



JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY
IN KRAKOW



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Regional Studies Association Research Network

Seminar series
Regional Development and the Changing Geography
of Outsourcing Business Services in an Enlarged Europe

CALL FOR PAPERS

Third seminar

The Implications for Sender Country Regions of Outsourcing Business Services

2nd and 3rd September 2010

Business School, University of Hertfordshire

Foreign investment in business services has been increasingly characterized by two new factors. First, relocation has been considered across a wider range of potential regions and countries including Central and Eastern Europe. Second, there has been an increase in vertical investments as firms fragment their value chains and locate one part of their operation offshore. This seminar focuses on offshoring and outsourcing from the perspective of sender country regions. First, we would like to examine motives for the relocation of business services from sender countries and its impacts. We would particularly welcome papers that examine the impact of the economic crisis and recession on this process. Second, we are interested in individual firm strategies and managerial issues as well as trade union responses.

Researchers and practitioners are invited to take part in the seminar. We encourage contributions in the form of both research-in-progress and completed studies originating from various disciplines such as economic geography, regional studies, international business and management. We would welcome a variety of methodological approaches.



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The papers can explore, but should not be limited to the following issues:

- Global trends in business services movements
- The relationship between the crisis and outsourcing
- Firms' strategies for managing 'outsourced' and 'offshored' knowledge
- Trade union responses to outsourcing and offshoring
- Receiver countries becoming sender countries
- Local implications of global-spatial reconfiguration in business services
- Theoretical explanations of business services' location and new firm formation processes
- Entrepreneurship in business services

The event will comprise presentations by two keynote speakers. Professor Colin Haslam will present a lecture *Offshoring and outsourcing for financial leverage: now you see now you don't* and Dr Suresh Gupta of Capco will present from a practitioner perspective. This will be followed by a roundtable of participants from the business community to discuss the future of outsourcing and offshoring. The interactive nature of the seminar will be aimed at encouraging the exchange of ideas and practices and enable networking opportunities for practitioners in the public and private sectors, and academics. The participation of early career researchers, PhD students and post-doctoral fellows is encouraged.

There is no charge for attendance at the seminar and thanks to the RSA support the organisers will be able to offer a limited number of travel and accommodation grants for early career academics and PhD students. However, we would encourage all participants to search for additional sources of finance.

Deadline for abstract submission: 16th April 2010.

Abstracts of up to 500 words should be submitted to Professor Jane Hardy (j.a.hardy@herts.ac.uk) by 16th April 2009.

Abstracts should include names of all the authors, affiliation and full contact details. Please indicate if you require financial support to participate in the seminar.

The successful contributors will be informed by the 30th April and will be asked to provide a full (or working) version of the paper by mid-August.