

# An evolutionary perspective on regional diversification potentials and policies

**Ron Boschma**

**Salón de Grados FCEYE – Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 12.00**

**University of Seville**

Organised by the Department of Applied Economics II & SPRINT (RSA)



The seminar that Ron Boschma will deliver at the FCEYE will focus on the evolutionary perspective of regional development, which explains how regions grow and diversify based on the capabilities and knowledge they already possess. Rather than changing in a radical way, regions usually evolve toward activities related to their current sectors by sharing expertise, technology, and economic networks. From this perspective, regional policies should support innovation and diversification grounded in local capabilities, promoting collaboration among companies, universities, and institutions to facilitate adaptation to new markets and technologies.

**Ron Boschma** is a Dutch **economist and economic geographer** internationally recognized for his contributions to evolutionary economic geography, an approach that examines how regions develop new economic activities based on their existing capabilities and prior knowledge. He is currently **Professor of Regional Economics at Utrecht University in the Netherlands** and also serves as **Professor at University of Stavanger in Norway**.

His research focuses on topics such as innovation, regional resilience, economic diversification, and smart specialization policies. Boschma is considered one of the world's leading scholars in these fields and, since 2014, has been listed among **the world's most highly cited researchers according to Thomson Reuters**. In 2024, he received the prestigious **Vautrin Lud Prize, known as the "Nobel Prize of Geography,"** in recognition of his academic career and scientific contributions.

