

International PhD course on Economic Geography

Main theme of the course 2014:

Geography of knowledge, networks and transitions

Place

Utrecht University
location University Campus De Uithof
Van Unnik-building
Utrecht

Period

16 September 13.00 pm – 19 September 18.00 pm
11 November 13.00 pm – 14 November 18.00 pm

Local organizer:

Ron Boschma (Lund University/Utrecht University)

Co-organizers:

Bjorn Asheim (Lund University/Stavanger University)
Anders Malmberg (Uppsala University)

Guest lecturers:

Yuko Aoyama (Clark University)
Bjorn Asheim (Lund University/Stavanger University)
Pierre-Alex Balland (Utrecht University/Lund University)
Lars Coenen (Lund University/NIFU)
Koen Frenken (Utrecht University/Lund University)
Simona Iammarino (LSE)
Anders Malmberg (Uppsala University)
Andrea Morrison (Utrecht University)
Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (LSE)
Simone Strambach (Marburg University)
Bernard Truffer (EAWAG, Utrecht University)
Francesco Quatraro (University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis)

Content of course:

The course aims to provide an introduction to contemporary research perspectives and approaches in economic geography. The core questions of this discipline – related to the role of place and space in processes of economic development – have in recent years attracted interest not just from geographers but also from economists and other social scientists. This course will debate recent theoretical developments (with special attention to evolutionary and institutional economic geography), and will discuss recent advancements in methodology and empirical analysis in economic geography.

A key theme is the study of the geography of knowledge, networks and transitions. There is debate whether geographical proximity is a necessary and a sufficient condition for inter-firm knowledge transfer and innovation. Related to that, there is an increasing awareness that (different types of) networks enhance knowledge diffusion and innovation. The study of networks is a key topic in economic geography because it deals with the fundamental questions whether places or networks, and local or global networks matter for innovation. In addition, new tools in social network analysis have become available to analyse the role of (local) networks in regional development. Social network analysis has provided new insights to the cluster literature. Moreover, the spatial configuration of networks also change over time. What drives network dynamics is an emerging topic in economic geography. And, there is an expanding literature on the geography of transition which attracts a lot of attention.

This course takes up the following questions with respect to the main theme: to what extent need firms to be proximate in order to enhance innovation? What kinds of knowledge need to be recombined to enhance regional development? What kinds of network configurations are conducive to regional innovation? Who matters in networks of innovation? And how do networks of innovation evolve over time? How do regions diversify over time? Which types of agents induce structural change in regions? What is the role of multinationals in regional development? How do institutions affect the development of new growth paths? What kind of regional policy is needed to enhance regional innovation? Which regional features favour the transition towards more sustainable development? And what kinds of (institutional, evolutionary) theories are needed to accommodate these questions?

It is these questions what makes economic geography such an exciting discipline. Currently, many social scientists besides economic geographers are working on these topics, making it a cross-disciplinary endeavour. It is fair to say that many theoretical, conceptual and empirical issues still remain to be solved. Leading experts that are currently working on these research frontiers will take up these challenges, and discuss the latest insights. Network analysis will take a prominent part. A computer practicum will be organized in which students will learn to use and apply social and dynamic network analysis. And students learn how to analyze transitions towards sustainable development. PhD students will acquire the latest knowledge concerning these theoretical, methodological and empirical issues.

The organizers will participate actively in the course. Leading experts will present the latest developments with respect to the geography of knowledge, networks and transitions, and provide comments on the PhD projects and feedback on the paper that students have to write.

Each PhD student will get 45 minutes to present and discuss his/her PhD project (20 minutes presentation, 25 minutes discussion). A senior researcher and a PhD student will act as discussants for each PhD project.

Each PhD student has to select a topic among the ones that are addressed in the September meeting and write a paper on that topic (max. 4,000 words). This paper has to be submitted to the local organizer a week before the November meeting. During the November meeting, the student will get feedback from a senior researcher and receive a grade, if sufficient. The best paper will win an award.

Program

Tuesday 16 September

13.00 welcome by Ron Boschma

13.15 – 15.00 Ron Boschma (Lund University/Utrecht University)

Evolutionary economic geography: relatedness and diversification

15.15-16.00 PhD student 1

- senior discussant: Ron Boschma
- junior discussant:

16.15-17.00 PhD student 2

- senior discussant: Ron Boschma
- junior discussant:

17.15-18.00 PhD student 3

- senior discussant: Anders Malmberg
- junior discussant:

18.15-19.00 PhD student 4

- senior discussant: Anders Malmberg
- junior discussant:

Wednesday 17 September

9.00 - 11.00 Anders Malmberg (Uppsala University)

Localized learning, buzz and pipelines: a knowledge-based theory of spatial clustering

11.15 – 12.00 PhD student 5

- senior discussant: Anders Malmberg
- junior discussant:

12.15 – 13.00 PhD student 6

- senior discussant: Francesco Quatraro
- junior discussant:

13.00-14.00 lunch

14.00 - 16.00 Francesco Quatraro (University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis)

Evolution of regional knowledge bases

16.15 - 17.00 PhD student 7

- senior discussant: Francesco Quatraro
- junior discussant:

Thursday 18 September

9.00 – 11.00 Simona Iammarino (LSE)

MNEs, innovation and geography

11.15 – 12.00 PhD student 8

- senior discussant: Simona Iammarino
- junior discussant:

12.15 – 13.00 PhD student 9

- senior discussant: Simona Iammarino
- junior discussant:

13.00-14.00 lunch

14.00 – 16.00 Bjorn Asheim (Lund University/Stavanger University)

Knowledge bases, regional innovation systems and constructing regional advantage

16.15 – 17.00 PhD student 10

- senior discussant: Bjorn Asheim
- junior discussant:

17.15 – 18.00 PhD student 11

- senior discussant: Bjorn Asheim
- junior discussant:

Friday 19 September

9.00 – 11.00 Bernhard Truffer (EAWAG, Utrecht University)

Geography of Transitions 1: addressing the global dimension

11.15 – 12.00 PhD student 12

- senior discussant: Bernhard Truffer
- junior discussant:

12.15 – 13.00 PhD student 13

- senior discussant: Bernhard Truffer
- junior discussant:

13.00-14.00 lunch

14.00 - 16.00 Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (LSE)

Institutions and regional development in Europe

16.15 – 17.00 PhD student 14

- senior discussant: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose
- junior discussant:

17.15 – 18.00 PhD student 15

- senior discussant: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose
- junior discussant:

Tuesday 11 November

13.00 welcome by Ron Boschma

13.15 – 15.00 Lars Coenen (Lund University/NIFU)

Geography of Transitions 2: addressing local dimensions

15.15 - 16.00 PhD student 16

- senior discussant: Lars Coenen
- junior discussant:

16.15 – 17.00 PhD student 17

- senior discussant: Lars Coenen
- junior discussant:

17.15 – 18.00 PhD student 18

- senior discussant: Lars Coenen
- junior discussant:

Wednesday 12 November

9.00 - 11.00 Simone Strambach (Marburg University)

Micro-dynamics of knowledge, path plasticity and change of institutions

11.15 – 12.00 PhD student 19

- senior discussant: Simone Strambach
- junior discussant:

12.15 – 13.00 PhD student 20

- senior discussant: Simone Strambach
- junior discussant:

13.00 - 14.00 lunch

14.00 – 17.30 feedback on papers by international researchers (3 parallel sessions)

Thursday 13 November

9.00 – 11.00 Koen Frenken (Utrecht University/Lund University)

Geography of science

11.15 – 12.00 PhD student 21

- senior discussant: Koen Frenken
- junior discussant:

12.15 - 13.00 PhD student 22

- senior discussant: Koen Frenken
- junior discussant:

13.00-14.00 lunch

14.00-16.00 Yuko Aoyama (Clark University)
R&D alliances between MNE's and NGO's in India

16.15 - 17.00 PhD student 23

- senior discussant: Yuko Aoyama
- junior discussant:

17.15 - 18.00 PhD student 24

- senior discussant: Yuko Aoyama
- junior discussant:

18.15 - 19.00 PhD student 25

- senior discussant: Yuko Aoyama
- junior discussant:

19.00 announcement of the best paper award

Friday 14 November

9.00 – 11.00 Andrea Morrison (Utrecht University)
Social network analysis

11.15-13.00 Pierre-Alex Balland (Utrecht University/Lund University)
Network dynamics and economic geography

13.00-14.00 lunch

14.00-18.00 Andrea Morrison and Pierre-Alex Balland (Utrecht University)

Network analysis
Computer Practicum

Reference List

Bjorn Asheim

Asheim, B. T. and Gertler, M. (2005): The Geography of Innovation: Regional Innovation Systems, in Fagerberg, J., Mowery, D., and Nelson, R. (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Innovation*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2005, 291-317.

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Simona Iammarino

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Francesco Quatraro

Quatraro, F., 2014, Co-evolutionary patterns in regional knowledge bases and economic structure: evidence from European Regions, *Regional Studies*, forthcoming.

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Lars Coenen

Coenen, L., Benneworth, P. Truffer, B. (2012): Toward a spatial perspective on sustainability transitions. *Research Policy* Vol. 41, 968-979

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Bulkeley, H., & Castán Broto, V. (2013). Government by experiment? Global cities and the governing of climate change. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 38(3), 361-375.

Bernhard Truffer

Carlsson, B. (2006) Internationalization of innovation systems: A survey of the literature *Research Policy*, 35 (1), pp. 56-67

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Truffer, B., Coenen, L. 2012 Environmental innovation and sustainability transitions in regional studies. *Regional Studies*. 46 (2), 1-22.

Koen Frenken

Shapin, S. (1998) Placing the View from Nowhere: Historical and Sociological Problems in the Location of Science, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 23: 5–12.

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Frenken, K. (2010) Geography of Scientific Knowledge: A Proximity Approach, Ecis working paper 10.01, <http://cms.tm.tue.nl/Ecis/Files/papers/wp2010/wp1001.pdf>

Pierre-Alex Balland

Balland, P.A., de Vaan, M. and Boschma, R. (2013) The Dynamics of Interfirm Networks along the Industry Life Cycle: The Case of the Global Video Games Industry 1987-2007, *Journal of Economic Geography* , 13 (5): 741-765

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