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Abstract content tbc

SOCIAL SERVICES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT. RELAUNCHING PUBLIC SERVICES AS A REBALANCING STRATEGY

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Since the 1980s, when urban and regional studies began addressing service activities, the attention of scholars has focussed eminently on business services, their innovative and competitive potential for places and their role in defining urban and regional hierarchies. As a consequence, regional policies have also privileged such services aiming at improving the competitive position of cities and regions. Conversely, social services have been largely neglected, being implicitly considered redistributive activities and, as such, a matter of welfare policies. Against this commonplace, I argue that social services play a relevant economic role and are a major driver not only of territorial justice, but also of economic development. As such, they must be brought back at the centre of the urban and regional development and policy debate. Italy is a case in point: recent evidence on the provision of social services in this country highlights dramatic and rising regional inequalities, especially in what concerns the public provision of such services. The reasons for such differences and their impact on the less favoured Southern regions are discussed and the need to make social services a major rebalancing strategy at the national and European level is advocated.

CRITICALLY ASSESSING THE STRATEGIC PUBLIC SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP MODEL IN SCOTLAND AS AN EXEMPLAR OF SOCIAL INNOVATION

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In the context of recurrent economic crises, engaging communities in the design and delivery of public services has gained momentum. In the UK in particular, this participatory impetus is

underpinned by claims that social innovation can act as an innovative policy solution to promoting local development. However, while social innovation is widely supported in academic and policy circles, empirical evidence on its effectiveness is scarce. In this paper we discuss the findings of an evaluation of the Strategic Public Social Partnership model in Scotland. In 2012, the Scottish Government's Third Sector Unit supported the development of six 'Strategic' PSPs with a view to strengthening public-third sector partnerships, service-user involvement and innovation in public service delivery in three key areas that the government considered to be especially important as prototypes for the model: early years, criminal justice and care for older people. This model of co-governance in service design and delivery acts as an exemplar of a socially innovative policy solution aiming to reshape public services to make them more flexible, responsive and effective by removing 'unnecessary bureaucracy' and emphasising 'co-commissioning' (i.e. involving people and communities). By exploring the progress of the Strategic PSPs to-date, and discussing the barriers faced by the current model, this paper aims to contribute to wider discussions about innovative solutions to wicked problems and the promotion of a more inclusive model of local governance.

UNDERSTANDING THE DISTRIBUTION OF RISK IN US REAL ESTATE MARKETS: UNIFYING MILLS, WHEATON, AND ZIP

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The distribution of risks in real estate markets captures major business expectations about how cities and their economies will develop. In this context, this paper's point of departure is our empirical observation that, along the urban hierarchy in the United States, real estate risks show striking regularities. In order to better understand these regularities and their underlying sources, we analyze a uniquely detailed dataset of real estate transactions across all US cities and unify perspectives of scaling, capital markets, and urban economics.

The crucial metric of our analysis is the real estate yield. Yields provide information on the relative value of property rent. When corrected for property-specific risk, yields should be about level across space, unless cities or intra-city locations are associated with differential risk. Hence, real estate yields allow us to observe how investors expect urban economies to develop as well as to assess potential financial and urban economic sources beyond city size alone.

The analysis presents and discusses stylized facts on investment risk across cities, as captured from real estate yields. Importantly, our unprecedented assessment of levels of risk associated with cities shows that urban economics and finance-type of arguments offer complementary explanations of cross-city risk differentials.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN A MOBILE WORLD: CASE STUDIES FROM NON-METROPOLITAN AUSTRALIA

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In Australia, the net effect of skilled labour mobility has tended to favour large metropolitan centres like Sydney and Melbourne. The urban primacy of such cities can create problems for non-metropolitan areas as larger cities gain wealth and human capital. This paper draws upon mobilities literature and human capital literature to review recent change in non-metropolitan Australia. While the dominance of Australian state capital cities remains evident, it is argued that some regional centres have used mobility to their economic advantage. The use of mobilities also enhances human capital which forms a key driver of economic success,

irrespective of geographical location. Drawing on qualitative, empirical case studies, this paper highlights the ways in which modern mobilities – virtual and physical – can play an important role in successful regional development outcomes in Australia.

INEQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND (INCLUSIVE) PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH

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This paper focuses on the currently available evidence regarding the direct links between productivity and well-being, inequality and inclusive growth. In the UK the slowdown in productivity growth has been accompanied since the financial crisis by stagnating real wages, rising income and wealth inequality, and austerity. There is the risk of a potentially 'vicious cycle' that may undermine efforts to improve productivity and economic growth, and as such may risk further polarisation of the benefits of improved productivity.

This poses an important question for productivity research. Can the distribution of productivity gains contribute to reducing inequalities, improving societal well-being and delivering inclusive growth? The paper argues that the objective of returning to pre-crisis trend levels of productivity growth seems unlikely until the shifting spatial labour market dynamics and structural social inequalities within and between regions are addressed.

Increasing horizontal inequalities; between and within regions and between different social groups (particularly gender and emerging inter-generational inequalities) may act to undermine strategies targeted at boosting productivity.

From the analysis, the following themes and areas would appear to be paramount: the productivity-related effects of hysteresis, particularly the long-term scarring effect of the financial crisis on regional labour market polarisation; the need for international comparative analysis; demand-led productivity growth and the role of inequality; ways to best manage the productivity gains from digital and technological diffusion to support, rather than undermine, inclusive growth; consideration of 'soft' infrastructure and pre-market and non-market factors which affect inclusive productivity growth, including the care economy.

A NETWORK STUDY OF INTER-FIRM INNOVATION – CLUSTERS, DIVERSITY, RECIPROcity & TIE STRENGTH

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What do medical camera pills, brassieres and reebok pump trainers all have in common? They were innovative products produced as a result of knowledge spill over between actors from diverse industries. These innovations disrupted markets and, in some cases, significantly transformed industries, contributed to positive social change and produced substantial economic gains for actors involved. This study examines whether diverse organisations that are based in geographical proximity exchange knowledge within inter-organisational networks that leads to innovation.

A unique mixed industry cluster was studied using network analysis which revealed different patterns of relationships that formed between not for profit organisations in community and education sectors and profit-making organisations in knowledge intensive sectors. External knowledge spillover occurred in both types of inter-organisational innovation networks, with knowledge intensive industries ties were reciprocal and strong leading to financial innovations. Whereas ties between community and education sectors were weaker and resulted in social innovation. We find that diverse actors behave in similar ways to homogeneous actors in a

cluster whereby; birds of a feather flock together to exchange tacit knowledge, at the same time actors who tap into multiple networks are able to benefit from resources and knowledge that produces new ideas and opportunities. There are positive implications for investors and policy makers looking to fund, develop and manage industry clusters in order to improve innovation rates in a region, particularly between entrepreneurs, educational establishments and corporates from diverse industries.

Keywords

Clusters, diversity, Innovation, Interorganizational relationships, networks.

A BELT & ROAD DISCOURSE ANALYSIS IN EUROPE

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This paper adopted media discourse analysis to understand EU member states' perceptions of China's Belt and Road Initiatives in particular, and its growing international soft power in general. Among EU countries, preliminary analysis of their media coverage of BRI could classify them into three categories, including the old EU powerhouses; responsive states; and followers. In terms of the content of discourse, this paper noticed a huge discrepancy among the EU members towards the potential benefits of BRI and China's rise in international affairs, which in turn was closely related with 1) the existing economic and political significance of a country; 2) whether a country hosts major concrete BRI projects; and 3) whether a country is a strong receipt of China's BRI promotion initiatives. Regarding the changing trends of discourse, the stronger position of China in international relations is nonetheless consolidated, although the tactics it adopts to handle different economic powers are in need of polishing in the future.

EVALUATING THE USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS IN MAKING CITIES GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE

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Cities face complex challenges on their way to achieving the dynamic and sustainable growth. Meeting national targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions and achieving SDGs add more pressure. Success depends on the strategic approach, mobilisation of important stakeholders, clear action plan, and financing. While some resources are available internally, through local and state budgets, there is a growing need for the private sector to inject much-needed investments, particularly in infrastructure, thus "turning millions into billions".

Borrowings, equity and guarantees provided by national or international development financial institutions can mobilise public-private partnerships in countries where private banks are not able/willing to finance municipal infrastructure projects due to their complexity or length. These are often blended with public funds into hybrid financial instruments, to achieve maximum synergy.

Over the last 25 years European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has been providing financing to municipalities across 38 countries of operation, with the focus on building their climate resilience and resource sustainability. This paper presents some insights into the effectiveness and efficiency of financing provided by the EBRD to municipalities in some CEE countries. It is based on the results of independent evaluation of the investment projects.

REGIONAL FUTURE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: CASE STUDY ON DELHI NCR, INDIA

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On the background of the literature on megaregions, the study investigates the growth of Delhi National Capital Region (NCR), India over last two decades (1991-2011), in terms of both geographical area and population. We adopt three ways to define a region: first, in terms of continuous urbanization measured through urban sprawl, i.e., geographical area; second, in terms of the pattern and intensity of daily commutes, i.e. economic dependency; and third, core-periphery relationship. Delhi NCR is planned as polycentric region. We adopt the methodology of Sudhira et al (2004) to measure urban sprawl and geographical reach; it is also possible to use data from European Commission JRC data to measure both horizontal and vertical growth, as carried out by WRI (WRI, 2019). To some extent, we adopt Nelson and Rae's (2016) method to measure pattern of daily commutes. Census 2011 has published data on work trips, at a disaggregate level.

In the second part, the study focuses on transport sector, focusing on public transport. The study evaluates policies on regional growth in Delhi NCR with respect to policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation as adopted by the central government. In parallel, the study explores the institutional aspects of development, focusing on governments' capacity to deliver, including role of private sector actors in delivering suburbs, as practiced on the ground, and its impact on transport justice, for descriptive analysis.

SMART SHRINKAGE SOLUTIONS: FOSTERING RESILIENT CITIES IN INNER PERIPHERIES OF EUROPE

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By learning from the experience of the cities that once were on the edge of an abyss but have bounced back to life, and sharing the key ingredients of their success across Europe and beyond, this paper aims at enabling as many shrinking cities as possible to adapt, transform, and thrive in the face of continuously and often dramatically changing circumstances.

TECHNOCRATIC VS. PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES: IMPLEMENTATION OF TIDAL RIVER MANAGEMENT IN COASTAL BANGLADESH

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Coastal Bangladesh has faced water-logging problems for the last 30 years. In the 1990s, local communities, fed up with water logging, spontaneously breached river embankments in order to re-allow water (and thus, sediments) into their lands, temporarily. This increased the drainage capacity of tidal rivers in that region and thus helped solve the problem of water logging in the local area. After first condemning this community action, a public agency (BWDB) took over the initiative. Since then, Tidal River Management (TRM) as this building-with-nature technique became known, has continued to develop in a setting of sustained interactions (conflict as-well-as cooperation), between public officials and local communities. To this day, bottlenecks continue to characterize the implementation of TRM, one of which regards the tension between the centralized-technocratic approach favored by public officials and the decentralized-participatory approach adopted by local communities. While there is some discussion in the

literature on processes to integrate both local and state perspectives for the implementation of such approaches, the literature on this topic has not yet outlined in sufficient detail the process by which such integration of approaches can take place. In this article, we seek to fill this knowledge gap, specifically with regard to the role of non-governmental organizations as mediators. We show how conflict has contributed to the ineffective implementation of TRM. Subsequently, we show how NGOs can enable both sides to find a common ground by using the processes of mediation, bridging, arbitration and mobilizing.

MULTIPLIERS FROM A MAJOR PUBLIC SECTOR RELOCATION: THE BBC'S MOVE TO MANCHESTER

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This paper considers the impact of public sector relocation on local economies, using a very large recent relocation as a case study: the BBC's partial move from London to Salford, Greater Manchester in 2011. We use plant-level data from 1997-2017 and identify effects using synthetic controls. We show that each BBC job creates one additional job in the creative sector, and that the relocation had an impact on local sectoral and firm composition: it increased average firm size in the creative sector and the share of creative over total employment. However, we find no significant effect on total local employment either at local or city-region level.

CAN ATTITUDES TOWARD IMMIGRANT EXPLAIN SOCIAL INTEGRATION IN EUROPE? EU VERSUS NON-EU MIGRANT

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This study examines the relationship between attitudes toward migrants and social integration. Specifically, we consider two types of migration flow: migration flow from EU countries and migration flow from non-EU countries. The aims of this paper are twofold: 1) we want to understand whether an inclusive attitude towards migrants can contribute to their efforts to integrate with the receiving society 2) we want to understand whether the potential impact is the same across different migrant groups (EU vs. non-EU). Using data from 33 mainly European countries over the period 2003-2015 and controlling for common integration determinants such as inflation, foreign direct investment and educational attainment, our results indicate that there is a significant positive relationship between inclusive and good attitude toward migrants and social integration. We also in the robustness sections, identify that the size of this impact differs across different subcomponents of attitudes and integration, these results are robust to alternative estimation techniques that take care of endogeneity (System GMM, 2SLS, and Lewbel 2SLS).

NEW ZEALAND'S SHRINKING TOWNS: CATALYTIC FACTORS AND LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESPONSE

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The study of 'shrinking towns' and cites is well-embedded in urban geographical studies of Europe and of Eastern Europe in particular. Less well researched are the 10% of cities and towns globally which are believed to be shrinking in population terms. Drawing on both quantitative and qualitative data this paper examines the situation in New Zealand and uses an evolutionary economic lense to draw attention to impact of resource cycles, globalization, neo-liberal restructuring, post-productivism and changing rural-urban dynamics on small urban centres and their hinterlands. Statistical analysis is then used to illustrate how significant demographic and economic change and decline have been, with some 30% of the smaller urban settlements now experiencing population loss. These challenges now feature prominently in national discourse and in both new national and local endeavours to stabilise, and ideally, reverse the fortunes of declining settlements. The paper examines how selected shrinking towns have responded to the context in which they now find themselves and with what measure of success. The findings illustrate the importance of place-based leadership, local resilience and social capital and the reasonably modest impact of external support to date in trying to reverse decline and address path dependency. In the scenario of limited state support, the New Zealand case provides insight into the selective capacity of smaller urban centres to pursue diverse growth trajectories associated with market shifts and/or locally driven initiatives.

RIDING SUNBEAMS – FOSTERING INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND REGIONAL MOBILITY TRANSFORMATION

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Mobility system transformation in line with the zero-carbon target is characterised by uncertainty and widely diverging spatial dynamics. Unprecedented changes to infrastructures and behaviours are already exacerbating these tendencies. Electrification and the contestation of energy supply and demand between regions and cities play a particular important role to play in this process. To ensure that such transformative processes do not amplify existing inequalities and disadvantages, new approaches are required

This paper presents the Riding Sunbeams project which seeks to power trains with solar energy. As a social enterprise, Riding Sunbeams hopes to set a precedent for community and civil network governance by establishing a procurement framework to sell community generated electricity directly to the UK's rail infrastructure operator Network Rail. The community aspect implies that benefits are not concentrated exclusively in the hands of shareholders but instead that a share of the benefits is used to provide inclusive energy service. These services range from energy bill and fuel switching advice to the installation of cheap but effective draft-busting measures among vulnerable and fuel poor households.

Riding Sunbeams provides an insight into how new relationships between rural suppliers of energy, mobility service providers, commuting users and more disadvantaged members of society can be brokered which simultaneously accelerate low-carbon mobility system transformations and help address inequalities and regional disparities which might otherwise be left unchecked.

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION - FINDINGS FROM A CASE STUDY IN THE REGION OF VÄRMLAND, SWEDEN

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The research presented in this paper focus on the role(s) of civil societies in sustainable transformation. The aim of the paper is to explore and analyse the role of civil society as a fourth helix agent in regional sustainable transformation to a forest based bio-economy. The transformation from a society based on fossil raw materials to a society based on renewable raw materials produced through sustainable use of ecosystems is currently a most acute and thoroughgoing challenge in the world. Within the fields of regional development, regional innovations systems and strategies of smart specialization the model of "triple helix", based on relations and cooperation including academia/university, private industry/corporations and public authorities has been a dominating idea and practice to promote transformation. However, sustainable transformation need a broader societal perspective which includes the knowledge and involvement of actors outside of these three helices, i.e. a fourth helix has to be included. Within the frame of the fourth helix civil society agents are included in transformation processes in new ways. The empirical research presented in the paper is conducted in the local area within the Swedish region of Värmland which is a by comparison a sparsely populated region, characterized by a long history and strong tradition of forest industry. The study is explorative and conducted by qualitative methods such as interviews with representatives of local civil society actors and by participant observations at local meetings and workshops. Central concepts for our analysis on roles are knowledge, innovation, participation, mobilisation and cooperation.

THE ROLE OF PLACE IN MARINE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TRANSITION: NEW CONCEPTUAL LENSES

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Renewable energy innovations are transforming coastal communities in Wales, where excellent natural resources are set in sub-regions that face persistent socio-economic disadvantage and declining industry. This context of Convergence Funding eligible zones sets a political landscape and institutional setting that is driving and shaping the renewable energy transition. It is widely acknowledged that geography is little considered in transition management theory, yet the marine energy transition in Wales has been driven by a decline in the oil and gas industry and a desire by regional actors to secure jobs and growth. What then is the impact of regional development requirements on the acceleration of technology and the design which is ultimately selected by the market? Regional development actors have catalysed the formation of a national organisation that acts as an institutional entrepreneur, driving technology development and encouraging technology demand on the part of the Government. In particular, the socio-economic impact of elements such as number of jobs created by a technology has an impact on the technology that is encouraged by the Government. This suggests a regional nuance to the frameworks that have traditionally been accepted as explanatory of the transition process. Through an interrogation of the technology push, technology pull, and transition anchoring events supported by semi-structured interviews and the Q methodology, this paper suggests new lenses through which to consider the shaping of technology-driven sustainable transitions.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF A QUANTILE REGRESSION APPROACH TO HETEROGENEITY IN REGIONAL INNOVATION IN EUROPE

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Both the Economics and the Regional Science literature acknowledge the widely heterogeneous behavior of regional innovation indicators. Notwithstanding, the tools of evolumetrics have hardly been used to document this. The systematic production of Regional Innovation Scoreboards (RIS) by the European Commission disallows the attempt to build a case for lack of data as a basis for the absence of such studies. In this paper we provide a pioneering attempt of combining data from RIS and "quantile for counts" regression models, to find the determinants of regional innovation scores, in the European Union (EU). As expected, such determinants vary widely depending on the quantile of the conditional distribution of the dependent variable. We follow Smith's (2005) suggestion of assuming patents as the best measure of innovation performance. From the different drivers found at different quantiles, we draw policy recommendations that acknowledge the evolutionary and path dependent nature of regional change. Our policy recommendations take into account both where each region lies in the patents distribution and which innovation determinants were found to be critical for that quantile range. In short, quantile dependent policy recommendations are a contribution to the literature, as policy makers at the regional level often try a "one size fits all" type of approach, neglecting the heterogeneity that has motivated the vey birth of regional and cohesion policies in Europe.

BEYOND THE LEGAL STATUS: THE INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES INTO THE LABOR MARKET IN THE CITY OF NUREMBERG IN GERMANY

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Integration of refugees is a key national policy in Germany. Following "refugee crisis", the integration of refugees into the labor market was often debated and discussed. Many researches attempted to give an overview about the life of refugees in Germany and the difficulties they face to integrate the labor market. These difficulties often stem from lengthy asylum procedure and the legal status.

Based on a series of in-depth interviews conducted with six refugees of different origins and legal status in the city of Nuremberg, this research investigates the impact of the legal status on labor market integration of refugees. The aim is to determine whether a strong legal status is positively correlated with labor market integration. The research also attempts to examine whether other variables such as language, refugee profile, and the support system provided by the city weigh more than the legal status. The research found out that the legal status is the foundation of labor market integration but doesn't define it. Factors such as the time spent in learning the language and developing a support system locally highly determines the outcome of this process.

SPACE 4.0 AS THE DRIVER OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE ECONOMY

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Fifty years after the successful human landing of Apollo 11 on the Moon, the role of space exploration has created various technological, innovation and socio-economic benefits. Many of

these benefits go unnoticed but the impetus for the space economy, particularly in Europe, has grown as well as its contributions to the so-called Industry 4.0. The OECD defines the space economy as

'all public and private actors involved in developing and providing space-enabled products and services. It comprises a long value-added chain, starting with research and development actors and manufacturers of space hardware (e.g. launch vehicles, satellites, ground stations) and ending with the providers of space-enabled products (e.g. navigation equipment, satellite phones) and services (e.g. satellite-based meteorological services or direct-to-home video services) to final users.' (OECD, 2007).

This is, however, a rather limited and dated definition given that the space programmes and missions increasingly underpin socio-economic benefits arising from technology diffusion and the creation of an innovation milieu. Smart cities, for instance; GPS; AI and robotics and the potentially smart specialisation projects. Many of these examples can be found in areas where there is a high concentration of space activities –such as in the so-called Space Cities – e.g., Bremen, Torino and Toulouse. These city-regions also provide the propulsive basis of Space 4.0 in the form of place-based policy.

Space missions increasingly cross public and private organisational boundaries, with many privately-funded space missions displaying public good characteristics. The European Space Agency (ESA) has four benefits categories of socio-economic benefits from its major exploration;

- Science
- Economic competitiveness and growth;
- New means to address Global Challenges/Sustainable Development Goals;
- Inspiration;

ESA's Smart 4.0 industrial policy provides a central framework for pursuing these objectives that are aligned with the European Commission's (EC) Space 4.0 strategy. This paper intends to examine selected cases from ESA's European Exploration Envelope Programme (E3P) as an explorative tool to understand the role of space in transforming Europe's regions.

BIG DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS TO ENHANCE REGIONAL INNOVATION SUPPORT

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It's a real challenge to develop a reliable system capable of monitoring the implementation of smart specialisation strategies at the regional level. However, this information is crucial to provide policy makers with enough understanding of what is happening in their territories and enhance the support they provide to their SMEs. Strategies should be built upon clear indicators, able to provide real time information and directly connected with the smart specialisation strategies.

Applying these indicators to segment companies in a scientific way is vital to have a reliable monitoring system that can update and enhance the implementation of RIS3 policies. For this reason, H2020-funded OaSIS project has developed a tool for the analysis of regional innovation ecosystems. It does so by segmenting companies applying Big Data Analysis; different Key Performance Indicators like RIS3 categories are combined with financial and innovation data of a particular company (revenue, employees, growth, patents, grants) and entered into a software tool, resulting in a new, performance-based methodology for SME segmentation and innovation support.

The OaSIS project final goal is to optimise the support services provided by Regional Development Agencies to the SMEs in their territory. Successful examples from the agencies of the pilot regions Aragon (Spain) and Weser-Ems (Germany) will be presented to showcase how new technology can improve current regional development services but also help discover new trends previously hidden to regional practitioners.

STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND THE GEOGRAPHY OF WAGE INEQUALITY IN ITALY

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Production systems are becoming increasingly interconnected, so that small changes in production technology (or even in trade policy) even geographically far, may have cumulative effects in the rest of the world (a sort of “butterfly effect”). The structure of international trade has been changing dramatically over the past decades because of the fragmentation of production leading to global value chains. Comparative statics in an interconnected world is interesting and challenging. A surge in protectionist policies or a technological shock may have spatially diffused impacts not only through trade in final goods, but also through intersectoral linkages of inputs trading. In other words, understanding how the structure of production changes after a given shock is not immediate because of trade and technological interdependencies.

In our research, we will present the evolution of Italian economic structure by using data from the Input-Output tables from 2008 to 2014 and by applying techniques related to the fields of influence in the input-output analysis literature. In particular, we will identify the technologically most important sectors in given countries in terms of both forward and backward linkages and we will draw their evolution over time (that is the so-called economic landscape of the global economy). These measures are projected at local level and spatially analysed along with measures of wage inequality.

We have found that structural change induced by a change in the final demand has increased inequality whereas structural change induced by changes in the technology of production (and its interaction with final demand change) has decreased wage inequality.

VARIETIES OF URBAN ENTREPRENEURIALISM

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We revisit the concept of urban entrepreneurialism to highlight some of its variety. We refocus discussion on: processes of innovation, bringing geography into dialogue with the literature on innovation in public services; normative questions surrounding the ends to which urban entrepreneurship is turned, and; the need for analysis to go beyond the territorial trap of the urban to consider how urban entrepreneurialism articulates with the national state and is projected internationally.

We distinguish urban managerialism from the new urban managerialism, urban diplomacy, urban intrapreneurialism and urban speculation, drawing on international examples to highlight the mixed qualities and effects of these varieties of urban entrepreneurialism. In conclusion we note the limitations of our framework and its relationship to the related ideas of neoliberalization, financialization and accumulation by dispossession.

Key words: urban entrepreneurialism, new urban managerialism, urban diplomacy, urban intrapreneurialism, urban speculation

FINANCIALISING CITY STATECRAFT

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Recognition has grown of local states as arenas and agents for financialisation: embroiled in a recursive process in which they are actively financialising and being financialised in their relations with other actors in socially and spatially uneven ways. Increasingly central to these city and financial actor engagements in this financialising process is debt. This contribution aims to explain why, how, with whom, and where financialisation has moved on in certain cities and spatial, temporal and institutional settings while in others it has been constrained and limited. Building upon understandings of 'asset price', 'entrepreneurial', 'financialised' and 'managerial' urban governance, a conception of statecraft at the city level is articulated to explain the mixing and mutating ways in which financialisation is ensnaring city governments in certain spatial, temporal and institutional settings. Drawing upon the case of city governments in England in the UK, the analysis examines how and why existing, tried-and-tested and new, innovative forms of borrowing – from state agencies (e.g. lending from the Public Works Loan Board), banks (e.g. through 'Lender Option, Borrower Option' (LOBO) loans) and other investors (e.g. via bond issuances) – are emerging and being utilised in austerity and with limited decentralisation and tight centralised control by national government. The contribution reflects upon the implications for funding, financing and governing cities forged by this increasing indebtedness in contemporary financialisation.

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO THE DISAGGREGATION OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND EXPENDITURES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES FOR IMPACT EVALUATION

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This paper investigates how the results of impact evaluation are affected by different approaches to relating European Social Fund spending to subnational entities. Regions—or smaller spatial entities—are often considered as a unit of analysis, assuming that the comparison of spatial units that have been exposed to different levels of support can allow identification of the causal effect. Leaving aside a fundamental discussion on the possibility of identifying the causal effect outside the experimental framework, in this research, we argue that the conclusions of evaluation exercises significantly depend on the method employed to measure the European Social Fund expenditure at the local level.

The empirical part of the paper is based on the analysis of the European Social Fund expenditure at the local level (LAU1/LAU2) in Poland in 2007-2013. Three disaggregation methods are compared: (1) the official disaggregation used by the Polish government; (2) population-adjusted disaggregation; (3) and a novel and unique disaggregation based on high-resolution address data (postal codes) of 8.78 million participants of projects funded by the European Social Fund in Poland in 2007-2013. We argue that our method (3) provide the best estimation

of the real spatial distribution of expenditure, and that the official method (1) is significantly biased. Moreover, we provide evidence that the population-adjusted method (2) is a better approximation of real expenditures than the official method (1). To assess the influence of disaggregation method on evaluation studies we compare regression models with independent variables measured by the three discussed disaggregation methods.

HOW DOES TRANSPORT SHAPE REGIONS? A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH AND PRACTICE.

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Over the years, several theoretical and empirical studies have attempted to explain and assess the role of transport in urban and regional development. These studies, however, have often been criticized for being reductionist, static and narrowly focused. Scholars have argued that these studies have not acknowledged the complex, dynamic and systemic nature of spatial and economic development processes. In order to explore what an approach more sensitive to these complexities could be, in this paper, first, we systematically review 20 theoretical and 110 empirical studies which have explored the relationship between transport and urban/regional development indicators such as changes in morphology, population, congestion and regional economic output. Second, we extract a list of variables and relationships explained or assessed in the literature. Third, we classify and articulate these variables and relationships in a broad framework containing the common elements of a regional economic system. Fourth, by employing a system dynamics method that captures the complex and dynamic interaction of system elements, a causal loop diagram is produced as a conceptual framework. Based on the conceptual framework, a set of propositions are then identified which are informed by the findings of the empirical studies. Finally, in light of the conceptual framework and the propositions, we present stylized facts regarding the dynamic interaction of transport, urbanization and regional economic development from the emergence, to the growth and decline of cities and regions.

URBAN GOVERNANCE AND MIS/DISINFORMATION

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Smart cities have traditionally been associated with a technocratic approach towards urban governance and management through the gathering of information from below. Information gathering spans multiple data points and sensors in a city's infrastructure of information and communication technology (ICT). There is, however, a dark side to cities acting as sites of data collection and information networks. Notably in an age of big data and digital media, a literature has emerged questioning fake news, misinformation, disinformation, and post-truths that challenge urban elites and their current institutional model of governance by disrupting traditional channels of communication. In this paper, the question of mis- and disinformation is examined through a network analysis of President Trump's tweets on trade and immigration. Riding on the coat tail of "draining the swamp" of institutional elites by President Trump including those at the city level, urban elites in the United States (US) are facing urban governance challenges brought about by "alternative facts" amplified through dissemination of Trump's tweets. The consequences can be serious as illustrated by potential loss of federal

funding of sanctuary cities that protect immigration information. In examining the geography of cities that serve as major hubs to the transmission of Trump's immigration retweets, this paper aims to shed light on the tension between the more sanguine view of smart cities for solving urban problems, and, the dark side of information as a challenge to urban institutions and governance.

APPLYING ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM AND INDUSTRIAL PATH DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS TO REGIONAL POLICY ANALYSIS – A CRITIQUE

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A common concern for regional researchers is to produce analysis that both responds to the needs of policy makers and uses empirical analysis built on academic theory. This paper discusses an attempt to develop policy advice on how to promote entrepreneurship and industrial transition in six regions in Poland, the United Kingdom and Thailand using the entrepreneurial ecosystems framework (Stam, 2015) and the industry path development framework (Grillitsch, Asheim and Trippl, 2018).

The paper identifies the policy issues that the application of these frameworks highlights in the regions in terms of bottlenecks in entrepreneurial ecosystem dimensions and in following promising industrial path development opportunities through entrepreneurship.

Based on this assessment, and gaps in coverage of the frameworks with respect to potentially important policy issues, the paper discusses how appropriate the frameworks proved to be for guiding policy advice. It highlights the challenges of finding quantitative indicators to measure the essence of ecosystem dimensions, introducing bottlenecks in SME innovation and regional policy-making capacity to the analysis, and combining the entrepreneurial ecosystem and industry path development concepts.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE PERIPHERY: THE CASE OF CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY

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In the current debates within regional economic development the attention is predominantly devoted to the urban-centred or core regions, whilst a dearth of evidence exists about the peripheral rural regions, especially in relation to their differing growth paths. This research examines the economic development challenges of such areas and investigates an illustrative example of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (CIOS) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) by using the lens of the regional innovation systems. Whilst CIOS LEP is one of the least competitive regions in the UK, it is very proactive in policies to correct this position.

The paper finds that CIOS LEP suffers from a number of issues that make its growth difficult. As a coastal area, whilst predominantly rural, it outperforms average EU coastal areas in terms of its key labour market characteristics. However, it struggles in the area of innovation, in particular linked to the lack of a strong knowledge-base in the functional economic region.

Furthermore, whilst there is evidence of industrial concentration across a number of sectors, lack of agglomeration forces impedes cluster development.

It is concluded that policy initiatives aimed at such regions require a stronger understanding of their needs to better design effective economic development policies. Specifically, the national level policymakers need to consider the greater resource needs of such regions without which they struggle to migrate onto a sustainable growth path. At the local level, the policymakers need to understand the role networks may play in overcoming or reducing negative effects of the periphery.

IS A UNIVERSAL APPROACH TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VALID? INSIGHTS FROM THE NORDIC SMART SPECIALIZATION EXPERIENCE

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Since its introduction in 2009, smart specialization has attracted significant academic and policy interest, not least due to the ex-ante conditionality to that all European regions must develop a smart specialization strategy to continue receiving structural funds (COM (2017)). However, in this rush to design and implement SS strategies across Europe, the question remains unanswered: is a common policy towards regional innovation and economic development possible or desirable given the heterogeneity of European regions to which it is being applied?

This is the question at the heart of this paper, which reflects upon a decade of smart specialization practice to unpack some of the complexities and contradictions that arise when a common policy approach to regional innovation and economic development is rolled out across Europe. By now, the “best practice” stories have come flooding in, promoting optimum “a one-size-fits-all blueprint of territorial governance arrangements, based on success observed in a few regions” (Kristensen et al. 2019). Meanwhile, a more critical body of literature is emerging, pointing out issues with the approach when moving from blueprint to real life policy in different European regions, drawing on longitudinal analysis and observations (Lundström & Mäenpää, 2017; Kroll, 2019; Marlow & Richardson, 2016).

Two contradictions emerge. One is that some regions have followed the smart specialisation “by the book” but have not seen their regional growth and innovation boosted. The other is that many of Europe’s most advanced regions in terms of innovation and economic performance have failed to embrace the S3 framework but have seen their economies prosper nevertheless. Both of these trends are observed in the Nordic regions. In this article we use these contradictions to challenge the rationale of the S3 framework, putting the questions of place specificity in regional economic policy, and concept’s relevance and validity up for debate.

Although in its rhetoric S3 propagates a place-based mode of thinking, in practice, however, it largely builds on the notions of replicability and universality. Our aim is to question whether the principles of replicability and acceptance have a place in the practice of regional economic strategy in the diverse and heterogeneous Europe of today. Bucking the trend of telling success stories and propagating regional policy based on a few successful cases, we tell the contested story of smart specialization in four both EU and non-EU Nordic regions, from a “failure perspective”. In short, drawing on mixed-methods case studies carried out March-October 2018, we explain why in each territory, but for very different reasons, S3 has not worked as per the policy blueprints and best practice examples.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND EXAMPLES FROM SWISS REGIONAL POLICIES

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This paper is investigating what is actually happening when regional development is taking place, done or performed. The need to answer this question is supported by reviews of actual regional development actions indicating that regional development often remains at the stage of policy and strategy development or pilot activities. Accordingly, this paper proposes to shift the analytical focus of regional policy research from actors and institutions to the 'practice' of regional governance. Drawing from research on generic governance functions (Paavola 2007) and social practice theories (Schatzki 1996, Reckwitz 2002, and Shove 2010) I propose an analytical framework to conceptualize the everyday practices of regional development. I propose to distinguish four dimensions of regional development practices: (i) identifying entry points for regional development (incl. assessing needs, setting priorities), (ii) establishing working procedures for regional development (incl. defining ownership, building capacities, developing long-term regional policies, engaging stakeholders), (iii) delivering regional development (incl. mainstreaming into other policy fields and private businesses, rescaling responsibilities, shifting budgets, addressing conflicts of interest), (iv) providing recommendations for improving regional development (incl. learning from good practice, reporting and evaluation). This conceptual framework is tested using examples from Switzerland.

TURBULENT TIMES FOR FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS: NINETY YEARS OF CHANGES AND PERSISTENCE

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The aim of the paper is to explore the mechanisms behind the changes and persistence in the structure of Polish female entrepreneurs in 1921–2011. The choice of the research period is not accidental. Women in Poland were granted electoral rights only in 1918, followed by the possibility of employment in the public sector. In this way, we capture the entire period initiated by political and social upheavals and thus examine to what extent the structure of employment has changed since then.

Not surprisingly, the share of women in the labour force systematically increased in this period (from 31.5% in 1931 to 45.5% in 2011). However, the magnitude of the changes in the structure of female employment is astonishing. Nowadays, the share of female employers is 2.5 times higher than in the past and amounts to 2.7%. Compared to men, this is still not much (4.6%), but the share of male employers grew 5 times slower. Female employers' resources could be increased to such an extent thanks to a fall in the pools of solo self-employed and especially helping family members. However, both of these groups could also expand the resources of employees.

Therefore, using data from the censuses of 1921, 1931 and 2011, we want to discover whether female employers are created based on solo self-employment and the natural development of companies, a vision of higher wages, or based on learning processes and culture while observing the entrepreneurs at home. Spatial and industry relations will also be investigated.

PUTTING THE CRISIS TO WORK: PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIONS OF AND RESPONSES TO LONDON'S HOUSING CRISIS

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Since the 2008 financial crash the idea of 'crisis' has played an important role in academic and policy imaginations and responses both at macro and urban/regional levels. Across major western cities, at the same time as policy-makers have had to respond to 'the crisis', in many cases they have also experienced intense 'housing crises' and the acute divergence of average incomes and house prices. It is common for cities such as London to act as central sites in debates around housing acquisition by the ultra-wealthy, land value extraction and growing levels of unaffordability. However, much research on housing crises in regional and urban studies is state-centred or focused on civil society impacts, with relatively little reflection on the real estate sector and the work that crisis does as a narrative in shaping institutionalised and actor-centred practices. In this paper, we draw on in-depth research with developers, investors, and advisors in London to focus on how narratives of the city's 'housing crisis' have been discursively (re)produced by real estate professionals and how these narratives have been put to: political work, in seeking to influence regulations and planning policy; organisational work in changing both how investors and companies act and arrange their market activities; and axiological work in influencing the dominant values and the ethics of real estate sector. We use the London case to broaden understandings of the impact that conceptualisations of 'crisis' have on urban and regional planning practices and how these influence and shape processes of contemporary urban development.

EVALUATING THE POTENTIAL TO REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS THROUGH AN INVESTIGATION OF ABATEMENT POTENTIAL OF WATER RELATED ENERGY USE IN WALES

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One of the greatest challenges that water sector faces is the cost effectiveness of decarbonising the sector. The reluctance of households and industry to adopt low carbon technologies usually stems from the additional cost associated with introducing these measures.

The study is conducted to estimate marginal abatement cost curve (MACC) of energy efficiency measures in different housing types in Wales. The MACC approach is used in the study to assess various energy efficiency measures in households and to determine which mitigation methods are the most cost effective in saving energy as well as in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions. The abatement potential of replacement of different kind of boilers with air source heat pumps (ASHP), ground source heat pumps (GSHP), biomass boilers, district heating and solar water heating is explored to evaluate the potential of households to reduce emissions from water and space heating.

GENDER AND THE 'LOCALNESS' OF HOME-BASED ENTREPRENEURS

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Home-based businesses (HBBs) comprise businesses that undertake most or all of their activity in the owner's home and those that formally operate from home but where the activity is often conducted at outdoor or client's sites. These businesses form a substantial part of the business

population in mature economies. HBBs have a specific place and location dimension compared to 'traditional' businesses and while it has been assumed that they must be small and local, more recent evidence suggests that they have fewer traded and untraded interdependencies than non-HBBs both at local and non-local level. Gender features highly in popular discourses and academic research about home-based businesses, in particular their local orientation, specific operation as part-time businesses and family-driven motivation. This supports the view of women-led businesses being different to men's. However, evidence on gender differences in the geography of networks and traded and untraded interdependencies is rare. This paper explores for the large home-based business sector whether women's businesses are more local than men's. Survey data of businesses in 40 municipalities in the Dutch region in the Netherlands are used that allow to measure 'localness' in a comprehensive way in terms of customer-base, formal and informal business contacts and other informal networks and to consider other factors besides gender that may impact on the geography of networks and business contacts. Modelling findings challenge the view of the locally-oriented women-led HBB and are discussed within the growing literature on the impact of gender upon entrepreneurial behaviours and networking.

DIGITALISATION AND THE FOUNDATIONAL ECONOMY IN WALES: A DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY OR A DIGITAL DIVIDE?

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Chen Xu, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

The foundational economy is gaining heightened academic, practitioner and policy attention. Covering the everyday and essential products and services, these businesses are largely local and often non-tradeable. Proponents suggest that greater emphasis on sectors such as retail, tourism, care and food distribution may provide some shelter from economic uncertainty and support a shift toward a more inclusive approach to growth (Leaver and Williams, 2014). It has become an increasingly important agenda for urban and regional policy makers, as concerns grow regarding increasingly inequalities within countries (Lee, 2019). Our research builds on this shifting academic and policy direction and explores the potential enabling or restricting role of digital technologies in supporting the everyday as opposed to high value areas of the economy.

Drawing on a mixed methods case study of Wales, we investigate if digital technologies may provide the basis to support the prosperity of the foundational economy and help to tackle socio-economic regional disparities. Initial analysis highlights the potential benefits of incremental implementation of digital technologies that support businesses' innovation, communication and efficiency. However, early indications also point to disparities in digital maturity for foundational as opposed to nonfoundational businesses, as well as uneven capabilities across urban and rural geographies. Using these findings, we question if an investigation of inclusive growth for the foundational economy needs to be coupled with a focus on inclusive innovation when supporting businesses and workers excluded from mainstream developments.

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TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS AND POLICY EVOLUTION: THE CASE OF PUBLICLY-FUNDED INNOVATION INTERMEDIARIES IN THE CONTEXT OF EMERGING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

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The innovation policy literature has under-investigated the difficulties that publicly-funded organizations, such as innovation intermediaries, encounter in order to adapt to a new technological paradigm that was not yet known, or was just emerging, at the time of their creation. While pre-existing organizations face the typical problem of updating existing skills, business models, and changing stakeholders, newly created organizations face specific difficulties due to their newness.

In this study, we explore how publicly-funded innovation intermediaries adapt to a new technological paradigm - namely the ongoing digital technological revolution, which includes the emergence of the Internet of Things (IoT). Drawing on semi-structured interviews with intermediary organisations in France and the UK, as well as from several experts in the field of IoT, we explore how these organizations have managed to remain relevant in the context of the recent technological revolution, successfully evolving from brokers of digital technological solutions to IoT system builders.

Our findings suggest that the intermediaries' ability to successfully evolve depends both on policymakers' actions and on the capabilities of the intermediaries themselves. Policymakers need to provide funding during the phase of technological transition, to allow intermediaries to develop the set of specific network of competences that would be needed, as well as infrastructures and services for which a demand does not yet. They also need to evaluate the intermediaries' success using criteria that are consistent with the long-term perspective of the technological revolution and the uncertainty it commands. Intermediaries need to have both the strategic capability to learn from the feedback they receive from companies and other organizations they work with, and the operational ability to position themselves as a system builders in a relatively short time. The governance of the intermediary impacts its ability to respond strategically to changes in its environment and to gain legitimacy within the new technological context.

BEYOND NET EFFECTS: TOWARDS A CONFIGURATIONAL ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

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Following mainstream social science, economic geography sees causality as 'net-effects' of independent on dependent variables. Boschma's 2005 proximities paper is a case in point. It suggests to study the effects of five proximities (geographical, cognitive, social, institutional, organizational) on learning separately. It also suggests to investigate how different proximities supplement/substitute on another. However, 'net-effects' and 'supplement/substitute' are fundamentally different causal languages. Net-effects is the language of simple causality and is formalized using linear algebra (statistics), supplement/substitute is about complex causality, which is formalized using Boolean algebra.

Complex causality goes beyond net-effects of individual variables to look at configurations of conditions (causes) whose co-occurrence explains outcomes. Even though the formal language of simple causality (linear algebra, statistics) is becoming ever more dominant in economic geography, configurational thinking is at the heart of economic-geography theorizing.

- Agglomeration effects follow when multiple conditions are present in a region, they are not the sum of the net-effects of individual conditions.

- Evolutionary paths are the result of the co-occurrence of multiple conditions and changing one may break the path.
- Institutional thickness explains innovation because of the co-presence of multiple institutions, etc.

If economic geography wants to research the complex causality its theories suggest, it must move beyond statistical, variable-based research and embrace methods that are designed around complex causality, such as QCA (Qualitative Comparative Analysis). Rutten introduced QCA into in economic geography (Journal of Economic Geography, 2018), to demonstrate that regional innovation follows from four different mechanisms, three of which include openness values.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

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The impact of financialisation on local and regional government has received considerable academic and media attention over the last decade. However, its influence is often overstated: the actual sums involved are often marginal in relation to the total public purse. In comparison, local government funding, specifically the often variable ability to exploit the more mundane and parochial sources of income available at the local scale, has received less attention.

In England a long-term, substantial reduction in central transfers has accentuated debates around new forms of local taxation, incentive-based grants, borrowing, and value capture. These different approaches to funding are often conflated by policy documents. Using several perspectives and information resources often studied in isolation (government policy and its documentation, public sector accountancy and its information and more abstract notions of state local relations and place making), this paper presents a typology of local government funding methods, and analyses their implications for local authorities' role. It argues that, although often innovative, they are mostly peripheral in terms of quantum and raise sharp questions of equity between geographical areas; and technical features of funding are critical to understanding its outcomes. The impact of financialisation on local authority revenue too has been peripheral. These phenomena are unusually visible in England at present but they also present lessons internationally for jurisdictional design.

REGIONAL AND URBAN RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF TURBULENCES: A CROSS-SCALE ANALYSIS OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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Alexandru Bănică, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, / Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch, Romania

Present paper uses the resilience capacity as an instrument to analyse the regional and urban patterns of the socio-economic transformations of Central and Eastern Europe, in order to highlight those cities and regions that raced ahead and those that stayed behind. Drawing evidence on a territory whose urban system is no stranger to turbulent times, this paper explores the capacity for maintaining continuity through shocks and instabilities by reorganizing and/or transforming or, on the contrary, the quasi-inertia of each of the most populated city from the 54 regions (NUTS2 level), as well as the impact they (may) have on the regional resilience. Correlating the multiannual evolution of socio-economic indicators at urban level with regional dynamics and taking into account major disturbances, such as the economic crisis that burst in 2008, it identifies how the shocks spread (differently or similarly) within

cities, respectively regions. Based on the results of the statistical and GIS analysis of the time series data, this research draws the outline of a complex territory where the major urban areas might dictate the regional evolution in different degrees, while the second-tier cities show divergent trajectories from the region to which they belong, widening even more the socio-economic development gap. Finally, this study also draws attention to the resourcefulness the framework of resilience could bring into the urban-regional strategies by systemically rethinking the cities and regions and allowing the implementation of better targeted planning policies in the future which will sustain both the local and regional potential.

Keywords: urban and regional resilience, cross-scale analysis, path-dependency, Central and Eastern Europe

NON-CONVEXITIES IN THE EFFICIENCY FRONTIER OF REGIONAL INNOVATION: DO THEY MATTER, AND WHAT TO THEY TEACH US ABOUT POLICY MAKING?

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Maria Alberta Oliveira, University Institute of Maia, Portugal

Evolutionary Economics has often dismissed the use of quantitative research, namely when studying regional innovation. Efficiency studies using data envelopment analysis, (DEA) are the only exception, even if a very limited one. The frontiers of such methods have never been pursued in depth in regional innovation studies. In this paper, we try to overcome that perspective by showing the advantages of going beyond the standard DEA. We neglect the convexity assumption the efficiency frontier and use the Free Disposable Hull (FDH) method to obtain the efficiency indices. Adding to this, we follow Simar and Wilson's (2003) recommendation and use a double bootstrapping algorithm to assess the significance of the candidate determinants of efficiency scores, in order to avoid the impossibility to factorize the likelihood function, due to the quite well known correlation of the efficiency indices, . Our results support two major findings: firstly, relaxing the convenient mathematical assumption of convexity provides a picture of regional efficiency in innovation that is much closer to the conclusions regarding regional innovation systems; secondly, when assessing the determinants of different scores, not imposing convexity allows for a wider range of possibilities that are statistically significant. Hence, policy recommendations should take into account a wider variety of instruments than what is usually done, when based on less robust regional analysis methods.

MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS IN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Susann Schaefer, Friedrich-Schiller University Jena, Germany

This paper discusses the role of migrant entrepreneurs in entrepreneurial ecosystems. Migrant entrepreneurs are defined as migrants who establish or manage a firm in a foreign ecosystem. Often, due to their specific language and cultural skills as well as their business networks migrant entrepreneurs serve as 'boundary spanners' who are able to connect multiple ecosystems. As such, they fill several roles in the ecosystem of destination and of origin: While they import innovative business ideas and a different entrepreneurial culture to foreign ecosystems, migrant entrepreneurs often transfer their lessons learned to their ecosystem of origin.

To illustrate these different roles and how they affect entrepreneurial ecosystems, this papers draws on the case of Israeli IT entrepreneurs in two ecosystem studies: London and Berlin. Whereas London is the ecosystem for Israeli entrepreneurs focussing on ecommerce, Berlin is an emerging ecosystems where Israeli entrepreneurs of diverse IT sectors are attracted to by a

scholarship program. Based on primary and secondary data, first, the paper shows the transfer of innovative business ideas, the integration and challenges of Israeli migrant entrepreneurs in those two ecosystems. Second, the knowledge transfer to the domestic ecosystem in Israel will be outlined.

The paper finally discusses the role of migrant entrepreneurs for knowledge circulation with regard to the development of entrepreneurial ecosystems. At the end, the author highlights several strategies to make entrepreneurial ecosystems attractive for migrant entrepreneurs.

FEMINIST BY DEFAULT: A CASE STUDY OF A PERSON-CENTRED BUSINESS ACCELERATION PROGRAMME

Juliane Schwarz, City-REDI, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

This presentation is based on an evaluation of a business acceleration programme supporting start-ups and early stage companies in the creative and tech industries in East London. Similar to other accelerators, this programme is fixed term (three months), cohort based and involves mentoring sessions. There are expert seminars and workshops, e.g., about pitching, and sessions on legal and financial advice.

Different to other programmes, however, it advertises a unique approach towards supporting new entrepreneurs. They advocate a more person-centred approach focussing on the personal well-being of the entrepreneur rather than predominantly on business advancement. The central element of the programme is peer-to-peer learning rather than expert advice. Participants are encouraged to open up and be vulnerable about their problems and thus finding individual solutions rather than displaying a level of confidence not requiring support.

The aim of the overall research project is to evaluate the impact of the programme in relation to business success and business growth. During the qualitative data collection, one aspect of the programme was mentioned very positively without being elicited. A number of participants mentioned that the programme was 'truly' diverse. Unlike other programmes, it was noted that there was a wide spread of diversity in relation to gender, ethnicity and age. In relation to gender, there were mostly double as many female participants in each cohort than male participants.

In this presentation, I will discuss these findings in relation to whether or not the programme's person-centred approach is in particular beneficial for female (or otherwise diverse) participants and consequently if there is a cause to call for specialist support for female-led start-ups. Also, is it appropriate to use data collected for an impact study to discuss in a gender paper when this was not part of the research question?

PROSPECTS OF INCLUDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEW CLARK CITY, PHILIPPINES: DOCUMENTING THE PROCESSES

Florencia Charito Sebastian, University of the Philippines, Philippines

This paper documents the processes involved in the government's endeavor to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in an ambitious urban development project that will decongest Metro Manila, the densest city in the world, save it from the threats of the megaquake and rising sea-level because of climate change. In particular, the project seeks to include the Aytas, the indigenous people around the development area, in the enjoyment of the benefits of the undertaking via inclusive development approaches as providing 1) culturally-appropriate education to this group that has historically posed a challenge to the country's educators and a

2) central role in biodiversity development since the Aytas contributed to the enrichment of botanical knowledge around the fragile Mt. Plnatubo area.

An ethnographic research, the paper looks at the relations between the state as an urban developer and the indigenous people and proves that the role of supportive institutions serve as strong force in the continuity of the presence of the indigenous people in our midst hence prevents their people from vanishing away or assimilating. Moreover, weaker IP groups like the Aytas do not assert themselves on their own for state recognition of their cultural identity, heritage, and land but on the strength of the advocacy of cultural development workers and militant organizations.

INVESTIGATING THE GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS THAT SUSTAIN REGIONAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Marianne Sensier, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Elvira Uyarra, MIOIR, AMBS, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

We will examine the economic resilience of UK sub-regions since the financial crisis. We will conduct a comprehensive review of the academic and policy literature on governance mechanisms and policy interventions that have been applied to help with the recovery from the financial crisis in 2008 and explain their potential role for the post Brexit transition and economic development of regions in the UK.

Ayres, et al (2018) note that “crises open ‘windows of opportunity’ by potentially jolting institutions or constitutional configurations out of established pathways and thereby facilitating the introduction of new structures and relationships”. Political elites may seek to control the crisis and return to the status quo but reform agendas can be followed by committed individuals who seek to remove ‘executive blockages’ before the window of opportunity closes. The financial crisis could have provided a window of opportunity for some places to develop new arrangements supporting new path creation and diversification of regional economies. Fastenrath et al (2019) discuss Melbourne’s resilience strategy. They “argue that resilience actions can be conceptualised as ‘governance experiments’ that aim to re-construct established urban governance structures by disrupting institutional path dependencies through collective innovation, cooperation and coordination” (p.7-8). They also discuss the need for more policy experimentation and combining solutions from “bottom-up” grass roots organisations (for example in the voluntary and social enterprise sector) with “top-down” established urban planning policy. We will compare the UK cities of Preston and Greater Manchester in terms of their recovery and resilience since the financial crisis.

URBAN AGRICULTURE AS CONNECTION POINTS: CIVIL SOCIETY INFLUENCE IN SANTIAGO, CHILE

Ruth Sepulveda, University College London, United Kingdom

The emergence of urban agriculture projects in Santiago during recent years has allowed civil society to be established as the main actor that promotes and maintains urban agriculture in the country, even over the state. The neoliberal economic and political scenario in Chile, which promotes corporatism, has caused community actors to be usually excluded or ignored from decisions in matters of sustainability or urban planning. It is here that the main participation of civil society becomes more relevant, given that it has managed to position urban agriculture in the urban context and establish its own ideas about the environment despite its disadvantaged position. Santiago presents an interesting case to understand the civil society position and its

connections with the other social actors involved in urban agriculture in a neoliberal context. This study will investigate the networks established by civil society in urban agriculture projects in Santiago with an emphasis on the connections between agriculture groups and their members. Through a study case approach with Santiago as the main research area, the study is based on the interviews with members of 20 groups from different municipalities of the region. Preliminarily, the study that urban agriculture is used more for social connection than food production. It also shows a weak connection between civil society and the state and the private sector. Although most connections are formed between civil society actors in the neighbourhoods where the gardens are located, connections are also established with actors from other areas of the city.

UNIVERSITIES – ACTOR IN BUILDING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION. STUDY CASE – ROMANIA-UKRAINE BORDER

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Gabriela Prelipcean, University "Stefan cel Mare" Suceava, Romania

In the frame of continuous and updated promotion of the territorial cooperation inside the European Union and friendly neighbourhood relation with the partner countries, the cross-border cooperation was activated in different forms along the time, mainly by the Council of Europe – the soft approach through policy papers and Euroregions, and European Union – the deeper approach through policies, regulations and programmes that finance projects with mandatory cross-border partnership. The already traditional role of the universities as poles of a regions' development was extended, if we consider the communities along a common border as a region with common history, culture or traditions. The purpose of this paper is to explore different expressions of the universities' involvement in the cross-border cooperation across the European countries or international, and to identify specific actions and networks where universities are the main players in building cross-border cooperation. The first part of the research is based on several examples illustrated in the scientific literature or promoted directly by different universities in Europe or around the world, while the second part uses the official data on cross-border projects, official statements and documents, and a field research that we did in the cross-border area Romania-Ukraine.

JOINING FIN WITH TECH: THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN REGIONAL AND SECTORIAL ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Ben Spigel, University of Edinburgh Business School, United Kingdom

There is little agreement in the regional studies literature about the nature of entrepreneurial ecosystems. Some researchers see regions as having a singular ecosystem that supports high-growth entrepreneurship in a variety of sectors while others see regions as having distinct, nested ecosystems focused on different sectors. Such disagreements obscure the underlying social and economic processes through which entrepreneurial ecosystems support the creation, survival, and expansion of innovative new ventures. To address this gap, we develop a novel methodology to study the industry background of FinTech founding teams in four British entrepreneurial ecosystems. After classifying founders based on their employment and educational history, we find significant overlap between those with finance backgrounds and technology backgrounds for firms started in the City of London, Shoreditch, and Edinburgh, while there less overlap in the backgrounds of FinTech founding teams in Leeds. This suggests that the more developed economies of London and Edinburgh have created a singular ecosystem in which those with experience in the finance industry (who can observe unmet

entrepreneurial problems in this sector) and those in the technology industry (who can develop tools to address these problems), while the less developed Leeds ecosystem has not yet built such integrated networks.

NEOLIBERAL FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AND ITS TRANSFORMATION UNDER HOUSING BOOM AND BUST: THE CASE OF ORDOS CITY, CHINA

Xing Su, The University of Waterloo, Canada

Zhu Qian, University of Waterloo, Canada

Under the conceptual framework of neoliberal governance and its transformation in post-bubble period, this study probes the interactions between financial governance and housing boom-bust cycle in Ordos City, China. The findings reveal that the neoliberal financial governing strategies employed by the Ordos government, including active state investment in housing, public-private partnership in infrastructure (e.g., build-operate-transfer) and residential land development, and excessive financial deregulation to promote the mushrooming informal finance to fund real estate development, have significantly contributed to housing boom and overbuilding. Detrimental socioeconomic and environmental ramifications generated by overbuilding and the burst of housing bubble have in turn nurtured a more rigorous and re-distributional fashion of financial governance in Ordos. In particular, the innovative financial tool of “housing and land coupons”, along with some auxiliary policies such as the “shared property right policy”, were created by the Ordos government in the post-bubble era to allow the homeowners of dilapidated houses in urban area to exchange their shabby dwellings for the unsold new apartments purchased by the government from developers at below-market prices. The implementation of “housing and land coupons” has improved the housing conditions of some medium- and low-income households, reduced the excessive new housing inventory, and alleviated the financial pressures of the developers facing bankruptcies in Ordos City. Yet, issues such as undesirable locations of new houses available for exchange and illegal transactions of housing and land coupons are also notable. Theoretically, this study sheds light on the practices and transformations of neoliberal financial governance in the Chinese context, and validates the existence and effectiveness of re-distributional housing financial policies in China. It also indicates that strong state capacity in the case of Chinese cities can be beneficial to tackle neoliberal practices and initiate timely state interventions to correct government and market failures such as overbuilding.

THE ROLE OF EMBEDDEDNESS IN AFFECTING STRATEGY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

Dzulfian Syafrian, Durham University Business School, United Kingdom

Embeddedness is one of the key analytical elements in global production networks/GPN approach. Nevertheless, there is only limited literature investigating the role of embeddedness in GPN. This study, therefore, fills this gap by providing multiple case studies which illustrate how embeddedness affects strategy and productivity of multinational companies.

Four case studies are provided. Those cases are: (1) Nissan plant in the North East of England (Sunderland); (2) Nissan plant in Barcelona; (3) Jaguar and Land Rover/JLR plant in the West Midland of England; (4) General Motors/Opel Plant in Bochum-Germany. These cases have unique characteristics. The last three cases illustrate how strong societal, network and territorial embeddedness shape how the companies operate and harm its productivity. On the other hand, Nissan Sunderland has very efficient, lean and productive manufacturing system

and plant compared to the other cases. Unlike the other cases, Nissan Sunderland faces only weak embeddedness which allows them to establish its ideal operation methods.

These findings suggest that there is an Inverted-U shape between the level of embeddedness and company's productivity. It means that embeddedness is good for company's productivity only to a certain level. Once it reaches its maximum point (the point where the level embeddedness is considerably too strong), it harms its performance. Mixed methods are applied in this research. Semi-structured interviews, a set of secondary data and plant visits/observations are triangulated and analysed to get these findings. Some further studies are also indicated.

POLITICAL STRATEGIES OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES IN MANAGING UNCERTAINTY: LESSONS FROM BREXIT

Dzulfian Syafrian, Durham University Business School, United Kingdom

There is very limited rich empirical research examining how a company designs, implements and adopts their political strategy under uncertain environments and the role of corporate power on the development of such political strategies. The Brexit referendum has created major uncertainties not only in the UK, but also in the EU and in the global economy. This paper, therefore, elaborates how companies in the UK, with reference to Nissan as the case study, are responding to Brexit as the source of their political uncertainties. This paper introduces a framework to analyse how companies exercise their power in order to protect their interests and gain benefits under uncertain environments. The framework proposes four political strategies, namely: passive, collective defence, supportive, and individual defence strategy. The company's level of corporate power and the potential impact of uncertainty to the company are two main factors determining how a company chooses the most appropriate strategy for them to manage uncertainty. A case study of Nissan is provided to illustrate how a large multinational company exercises their power by adopting individual defence political strategy to manage uncertain environments and their relationship with stakeholders, in particular, with the host government. The Nissan case study shows that, under uncertain environments a very powerful, legitimate and large multinational company could effectively exercise their power and implement individual defence political strategy toward government in order to protect status quo and their interests and even to gain some 'blessing in disguise' benefits as a compensation of uncertain conditions.

"THE FUTURE OF THE GREAT PLAINS" 80 YEARS LATER: EVALUATING THE CAPACITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF MYTHIC REGIONAL DISCOURSE

Bryce Tellmann, The Pennsylvania State University, United States

In 1936, President Franklin Roosevelt's administration delivered a report to the United States Congress entitled "The Future of the Great Plains." The report details the environmental and economic challenges of the country's vast midland during the Great Depression and lays out a plan for rethinking the region. More than 80 years after its publication, the report is still a potent example of what the interwar regionalist movement called "scientific regionalism," a progress-focused perspective that sought to precisely catalogue what a region was, and to create a modern vision of what it could be.

While Roosevelt's administration took a decidedly economic and environmental approach, this analysis examines the report's rhetorical aspects. A rhetorical perspective reveals how the authors managed not only the technical dimensions of their regional vision, but also the discursive issues of addressing multiple groups with conflicting expectations of the region. To

navigate these conflicts, the report attempts to create a “usable history,” what regionalist Robert Dorman describes as a set of myths that can be commonly held and sufficiently meaningful to animate a particular vision of a society. "The Future of the Great Plains" projects this vision both backwards and forwards, promising to return to the region to a mythic past in harmony with nature, while at the same time ushering it into a modern, rational future. My analysis considers the capacities and limitations of this sort of mythic regional discourse, with implications for both the history and future of regional thought, on the Great Plains and far beyond.

ECONOMIC AGGLOMERATIONS IN ITALY: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH DIFFERENT DISTANCE-BASED METHODS

Stefano Usai, University of Cagliari, Italy

Alberto Tidu, CRENoS and University of Cagliari, Italy

Our work aims to use distance measures to produce a new map of Italian economic agglomerations, not bounded or influenced by predefined administrative borders. Our choice of distance-based methods, rather than more conventional discrete measures, is dependent on our decision to circumvent the so-called Modifiable Areal Unit Problem: distance-based methods will enable us to perform an unbiased analysis of the spatial distribution based solely on the distance between single firms (or plants), without relying on any predefined zoning (such as, in the Italian case, municipalities, provinces, regions, labor local systems).

Our dataset is based on data collected by ISTAT for the ASIA (Archivio Statistico delle Imprese Attive) database and spanning through an almost twenty-year long period, from 1995 to 2012; such database provides complete and reliable information on exact location, economic activity, legal form, number of employees, revenue, etc.

The first step of our analysis will involve the geolocalization of each plant through API (Application Programming Interface). Subsequently, plants will be weighed either by number of employees, by revenue or by some other relevant economic marker.

Finally, we will proceed with a comparative analysis by measuring the geographic extension of the existing agglomerations with the aid of three types of distance-based measures (a relative, a topographic and an absolute function, according to the categorization suggested by Marcon and Puech, 2012):

FOSTERING REGIONAL DIVERSIFICATION AND TRANSFORMATION THROUGH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

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Existing evolutionary approaches to regional growth tend to emphasise firm-led regional branching based on pre-existing local assets. Insufficient attention has been paid to how strategic or deliberate state action can influence the conditions for new path creation and development. The importance of the public sector in shaping demand conditions for regional innovation is rarely acknowledged. More generally, the literature has overlooked the role of institutional entrepreneurs and the specific activities that they engage in to create new institutions or to transform existing ones.

Integrating insights from the literature on public procurement of innovation, evolutionary economic geography and ‘transformative’ innovation policy, this paper seeks to advance the conceptualization of the role of public demand in regional diversification and transformation.

We draw from the case of Galicia (Spain) as illustration and to understand how institutional entrepreneurs in that region altered existing practices and enabled new institutions for industrial diversification and new path creation.

REGIONAL INEQUALITIES IN ENTREPRENEURIAL DIGITALIZATION: THE CASE OF HUNGARY

Zsafia Vas, University of Szeged, Hungary

Digitalization contributes to the rapid expansion of the information society and economy, and essential for the knowledge- and learning-based economy to grow. Digital readiness requires the ability to exploit digital opportunities, to use digital technologies, to develop digital skills and experiences. Countries are undergoing the process of intensive digital transformation, however they differ greatly in how they can adapt and explore digital opportunities. Hungary has shown average progress on the field of digitalization, but still among one of the poorly performing EU member states. No doubt, digital inequalities among national and regional economies exist, the question is that how it appears in the business sphere.

Aim of the study is to map regional inequalities in Hungary related to digital readiness of the business sphere and to analyze the level of entrepreneurial digitalization on county level. Results reveal that regional inequalities can be observed in terms of digital readiness as well, and this problem needs to be addressed more strongly in recent development strategies.

GETTING URBAN DENSITY TO WORK IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN AFRICA

Justin Visagie, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

Ivan Turok, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

The drawbacks of informal settlements stand in stark contrast to the theoretical promise that urban density is the key to building more productive, sustainable and resilient cities. African cities cannot expect to prosper while the majority of residents live in sprawling 'slums' with no prospect of improvement beyond the provision of basic services. There is a strong case for governments embracing a broader upgrading agenda in order to harness the potential of density for all-round progress. The core proposition is that urban population growth should be accommodated by building upwards rather than outwards. We consider how the state and communities might transform living conditions in informal settlements despite their restricted resources. To expand settlements upwards requires tenure reform, participatory mapping, land readjustment and in-situ service and housing investments.

RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY: SOUTH AFRICA AS A LITMUS TEST

Justin Visagie, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

Ivan Turok, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

A small but growing number of empirical studies consistently find a positive relationship between rural-urban migration and economic mobility. South Africa makes for an interesting test case as a country with significant barriers to upwards mobility including enduring spatial inequalities, chronic unemployment and a prolonged period of low economic growth. Using longitudinal data for the period 2008 to 2017, we find that there was a strong association between rural-urban migration and upwards income mobility in South Africa which stands up to more intensive modelling. However, we also find that a substantial proportion of migrants end

up living in shacks or informal settlements which points to other forms of vulnerability. We recommend that policy-makers take seriously the potentially transformative role of internal migration in economic development.

TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL: UNDERSTANDING SYSTEM LEVEL RESULTS IN CLUSTERS - THE CASE OF VINNVÄXT

Emily Wise, Lund University, Sweden

James Wilson, Orkestra and Deusto University, Spain

Madeline Smith, The Glasgow School of Art, United Kingdom

With more ambitious objectives, cluster programmes can be positioned among other types of complex innovation and system transition programmes (CITPs) – larger-scale and longer-term efforts involving a variety of stakeholders across different parts of society, with the objective of acting together to undertake broader socio-technical transitions. The complexity of objectives and long-term nature of these programmes puts new requirements on the role of and approach to evaluation. In addition to monitoring efficiency, effectiveness and relevance, evaluation of CITPs also needs to monitor progress and inform the direction of the systemic change process underway – adopting a realist (or developmental) approach to evaluation. Despite deep experience with cluster policy implementation, practitioners still struggle with monitoring and evaluation of these systemic instruments. Current approaches focus on evidencing firm-level benefits and fail to capture the added value of collaboration and contributions to broader systemic change in their territorial context.

This paper builds on the “Cluster Programme Framework of Effects” (Wise, Wilson and Smith 2018, RSA Winter Conference) and analyses cluster initiatives’ contribution to improvements in the territorial system. Through an interactive, co-development process with five initiatives in the Swedish Vinnväxt programme, this research defines a set of system result categories for clusters and tests a new approach for evidencing and tracking systemic change processes over time. The results suggest that cluster initiatives contribute to a variety of system level results, with a notably strong role in mobilising and bringing actors together, catalysing ideas and coordinating various actions that influence longer-term regional development processes.

HOW MUCH LOCAL IS RURAL DEVELOPMENT? STILL UNEXPLAINED NATURE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT BEYOND THE EU POLICY

Oskar Wolski, University of Lodz, Poland

The nature of rural development is complex. Bottom-up and place-based local and regional policies on the one hand and top-down and European-wide on the other hand call for different theoretical frameworks and vocabularies to be explained.

But, do we really understand rural development? The development realised via Common Agricultural Policy in European Union seems to be well-addressed and covered in regional science and geographic literature, but it is not the same in the case of the development realised via regional or local policies.

What is such development? How much local is it? Does it follow the mechanisms present in EU-sponsored development? What methods does it demand to be explained? In my paper, I attempt to answer these questions based on the GIS and statistic methods. I hypothesise that in order for rural development to be explained via quantitative methods it must be “not local enough”, and otherwise it demands that qualitative methods be applied, and hence that a geographical scale in which research is conducted plays a vital role. If so, what are implications? The research is based on the case of the regional rural renewal programmes in Poland.

LAND FINANCIALISATION AND THE FINANCING OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

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There is a growing body of literature on China's land reform, land system and land-centred urbanisation. While the contribution of land proceeds to Chinese local public finance and infrastructure investment has been widely acknowledged, few studies examine land through the perspective of financialisation, namely how land development uses financial instruments to generate development finance. The process of land-driven financialisation in China has not been well understood. This paper examines the land mortgage, which has accelerated since 2008, and subsequent waves of financialisation through local government financial vehicles (LGFVs) and Chengtou Bonds (urban construction and investment bonds). We highlight that the adoption of a fiscal stimulus package triggered land financialisation, which started as a development strategy for crisis management in China.

RELATIVE RISK PREMIUM IN CHINA'S URBAN CONSTRUCTION INVESTMENT BOND: INSTRUMENTAL VIEW FROM FINANCIAL MARKET

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Fangzhu Zhang, The Bartlett School of Planning, UCL, United Kingdom

D'Maris Coffman, The Bartlett School of Construction & Project Management, UCL, United Kingdom

Senmao Xia, Coventry University Business School, United Kingdom

Zhigang Wang, The School of Management Science & Engineering, Central University of Finance & Economics, China

This study examines relative risk premium with reference to Urban Construction Investment Bond (UCIB), an asset class of sub-sovereign bond in China. We use vector autoregressive (VAR) to model bivariate relations between UCIB yield and sovereign bond, a perspective based on financial market instrument. We decompose sources of relative risk premium into a spatial layer, and a financial instrument level risk factor. We model the dynamic process of change using impulse response produced by VAR. Based on our research finding, we caution over-prediction on the demise of China's infrastructure investment and argue that such aggregated view understates the full potential of the financial market to infrastructure as an emerging asset class. UCIB which remains largely domestic debt, plays a strategically important role in China's systems of infrastructure finance and serves the development of the real economy in China well since the last global financial crisis.

PUBLIC SERVICE EFFICIENCY AND POLITICAL NETWORKS: EVIDENCE FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ENGLAND

Jia Huey Yeh, Chinese Culture University, Taiwan, China

Yi Liu, Jiang Xi University of Finance and Economics, China

The network between local authorities of the same political party is an important type of the social networks. The objective of this research is to investigate how political networks impact efficiency of local waste service. Using the partial Spatial Durbin Model on over 300 local authorities' data, we discovered political networks impact local authority's efficiency in four ways. Firstly, political party network effects have significant positive impacts on efficiencies of waste service. Secondly, it is easier to promote efficiency when the political power of one party is dominant in a region, while it does not help to improve efficiency when two party powers in a region are balanced. Thirdly, horizontal political party network effects of the same party are

significantly positive, and much stronger than those from the superior authority. Lastly, efficiency spillovers from the neighbouring areas ruled by the same political party are much stronger than those from the neighbouring areas ruled by a different party. The results indicate that the “Proximity Principle” of waste management creates a barrier to cooperation between local authorities within the same party due to their distance.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN SMES’ JOINT UPGRADING: EMPIRICAL LESSONS FROM A KOREAN COSMETICS MANUFACTURING CLUSTER

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Cluster firms tend to function as a catalyst for regional economic development by introducing new product, process and business function. The key point of this development path creation is that cluster firms and other non-firm actors achieve cluster upgrading via organising joint actions. However, cluster upgrading is far from a linear evolution model. Accordingly, some industrial cluster scholars define industrial clusters as a complex adaptive system in which various non-linear and interactive dynamics between cluster firms and non-firm actors take place. It is arguable that public involvement is especially important in stimulating the adaptive dynamics of industrial cluster through which cluster tenants can overcome negative lock-in stages. This paper seeks to explore empirical evidence on how the public sector leads industrial cluster tenants to gradually ameliorate their joint actions when their cluster faces the possibility of negative lock-in status. This paper argues that policy activism contributing to industrial cluster evolution is essentially fostering a series of production and reproduction of strategic alliances between cluster firms. The empirical evidence is drawn from a cosmetics manufacturing cluster in Incheon, South Korea. The in-depth case study shows that the public involvement takes the role of platform in which small inter-firm groups interact with each other in the industrial cluster by forming strategic alliances and a subsequent strategic alliance tends to make up for organisational weakness of precedence.

ARE START-UPS SIGNIFICANT DETERMINANTS OF ECONOMIC ATTRACTION? THE CASE OF GREATER MANCHESTER

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Given the centralised structure of the United Kingdom, one of the challenges for policy-makers in the context of upcoming Brexit, is the economic attractiveness of cities outside London. Re-balancing the economy is more pressing than ever for the future of investment. To address this, new infrastructural projects are being developed, such as the High Speed Rail, which will connect London to Manchester -- the second economic centre of the UK. Nevertheless, such an endeavour might have the opposite effect of acting as yet another attractor towards London. Finding the right strategy to remain competitive and attractive to employment, is hence a crucial challenge that Manchester, and any other city in the North, face.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the determinant factors of economic attraction of the city of Manchester. We take the assumption that the appearance of start-ups is a sign of a prosperous economic environment in a city. We investigate whether success of start-ups in Greater Manchester can be related to factors such as rated value of non-domestic properties, transport accessibility indicators, employment, turnover and the presence of other knowledge-

based industries. We test a few models within the framework of complexity science, in particular of network theory, and these are applied at the level of census units between 2013 and 2017. The aim is to propose lines of discussion for policy makers to define the challenges of the city in the post-Brexit future.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CHINA'S NEW URBANISATION: A CASE STUDY OF GREENWAY DEVELOPMENT IN MAANSHAN

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China's recent environmental turn in urban development has been marked by a rush of urban green projects. Many city governments have lately focused on green infrastructure of a specific kind – the greenway. This article provides a preliminary assessment of the contributions of green-ways to a new, environmentally benign form of urbanisation advocated by the central government. Through a case study of the city of Maanshan, it reveals that Chinese greenways are not just a sustainability fix for the economy's sake, as many urban green projects in China tend to be conceived. Although the greenways are far from being effective in stimulating tourism, they can promote urban liveability beyond the symbolic and lend material support to active travel. These findings endorse an analytical approach that gives equal emphasis to both the physical and political nature of emerging green infrastructure initiatives to more fully appreciate the logics and functions in their ongoing popularity.

HUMAN CAPITAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION IN DEPRIVED AREAS

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Most main measures of entrepreneurship indicate that deprived neighbourhoods lag behind more prosperous areas (Devins, 2009), because people living in deprived areas would face particular contexts potentially more hostile to starting entrepreneurial activities. Particularly, human capital is lower on average and varies in nature compared to that present in more prosperous communities (Hirsch, 2008), which may hinder opportunity identification and exploitation (Shane, 2000), whilst also impacting on the availability of alternative activities (Potter, 2004). Nonetheless, previous studies that focused on the general relationship between human capital and entrepreneurial intention may be not applicable to deprived areas, which will be addressed in this paper.

This paper will draw upon a classic entrepreneurial intention model, regulatory focus theory and neighbourhood effects to build a new intention model with the relevance of deprived context. The purpose is to test the effect of neighbourhood context on human capital development and the interactions among neighbourhood context, human capital and two crucial factors relating to entrepreneurial intention (i.e. self-efficacy and self-regulatory focus). In this paper, both the primary and secondary data will be applied to provide a comprehensive view from a broad perspective to specific situations. Binary logistic regressions have been applied in this paper to empirically test these relationships. It is found that higher formal qualification facilitates self-efficacy, particularly for individuals' belief to complete tasks, whilst an interaction between neighbourhood contexts and the development of general human capital has been proven. More specifically, family background and ethnic background play crucial roles in the development of general human capital.

This paper will contribute to knowledge by providing a comprehensive illustration of the key mechanisms at play, enabling a fuller understanding of the connections among deprived

environment, entrepreneurial intention and human capital. This is of importance to both policy makers and future researchers.

"CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR": AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON THE ROLE OF POLITICAL INCENTIVES IN SHAPING REVENUE AUTONOMY AND GRANT ALLOCATIONS FOLLOWING THE "KALLIKRATIS" REFORM FOR GREEK MUNICIPALITIES

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In the recent decades two important administrative reforms shaped the basic features of local government in Greece: the 'Kapodistrias' plan (1999-2010) and the 'Kallikratis' program (2010-2018). This study explores the effect of the "Kallikratis" political reform, which reduced the number of municipalities in Greece to 325 compared to the 1034 over the "Kapodistrias" mix, in the factors explaining revenue autonomy and grant allocations from the central government, respectively, and discusses the role of political power under this new regime in comparison to its predecessor. Our evidence demonstrates that results on grant allocations mostly persist in the post-'Kallikratis' period and comply with those concerning the 'Kapodistrian' mix of municipalities. More specifically, we find that extraordinary grants are subject to political intervention for both periods, while the scrutiny over formula-based grants somehow safeguard their primer role in covering a municipality's basic administrative and socio-economic needs. Further, we report that political alignment significantly hinders a municipality's revenue autonomy indicators, while, contrary to the Kapodistrian mix of municipalities, the Kallikratis set of municipalities is favoured by re-elected Mayors who use their expertise and experience at the office towards induced levels of revenue autonomy for their municipality. Along those lines, we depict the diminished role of competition for the Mayoral office in offering more scrutiny and thereby leading to reduced levels of revenue autonomy over the Kallikratis period of study. Collectively, our results on the post-Kallikratis reform period confirm the significant role of political intervention in shaping revenue autonomy and grant allocations in Greece, and highlight the eminent, despite the reform, need for effective reforms in grant allocation practices, which alleviate from political incentives and reduce political interference towards higher levels of municipal revenue autonomy.

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