



FIFTH
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON
ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY 2018
COLOGNE GERMANY
24-28 JULY 2018



LIST OF SESSIONS



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Dear colleagues,

Under the umbrella topic “Dynamics in an Unequal World”, the University of Cologne invites you to participate in the fifth Global Conference on Economic Geography 2018 (GCEG) to be held in Cologne, Germany.

We invite all geographers and scholars from related disciplines who are dealing with questions on economic and social inequalities on different spatial scales. Following the tradition of its predecessors, the GCEG is open to all topics in the broader field of Economic Geography.

The conference will incorporate a wide range of items on the agenda. We expect to welcome more than 600 participants from over 60 countries, including some of the most prestigious scholars from the discipline. Apart from scientific paper sessions, the conference will also include excursions and walking tours to different destinations in and around Cologne, an ice-breaker party, and a conference dinner.

We are delighted to be hosting a broad variety of sessions covering recent trends in the field of Economic Geography. We warmly invite you to participate in the Global Conference on Economic Geography 2018 by submitting abstracts for oral and poster presentations. Please find detailed information on the call for abstracts (November 15, 2017 – March 15, 2018) on our webpage: www.gceg2018.com.

This document provides you with a detailed list of all sessions available at the GCEG 2018. Beside these, abstract submissions for open sessions or poster sessions are also very welcome. Full session information including scheduling information, participant names, and paper abstracts will be post in July 2018.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The organising committee

Boris Braun, Peter Dannenberg, Martina Fuchs, Javier Revilla Diez



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SESSION ABSTRACTS

AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

1. AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES

Markus Keck, Alexander Follmann

With hundreds of million people depending directly or indirectly on agriculture, farming remains a backbone of the economies in the Global South. The development and diffusion of new technologies and increasing public and private (both domestic and foreign) investment in land and infrastructure have the potential to improve agricultural productivity and contribute to feeding the world's growing population. At the same time, however, there are concerns that farmers' livelihoods and regional food supply will increasingly rely on expensive, rapidly changing technologies owned by transnational corporations. Where, how and through which means food and nutrition security and safety are achieved are central questions in an unequal world, and in how far the current transformations can contribute to these goals is subject of controversial debates. This session provides the opportunity to discuss theoretical and empirical accounts of present-day agricultural transformation processes in the Global South by raising the following questions: (1) What technological dynamics and socio-ecological consequences characterize rural, urban and peri-urban spaces in the Global South with regard to agricultural transformation? (2) How do current modes of managing natural resources (soils, water and land) change in the face of agrarian transformation and what are their impacts on food and nutrition security, poverty, and employment? (3) What are the implications of current transformations for the attainment of the sustainable development goals particularly for achieving "No Poverty", "Zero Hunger", "Gender Equality" and "Decent work and economic growth"?

2. THE CHANGING ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHIES OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH IMPLICATIONS FOR NUTRITION, SUSTAINABILITY, LIVELIHOODS AND GENDER. PART I: CASE STUDIES FROM ASIA.

Bill Pritchard, Amelie Bernzen

Economic geographers have much to contribute to debates on the social implications of rapidly changing food systems in the global South. Traditional own-production food systems in rural areas are giving way to more diverse agrarian landscapes based on production for markets. On the one hand, farm production is increasingly being incorporated into value chains in which downstream actors (such as supermarkets and global traders) execute key governance powers. These processes have crucial implications for farmer agency over land use and production systems, the role of labour within agricultural production, and the concentration of farm production. Additionally, food consumption landscapes in rural areas of the global South are being restructured by greater physical and economic accessibility of highly-processed foods, with ramifications for nutrition and the gendered expression of food preparation activities. This Session welcomes researchers working on diverse aspects of food production and consumption dynamics in the global South, including key themes such as value chains, diets and nutrition, gender, food environments, sustainability and the politics of food and environment.



3. THE CHANGING ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHIES OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: IMPLICATIONS FOR NUTRITION, SUSTAINABILITY, LIVELIHOODS AND GENDER [AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA]

Niels Fold, Stephanie Barrientos

Economic geographers have much to contribute to debates on the social implications of rapidly changing food systems in the global South. Traditional own-production food systems in rural areas are giving way to more diverse agrarian landscapes based on production for markets. On the one hand, farm production is increasingly being incorporated into value chains in which downstream actors (such as supermarkets and global traders) execute key governance powers. These processes have crucial implications for farmer agency over land use and production systems, the role of labour within agricultural production, and the concentration of farm production. Additionally, food consumption landscapes in rural areas of the global South are being restructured by greater physical and economic accessibility of highly-processed foods, with ramifications for nutrition and the gendered expression of food preparation activities. This Session welcomes researchers working on diverse aspects of food production and consumption dynamics in the global South, including key themes such as value chains, diets and nutrition, gender, food environments, sustainability and the politics of food and environment.

4. TRANSFORMATIONS AND FUTURE PATHWAYS OF SMALLHOLDER FARMING IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH Maximilian Willkomm, Katharina Molitor

Smallholder farming is coined as the backbone of livelihoods in rural but also urban and peri-urban areas in the Global South, as it captures a wide range of socio-economic and environmental functions. However, especially smallholder farming in its heterogeneity is subject to diverse dynamics of environmental, demographic, social, political and economic dimensions. These dynamics could lead to risks and opportunities for farmers. For example, commercialization processes and expanding market thinking may induce smallholders shifting their cultivation (and selling) practices which often result in extensive land-use changes including socio-economic, political as well as environmental implication. This session should critically engage with ongoing dynamics in smallholder agricultural practices focussing on recent risks and opportunities for smallholder livelihoods. The session discusses current discourses, recent developments and future pathways of smallholder agriculture addressing both, rural but also urban and peri-urban agriculture. The organisers welcome conceptual-theoretical, methodological and empirical discussions and findings around the debate of small-scale agriculture in the Global South. Abstracts might include, but are not limited, to the following aspects within rural, urban, and peri-urban smallholder farming:

- processes and practices of commercialization, markets and marketization;
- land use dynamics;
- smallholder livelihoods.

Please do not hesitate to send further questions or abstract drafts to Katharina Molitor (katharina.molitor@uni-koeln.de) and Maximilian Willkomm (m.willkomm@uni-koeln.de).

ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES AND PRACTICES

5. ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC PRACTICES AND SPACES José Luis Sánchez-Hernández, Johannes Glückler

At least since the unleashing of the ongoing financial and economic crises in 2008, a great variety of alternative economic practices (AEPs) has been flourishing across regions in the world. Time banks, community gardens, organic/local food consumer groups, barter/producer markets, or social currencies, to name just a few, have evolved or been resurrected as forms of economic coordination based on sets of values and institutions which enhance participation, consensus, sustainability and localness. Despite the growing body of in-depth qualitative case-studies, a



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conceptualization of these practices with (at least some of) the main theoretical tools of economic geography is still missing. Marxist, anarchist and socio-technical transition approaches should not be the only frameworks to unveil the alternativeness of AEPs. Since they pretend to develop an alternative economy with a particular focus on places and local communities, they might be scrutinized in the light of political economy, relational, institutional or evolutionary perspectives in economic geography as well. We welcome theoretical and empirical papers related, among others, to the following questions: -How and to what extent are AEPs actually alternative? Do AEPs offer alternatives to capitalism, generally, or do they contribute to the creation of varieties of capitalism? -What are the institutional conditions and effects of AEPs? How do AEPs affect the resilience of cities, social inclusion, and collective wellbeing? -Are state-led practices as alternative as grassroots projects? -How can the development of alternative economies avoid parochialism and territorial exclusion? -How do AEPs relate to and connect with the 'conventional' economy? -What are the institutional and organizational innovations found in AEPs across the world? -What is the role of meeting places (squares, streets, gardens, commons) in keeping these practices alive in the digital age? Please send your paper title and abstract to José Luis Sánchez-Hernández (jlsh@usal.es).

6. ALTERNATIVE GREEN PRACTICES

Christian Schulz, Julia Affolderbach, Robert Krueger

Debates around the capacity of and limits to the current capitalist mode of production have led many to reconceptualize economic models and to rethink how development occurs in practice. One widely promoted strategy within these debates is the 'green economy'. The idea of a green economy is not new as illustrated by the spread of eco-industrial parks, green clusters, carbon finance and clean technologies. The green economy in practice is often reduced to financial and technological fixes through the diffusion, adoption and mainstreaming of green innovations and technologies or to new green products, services, and markets that sustain the growth imperative of the capitalist system.

This session explores alternative green economies by bringing together work on actually existing alternative practices, experiments and economies that break free from the described current paradigms of greening and speak to emerging de-growth debates. We are looking for examples of new, alternative, diverse, and socially just conceptions of the economy (in a wider sense) and economic development both in the global North and South. We are particularly interested in empirically grounded case studies including, but not restricted to:

- the dematerialization of production (and consumption)
- alternatives in agriculture and food production and provision
- green services & manufacturing
- alternative finance
- building construction and urban infrastructures
- energy demand and supply
- different forms of sharing economies
- social and solidarity economy
- commons, cooperatives and new forms of organizations
- hybrid organizations
- bottom-up and grassroots alternatives
- environmental justice-driven development (including pro-poor growth)

7. DEGROWTH ECONOMIES AS TRANSITIONAL GEOGRAPHIES?

Bastian Lange, Benedikt Schmid

Recently, a lively debate within the discourse on alternative economic geographies centres on so-called open workshops, creative hubs (Schmidt / Brinks et al 2014), FabLabs (Fleischmann / Hielscher et al 2016), repair cafés, etc. as sites of open collaborative processes. Contrary to the prevailing growth paradigm of numerous regional



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economic approaches, these micro-spaces open up a lively, transdisciplinary debate about the acquisition of alternative, decentralized, and coproducing concepts. As a practical consequence, these spaces demonstrate insights how manufacturing, repairing, mobility, urban farming, cloth making characterize the city as fabrication plant (Jabareen 2014, Petschow 2016).

Economic geography as a discipline has been invited by different scholars (Smith/Voss/Grin 2010, Truffer 2013) to shed light on so-called transitional geographies. The discipline could contribute in more detailed ways to overcome static e.g. multi-level-perspectives and multi-level theories (Coehnen et al. 2012) within the discourse of transition economies and sustainability goals.

The task of the session is to invite papers to better understand the rapidly growing field of “grassroots innovation movements” (Smith 2017). The session will be a platform that seeks to discuss current empirical, conceptual and case-study contributions analysing occurrences of experimental urban transformations (Färber 2014). Potential topics are welcomed, but are not limited to the following thematic sub-fields:

- Upscaling and professionalization in grassroots economies
- Urban commons and experimental spaces
- Makerspaces and flexible cooperation between different stakeholders
- Values and category building in grassroots movements
- The role of intermediaries, NGOs, and supportive governance policies
- Digital infrastructures as modes of stabilization
- Space-making of innovation, co-production and knowledge-sharing
- The urban fabric as background and resource for decentralized industries
- local manifestations of degrowth economies
- organizing for post-growth economies / post-growth organization(s)
- Shifting meanings of work and economic practice

FINANCE AND FINANCIALIZATION I: TECHNOLOGIES AND BUSINESS SERVICES

8. FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY (FINTECH) AND THE SPATIAL ECONOMY

Eric Knight, Dariusz Wojcik

“Fintech” is a relatively new term that is being applied to the convergence of finance and technology to facilitate the creation of innovative financial products and services. The intersection of these two sectors has profound implications for the spatial economy and has a long history. This session seeks papers that wish to explore the economic geography and spatial dimensions of the fin tech economy and emerging issues. Empirical studies are encouraged, but theoretical papers are also welcomed.

9. BUSINESS SERVICES IN FINANCIAL GLOBALISATION

James Faulconbridge, Karen Lai

Work on financial geography recognises the important ‘compact’ between financial services and advanced business services (ABS; such as accountancy, law and management consultancy). Put simply, financial globalization is not possible without this finance-ABS nexus. Yet, in recent years, the work that business services do within financial globalisation processes has arguably received less attention than the work of financial institutions themselves. Illustrative of this is the way the growth in interest in theorizing markets has occurred without fully theorizing the role of ABS. In this session we seek to extend discussion of the work that ABS do in financial globalisation. We are particularly interested in understanding the relationships between financial institutions and other business services, the flows of people, knowledge and market-making devices between these sectors, and the material and institutional effects of the



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work of business services in the production of global financial architectures. Studies outside of the Anglo-American sphere are especially welcome. Papers might address topics such as:

- The nature of relationships between financial institutions and ABS and the way these 'lubricate' or enable financial globalisation
- The role of ABS in financialization, markets and/or financial crises
- The work of ABS in the creation of global financial architectures
- The significance of ABS activities in reproducing institutional contexts and varieties of capitalism
- The maturation of ABS firms in Asia-pacific and interactions between Anglo-Saxon global business services and Asian business services firms
- The way technology is changing the role of business services in financial globalisation (including but not limited to FinTech)

FINANCE AND FINANCIALIZATION II: STATES AND TERRITORIES

10. FINANCE AND FINANCIALISATION IN POST-SOCIALIST CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Martin Sokol, Zoltán Gál

Financialisation is recognised as a major force that is shaping contemporary capitalist societies and economies, as well as being a leading cause of the recent Global Financial Crisis. There is also growing evidence that financialisation plays a crucial role in (re)producing and exacerbating social and spatial inequalities at various scales. Financialisation thus could be seen as one of the key drivers of the dynamics in an unequal world. However, despite the pivotal role financialisation plays in contemporary economies (and the explosion of literature about it), our understanding of this phenomenon remains limited in many aspects. For one, much of the financialisation research has so far focused on the most advanced (and presumably the most financialised) Western capitalist economies. As a result, we know much less about how financialisation unfolds in other contexts and how these different contexts are interlinked with each other and how this reflects patterns of uneven development and/or economic dependency. Financialisation in Central and Eastern Europe represents a significant lacuna in this regard. Yet, the post-socialist context offers a unique opportunity to study financialisation and its social and spatial implications. Indeed, former state-socialist economies were previously built on a completely opposite logic to that of financialisation. The collapse of state-socialist regimes was followed by a dramatic re-organisation of the entire financial infrastructure and significantly shaped by the involvement of West European banking groups. The post-socialist context thus gives us a chance to study financialisation from a different perspective and to reveal its logics, and its implications, in an alternative light. This session welcomes both theoretical and empirical papers that will help to build a picture of financialisation in post-socialist Central and Eastern Europe and its implications for Europe and for the global political economy more broadly.

11. FINANCE AND THE TERRITORIAL DIVISION OF LABOR IN BRAZIL

Fabio Contel, Mónica Arroyo

The purpose of this session is to present some of the characteristics of the financialization of geographic space, with emphasis on the evolution of the Brazilian territorial division of labor. Since at least the debt crisis in the early 1980s, a number of structural changes have taken place in Latin American countries, which has increased the importance and influence of finance in economic, political and geographical issues. The session intends to discuss some of these changes in the Brazilian territory, highlighting the following processes: the historical dependence of Latin American nations on financial resources from hegemonic countries and the subordinate position of peripheral nations in the international division of labor; the existence of dynamic financial metropolises in the national space, which commands the territorial (national) division of labor; recent privatization and denationalization of banking systems; the strong diffusion of technical systems such as data transmission networks, ATMs, credit and debit card terminals (POS), software and financial applications for smartphones, that have improved performance and expanded the capillarity of



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financial firms; the increase of the lower income population's indebtedness, which in turn boosted the process of financial exclusion in Brazilian cities.

12. THE FINANCIALIZATION OF THE STATE

Laura Deruytter, Sebastian Möller, Reijer Hendrikse

Although the state has long been a relatively understudied domain in the burgeoning literature on financialization, over the last couple of years a growing body of empirical work has emerged on the financial entanglements and transformations of specific governments, state agencies, (quasi-) public institutions and their offshoots. This call for papers builds upon this work, and broadly seeks contributions which add empirical flesh to this growing subfield of financialization studies, as well as conceptual perspectives to make sense of the rise of finance – of its products, rationalities, techniques and so forth – in a growing set of public domains; how and why governments and states have themselves been key accelerators of these developments, and how we should understand the ever-changing state-finance nexus. Research areas may include, but are not limited to:

The financialization of municipalities and the local state; the financialization of state regulations and sovereignty; unpacking specific government or public policies and rationalities as drivers of financialization; the links between new public management, or neoliberalization, and the financialization of states; the central role of public accounting, debt or treasury management; politicization of and resistance to the financialization of the state; comparative analyses of processes of state financialization (in space and time); the role of inter- and supranational organizations in pushing forward the financialization of the state; processes of financialization interacting with sub-national state rescaling and local entrepreneurialism; financialization and corporatization of local state enterprises; mechanisms and networks of private and public agents facilitating the diffusion of financialized state practices, and so forth. We are hoping for a broad range of contributions in terms of geographical scope, policy areas, theoretical approaches and methods.

13. CONTEMPORARY AUSTERITY AND THE CHANGING STATE

Mia Gray, Anna Barford

Contemporary austerity policies have had profound effects on cities, regions, and nations across Europe and North America. Likewise, many countries in the global South have undergone severe bouts of austerity during the 1980s and 1990s. Many scholars argue that neo-liberal politicians and strategists have used fiscal austerity and discourses of austerity to attack the scale and scope of the welfare state (Peck, 2014; Donald et al, 2014). The resultant shifts in the state's role can be seen in the selective cuts to social programmes, the reduction in public sector jobs, underfunded infrastructure, the selling off of public sector assets, the weakening of regulatory authority, and the overall diversion of resources to the private sector through other forms of privatisation. However, at the same time, some parts of the national and local state have expanded their scope and remit, for example parts of the "security state."

These changes, of course, are uneven. The changes in the state, and in public service provision, have shown highly differentiated effects in terms of geography, class, race, gender, and age. Additionally, there has been a reassertion of the core-periphery model in Europe as the southern countries of Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece are in a much weaker position than their Northern European counterparts like Germany and Austria (Kitson, et al, 2011).

This session will explore the changing state at times of austerity, and ways in which these changes affect how the state functions and for whom. We invite papers on any of the above themes. Please contact Mia Gray (pmg27@cam.ac.uk) or Anna Barford (ab423@cam.ac.uk) if you have any questions about this call. Abstracts (maximum 250 words) should be submitted online through the conference website until March 15, 2018.



FINANCE AND FINANCIALIZATION III: INEQUALITIES AND PERIPHERIES

14. BANKING, FIRM FINANCE AND (UNEVEN) REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Franz Flögel, Jane Pollard

25 years after Richard O'Brien predicted the "end of geography" in finance we witness substantial changes in the regional provision of finance. On the one hand, the relevance of decentral financial systems and regional banks for firms' access to finance and balanced regional development is increasingly recognised. In this line, calls for the (re)establishment of regional banks in the UK and elsewhere intensify in response to the credit crunch during the global financial crisis of 2007–2008. Some calls take Germany's banking system with its more than 1400 regional savings and cooperative banks as a role model. On the other hand, traditional banking is under pressure due to tightened bank regulation and the low interest rates, which caused a strong decline in the number of (regional) banks and branches in most countries. Advances in the financial industry like crowdfunding, fintech, mobile money (i.e., a new round of digitalisation) further question the intermediary function of traditional (regional) banks. Therefore, it is time to revisit banking and its geographical conditions and implications. To this end, the session welcomes empirical, theoretical and conceptual papers on banking, firm finance and regional development including the following topics:

(Retail) banking: spatial development of branches and head offices; access to finance, personal lending / (new forms of) redlining; mortgages finance; digitalisation of banking (e.g. online banking, credit scoring, fintech, mobile money); central bank policy; bank regulation; stability and profitability of banks;

Firm finance: firms' (spatial uneven) access to finance (e.g. supply and demand analysis); banks' lending practices to firms; new banking theory, information asymmetries and credit rationing; functional and operational distance; venture capital, crowd funding, alternative finance etc.; Uneven regional development: finance and its interlinkages with aspects of regional development; polarisation and post-Keynesian theory.

15. FINANCE, INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL FLOWS AND UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT

Britta Klagge, Hans-Martin Zademach

Financial actors and markets as well as international flows of capital have been recognized as important drivers of economic as well as social development. Although the theoretically given unlimited fluidity of money – the foreign exchange market for example is deemed to be the most liquid market in the global economy –, they are regularly tied to specific geographical scales. Likewise, the implications of financial sector operations apply to all levels from the global to the local, albeit with different impacts. Hence, local and regional economies are differently integrated into global capital flows and circuits, resulting in uneven financial developments which can, for example, take the form of agglomerations (in financial centres) or marginalisation (e.g. in some peripheral areas).

The session aims to address these differences and connections by bringing together conceptual and empirical contributions that might address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- The international financial system and the Global South
- Capital flows between / within North and South (including the investigation and visualisation of these flows)
- Financial actors (e.g. banks, stock exchanges) and the Global South
- Technology and financial markets in low-income and emerging economies
- Financial institutions and regional development in the Global South
- Agriculture and rural finance in emerging and low-income countries
- Financial inclusion / exclusion in the Global South
- Alternative / diverse economies and spaces of finance
- Capital market integrity and financial market stability in low-income and emerging countries
- Emerging and low-income economies in the investment strategies of investors.



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Please contact Britta Klagge (klagge@uni-bonn.de) and/or Hans-Martin Zademach (zademach@ku.de) if you have any questions about this call. Abstracts (maximum 250 words) should be submitted online through the conference website between November 15, 2017 and March 15, 2018.

16. FINANCIAL GEOGRAPHIES OF INEQUALITY: TRACING THE CIRCUITS, SCALES, SITES AND RELATIONS OF FINANCIALIZATION

Jane Pollard, Emily Rosenman

Economic geographers have made important contributions to theorising the role of finance and, more specifically, processes of financialization, in the global trend toward increased economic inequality. Topics central to recent scholarship on financialization include the global prevalence of austerity, ongoing attempts to privatize social security, the erosion of labour standards, and the penetration of financial logics, metrics and practices into the nooks and crannies of everyday life. Scholars across the social sciences have also shown how women, the elderly, immigrant populations and racialized minorities have been disproportionately affected by the financial crisis.

A decade on from the 2008 financial crisis, this session seeks to explore the uneven manifestations of finance-led growth and development. We seek papers that explore the circuits, scales, sites and relations of financialization in order to understand how inequality is replicated, reconfigured or entrenched. Inequality is inherently a relation of unevenness; in seeking to trace the social and spatial inequalities produced by financialized capitalism, we seek papers that attempt to capture the particularities of the variegated nature of financialization. Following Katz's (2001) formulation of the countertopographies of globalization, we encourage papers that draw connections between the places and processes of financialized capitalism.

We welcome both theoretical and empirically-based papers that address themes including (but not limited to):

- Credit/debt relations
- Spaces where inequality appears and where it is occluded
- Financial inclusion and exclusion
- The unequal distribution of wealth
- Conceptualising finance and inequality: units of analysis and/or scales at which the relationship between finance and inequality is understood – individual, couple, household, family, neighborhood, city, region?
- Financing social welfare, the built environment or social reproduction
- The privatization of profit and the socialization of risk
- The spatial fix of financial capital
- The normalization of financial logics- speculation, share-holder, interest/yield

17. FINANCIALIZATION, UNEVEN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR

Michael Miessner, Stefanie Huertgen

The financialization of the economy has been widely discussed in academic discourse since the economic crisis that erupted in 2007. Already 2008 Pike and Pollard (p. 30) emphasized 'that financialization provides a strong impetus to embed finance in the heart of our understanding of economic geographies'. Nevertheless, the crisis also demonstrated important limits of recently very influential regional development approaches stressing endogenous resources (Hadjimichalis and Hudson 2014). In sum, it can be said that studies on regional uneven development and financialization remain limited, and in particular regional work and production – once at the forefront of regional development theory – still need more attention.

Ten years after Pike and Pollard's analysis, we would like to investigate the implications of financialization for regional development, with a special focus on labour and production processes. We invite papers focusing the following or related issues:



- 1) Is financialization a 'profoundly spatial phenomenon' as French et al (2011: 800) argue? Hence, how can we investigate the spatial implications of financialization?
- 2) How is financialization connected to the production and labour process? What does this mean for 'labour geographies' (Herod 1997)?
- 3) How are labourers included in the financial system? Does the growing 'debtfarism' (Hembruff/Soederberg 2015) of labourers implicate any spatial consequences?
- 4) What do the financialization of the production and labour process as well as the inclusion of labourers in the financial system entail for regional development? What kind of 'spatial division of labour' (Massey 1995) do we face?

18. GLOBAL FINANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND THE NEW PERIPHERIES

Leigh Johnson, Patrick Bigger, Stefan Ouma

This session examines the significance of financial relations and transactions in spaces of the global South that have typically been figured as "marginal" to, if not altogether excluded from, the operations of global finance. As finance relentlessly seeks to identify further spatial fixes and revenue streams, this session will probe the particularities of integration. What assemblages and legacies – (post)colonial and otherwise – characterize these spaces? What are the regional coordinates of integration, and the concrete social, political and material landscapes it produces? The optic of "peripheries" – with its roots in dependency theory – highlights the relations of power, subordination and exploitation produced through finance's expansion and experimentation at its frontiers. As certain places are linked to global flows of capital, they can become peripheralized in new ways. Yet as some "financial innovation" originates in the South and travels to the global North (e.g. mobile money and microfinance) and the South more generally becomes a source of capital (e.g. sovereign wealth or pension funds), existing understandings of peripheralisation must be reexamined. How can the dependent and extraverted notions of development suggested by the term "periphery" be reworked to make a place for heterogenous forms of economic self-fashioning? How might other concepts such as extraction, dispossession, value grabbing, disarticulations and expulsion help render intelligible the new peripheral operations of finance and the place-making projects that emerge from them? We especially invite papers making conceptual advances using empirical cases on topics including but not limited to: Financial inclusion and adverse incorporation; New sites of experimentation and product development; The financialisation of development; Multiple frontiers of peripheral financialisation (e.g. land, nature, housing, manufacturing, IT...); Macroeconomic policies, links between micro and macro scale finance; Relationships between global and "indigenous" financial practices, institutions, and discourses; Rethinking the core(s) of global finance.

19. THE ROLE OF FINANCE IN UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT

Ewa Karwowski, Nadine Reis

The role of finance in uneven development of countries and regions across the globe is central as recognised by leading structuralist and dependency thinkers. With the rise and growth of financial sectors across rich countries since the 1980s, i.e. financialisation, adverse effects of financial innovation and financial sector growth have been increasingly neglected by policymakers and economists. So-called financial development has been promoted as growth-enhancing by orthodox economists and the international financial institutions (IFIs) (Levine & King 1993, Levine 2005). In contrast, heterodox scholars argued that financialisation is a new major dimension of unequal development on an international scale, since it has affected developing regions in ways that differ from those of centre economies (Soederberg 2004, Lapavistas 2009, Paineira 2009, Becker et al. 2010, Bonizzi 2013, Powell 2013). While the empirical track record suggested that poorer countries are exposed to financial and exchange rate crises when increasingly integrated into global financial structures (Dymski 1998; Arestis & Glickman 2001) it needed a fully-blown financial crisis in rich countries to force a rethinking amongst mainstream economists and IFIs (de la Torre and Ize 2011, Arcand et al. 2012, Cecchetti and Kharroubi 2012, Sahay et al. 2015). Arguably, even this rethink was rather



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superficial because the possibility of financial dependency and uneven development driven by finance is rarely explored in mainstream policy and academic discourses. This session questions the benevolent and growth-enhancing role of finance in development. It will reflect on the links and interaction between finance, financialisation and development. It addresses (but is not limited to) the following questions:

- What is the role of finance in creating and perpetuating uneven development and inequality?
- How does financial dependency play out in the relationship between global South and global North?
- How do financialisation and financial deepening relate and differ?

FINANCE AND FINANCIALIZATION IV: CRISES AND REGULATION

20. THE GEO-ECONOMICS AND GEO-POLITICS OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL NETWORKS

Sabine Dörny, Dariusz Wójcik

Contemporary financial capitalism calls for a thorough and profound investigation of finance and finance-related industries, and their distinct spatial impacts and manifestations across scales. Geographies of finance are expressed, among other manifestations, through a dense and powerful archipelago of international financial centres (IFCs), their urban concentrations of firms in the financial and business services sector, financial ‘arbitrage spaces’ between off- and onshore IFCs operated by powerful global services firm networks, and far-reaching alterations by the digital revolution. Global financial networks understood in this way have crucial implications for growth and innovation, social and spatial inequalities, economic stability, and sustainable development at large.

This session invites conceptual and empirical paper contributions that seek to broaden our understanding of both the geo-economics and the geo-politics of contemporary finance. This includes, for example, analyses of the underlying causes – including financialisation, the global financial crisis and the Eurozone crisis –, as well as key agents – like the state, regulators, financial and business services, offshore jurisdictions, and fintech firms – that have been shaping and responding to, but also affected by, the in-/stabilities and unprecedented dynamics of global finance. How is the map of global financial networks being redrawn, and with what effects on the development of cities, regions, countries and globally? Can we observe or should we expect that the new financial regulation, the rise of the Global South, and the digital (r)evolution in finance, to name but a few major trends, generates new forms of global, national and local financial governance?

21. FINANCIAL REGULATION AND GOVERNANCE IN A WORLD OF GEOFINANCE

Gary Dymki, Sabine Dörny

Soon after systemic financial crises exploded in 2007-08, a patchwork of financial reforms was put in place. The US Congress passed the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, the UK approved the Banking Reform Act of 2013, and the Bank for International Settlements intensified reporting and recommended capital-adequacy standards. The European Commission’s 2009 Larosière Report led to the 2012 European banking union; the recommendations of the European Parliament’s more far-reaching 2014 Liikanen Report have not been implemented. Despite these initiatives, or perhaps because of their inconsistency and the resistance they have generated, the question of what forms of financial regulation and governance can generate stable and economically functional banking and financial systems remains open. Indeed, the consensus of a September 2017 CEPR “10 years after” conference in London was that far too little has been done: global finance still hangs on fragile threads. Financial systems today are characterized by multi-layered spatialities; so geography is at the centre of this question. Sam Woods, CEO of the UK’s Prudential Regulation Authority, emphasized this in a speech on 4 October 2017. Woods defined geofinance as “the impact of borders, location and distance on the shape of banks, insurers and financial regulation. Put simply: the impact of geography on the geometry of finance, a dynamic we might call geofinance.”

We welcome paper proposals on the following geofinancial topics:



- The ring-fencing of retail banking
- Exchange-traded vs over-the-counter trading of derivatives
- Electronic trading platforms
- The past, present, and future of the “money markets” and shadow banking
- The creation and transfer of risk
- Capital requirements
- Systemic risk and lender-of-last-resort capacity
- Complexity and opacity in megabanking
- Offshore vs onshore financial operations and income
- Financial openness of developing countries

CREATION OF VALUE

22. BETWEEN CO-PRODUCTION AND POLITICAL CONSUMPTION: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROLE OF CONSUMERS AND CONSUMPTION PRACTICE IN THE CREATION OF VALUE

Felix Müller, Martin Hess

Researching the agency of consumers in economic value creation presents a fundamental challenge to economic geography, ontologically and epistemologically. Work in Cultural Economy has taken up the notion of ‘co-creation’ of value by consumers, often employing flat ontologies to study places and performances of value creation (Crewe 2016). A bias towards creative and high-end products is evident. Political Economy approaches tend to remain centred on production and labour theories of value. From this angle, consumption can itself be understood as labour (Goss 2006). Such structuralist ontologies fail at fully appreciating the potential of consumption-driven value creation.

Methodologically, the role of consumption in economic value creation is difficult to grasp. Through the lens of a given product, firm or production network, it is possible to identify and frame the buyer as ‘the consumer’. More recently, consumption practice as a more holistic notion has come into the focus of research, encompassing the intricacies of everyday decision making of consumers (Mansvelt 2010). Likewise, a shift has taken place from ethical consumption as a matter of individual responsibility to the entanglements and distributed agency of political mobilization in consumption (Evans, Welch & Swaffield 2017).

In this session we invite conceptual, methodological and empirical contributions on consumption and value creation in Economic Geography, as well as critical reflections upon avenues of intervention, expression, emancipation and activism involving consumers.

Crewe, L. (2016): Placing Fashion: Art, space, display and the building of luxury markets through retail design. *Progress in Human Geography*. 40(4)

Evans, D., Welch, D., J. Swaffield (2017) Constructing and mobilizing ‘the consumer’: Responsibility, consumption and the politics of sustainability. *Environment and Planning A* 49(6)

Goss, J. (2006): Geographies of consumption: the work of consumption. *Progress in Human Geography* 30(2)

Mansvelt, J. (2010): Geographies of consumption: engaging with absent presences. *Progress in Human Geography* 34(2)

23. THE GEOGRAPHICAL TRANSFER OF VALUE – AN UNDERRESEARCHED DIMENSION IN COMMODITY CHAIN RESEARCH

Christof Parnreiter, Christin Bernhold

Much of today’s economic geographical research is realized within the frameworks of global commodity or value chains or global production networks (GCCs, GVCs and GPNs). While the origins of these concepts lie in an interest in uneven development (Gereffi/Korzeniewicz 1994; Henderson et al. 2002; Bair 2005; Yeung/Coe 2014; Werner 2016), wealth transfers across space as a prime example of the asymmetrical relations driving the world’s



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'unequalization' have not been investigated comprehensively in economic geography. Tracking value and its allocation in GCCs/GVCs/GPNs thus remains an unresolved undertaking (Coe et al. 2014).

In the context of this research gap it is worthwhile to return to Hadjimichalis' (1984; 1987) concept of the "geographical transfer of value" (GTV) which refers to a process through which value produced at one location is transferred to and realized in another. GTV thus leads to and intensifies differences in localized accumulation processes, what in turn increases inter-regional inequality.

Contributions should focus on actors, their practices and the geographies of the GTV. Actors include private firms from different sectors (including producer services), governments (permitting monopolies, for example) or international organizations (administering the architecture of cross-border economic flows). As regards practices of the GTV, in addition to violent methods, direct (e.g. FDI, profit repatriation, transfer-pricing) and market-mediated (e.g. achieving rents through temporary monopolies) means may be distinguished. Concerning the geographies of the GTV, while global cities presumably stand out as locations for its organization (Parnreiter 2017), we think of various scales of value transfers, including the rural-urban, the inter-urban, the regional (e.g. EU), or the global.

We welcome papers with a theoretically guided case study approach; that propose conceptual tools to analyse the GTV (e.g. engaging with the labor theory of value in geographical terms); and that develop methodological foundations for agency-focused research on the GTV.

24. WHAT KIND OF VALUE? GEOGRAPHICAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH FASHION'S DIVERSE FUTURES

Taylor Brydges, Felix Müller

The study of the places and spaces of fashion has attracted interest from cultural and economic geographers (see for example: Hauge et al. 2009; Rantisi 2004, 2014; Tokatli 2009, 2014), but also practitioners, teachers, and scholars of fashion design. It has become a stage for exchanges on technology, business models, creative practices and mediation through online networks. As the industry continues to undergo significant transformations – from new sourcing patterns to the growing use of technology in production (such as 3D printing) and retailing (online shopping and the rise of "see now, buy now") changing consumer markets – there is considerable room for geographers to engage with the fashion industry as a case to examine key economic processes. Challenges to 'business as usual' grounded in considerations of sustainability and ethics are prominently voiced in the field of fashion, providing an additional angle for engagement.

In this session, we seek to build upon and explore these dynamics, which not only cross disciplinary boundaries, but have produced a diverse range of investigations into the different possible future modes of value creation in fashion. We welcome contributions from studies of fashion within or in relation to economic geography, which explore the spatialities of fashion – may they be material, relational, topological, territorial, virtual, temporal, mediated across distance or bodily experienced at close quarters. Specifically, we invite contributions to theorize how and what kind of value is created, through time and space, in the fashion production, design, consumption and/or appreciation of fashion. In this session, we look forward to diverse – and indeed, conflicting or controversial — perspectives and a lively debate on the role of ethical values, identity, sustainability, economic rationalities, technology and transformative/alternative practices.

CREATIVITY, CREATIVE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

25. CREATIVE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA

Alejandro Mercado-Celis, Guillermo Ibarra

Creative and cultural industries are an essential part of Latin America's metropolis economy. As in the global north, these industries have a relevant and visible impact in all dimensions of their urban economies, their social life,



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and their built environment. However, the economic and social dynamics of these industries in Latin America have different characteristics from elsewhere. Part of these differences come from the national and local institutions but also from their interaction with dominant creative and cultural centers in the north and the strategies pursued to enter international markets. This session invites all researchers working on creative and cultural Latin American industries on a diversity of issues, as well as in different geographic scales to present their work. The objective is to discuss the current state of knowledge and to find common lines for future research. Empirical, theoretical and policy-oriented papers, as well as single country or comparative studies, are welcome.

26. THE ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Chun Yang, Robert Hassink

During the past decades, economic geographers have become increasingly interested in creative industries, the creative economy, creative cities, as well as the creative class. In addition to this increasing academic interest, testified by several recent special issues in economic geography journals, also policy-makers at several spatial levels (urban, regional, national, as well as supranational) try to find ways how to foster creative industries. Many studies focused both on the economic functions of creative industries, mainly in terms of labor, value-added production, and exports, as well as on their current organizational features. From a geographical perspective, this session aims at two main strands of papers. First, it invites papers exploring the agglomeration and clustering of creative industries, as well as papers explaining the evolution of these creative industry clusters. This strand of papers also deals with labor market issues, project ecologies, temporary clusters, field-configuring events, co-working spaces and creative labs, creativity and knowledge production, and creative cities and creative regions. Secondly, it invites papers analyzing creative industries from a globalization or global production networks' perspective. These papers might deal with TNCs and foreign direct investment and creative industries, strategic coupling and creative industries, the position of creative industry clusters in global production networks, and international migration and creative industries. We welcome both empirical, theoretical, as well as policy-related papers. The focus can be both on creative industries in general or any individual creative industry, such as publishing and literature, performing arts, music, film, video and photography, broadcasting, design, fashion, visual arts, advertising, computer games and interactive media, as well as on creative jobs.

CITIES, CITY NETWORKS AND THEIR DYNAMICS

27. GLOBAL CHANGES, SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND METROPOLITAN TRANSFORMATION IN MEXICO

Adrian Aguilar, Boris Graizbord

Metropolitan centres in Latin America represent dynamic productive poles connected to the global economy, with large labor markets, promotion of regional development, and a high contribution to the GDP; but they also include the social costs of urban development with a growth model unable to provide basic goods to a high proportion of population living in poverty conditions with signs of social exclusion. Mexico is a good example of a highly urbanized country in a region that is the most urbanized of the developing regions. At present Mexico has 72 per cent of its population living in cities, with 55 per cent of the total population concentrated in its 59 metropolitan zones.

In this session, papers will discuss particular and contrastant perspectives of metropolitan transformation in Mexico. The global role of larger metropolitan zones has favored the concentration of some activities with important labor productivity like the knowledge intensive sectors (KIS) in their economies concentrating the best and most qualified jobs and activities that generate innovative and technological change. But despite the apparent better conditions of metropolitan contexts for urban living, the fact is that urban poverty has been increasing in Mexican cities in the last twenty years, and a high proportion of population although is not within poverty levels they confront high degrees of social vulnerability. Metropolitan expansion has caused an intense peri-urbanization that has integrated



gradually rural spaces with rapid land use change that have transformed livelihood of local population with negative social impacts. At the same time, Mexico faces an accelerated process of population aging, especially in big cities where much of this older population live in poverty areas with acute problems of health and mobility, with difficulties for this population to access and utilize basic goods and services on a day-to-day basis."

28. GATEWAY CITIES IN GLOBAL PRODUCTION NETWORKS

Moritz Breul, Sören Scholvin, Maurício Aguiar Serra

Global production networks (GPNs) depend on cities that bundle, channel and co-ordinate material and immaterial flows. These cities constitute 'gateways' because they connect their respective spheres of influence – that is, their hinterlands – globally by serving as transport hubs, sites of industrial processing, locations of corporate headquarters and major service providers and/or places of knowledge generation. Only few publications address this critical role of cities in GPNs; also because research on world cities is focussed on inter-city links, paying little attention to city–hinterland connections.

The papers discussed at this panel will contribute to bringing two key approaches in Economic Geography together: GPNs and world cities. The panellists will analyse what factors turn a city into a 'gateway' and how gateway cities integrate peripheral places into GPNs, transmitting impulses for economic development. They will also assess how gateway cities concentrate segments of GPNs, rather hampering than boosting economic development in their respective spheres of influence.

29. UNEVEN CITY ECONOMIC EVOLUTIONS

Emil Evenhuis, Andy Pike

Understanding city economies has become a topic of growing importance. In an ever more urbanised world, cities are seen to be driving the economies and wealth of their nations. This has led to an increasing recognition from national governments as well as international bodies on the economic role that cities play. For policymakers, ensuring successful city economies is the key to ensuring economic prosperity also at the national level. It is well known however that not all cities have enjoyed an equal amount of economic success in the past decades: some have surged ahead, others have grown less buoyantly, and some have experienced decline (sometimes quite dramatically even).

- We invite paper submissions which take on the theme of the uneven evolution of city economies. Research questions could include (but are certainly not limited to):
- What is the relative importance of, and interplay between, different factors that determine the long-run development paths of cities?
- What determines whether cities are resilient, and can successfully cope with changes taking place in the economy, technology and society?
- How is the development of - and between - cities conditioned by structures and processes at various levels of scale?
- What constitutes success or lack of success in city economic evolution (i.e. should we move beyond mere 'growth' and 'competitiveness' as a normative ideals)?
- Are there clear differences in the dynamics that shape city economic evolutions in different parts of the world (e.g. Global North and Global South, US and Europe, China and India, etc.)
- How to delineate cities and their economies, territorially but also relationally?
- What may be fruitful new avenues to study uneven city economic evolutions (e.g. innovative modelling approaches, frameworks for comparative case study work, typologies of different kinds of cities, etc.)?



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30. URBAN HOUSING CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Sebastian Schipper, Steffen Wetzstein

Housing is back on the agenda of policy makers, advocates and researchers around the world. While urban housing markets and systems have been undergoing longer term-transformations in the neoliberal age, intersecting macro-processes around financialisation, urbanisation and austerity-framed re-regulation in the Post-GFC years have triggered the rise of serious challenges around the affordable, adequate and accessible supply of housing for urban populations in many places. In some contexts, commentators even speak of full-blown urban housing crises. But why are particular cities more affected than others? How can we get a more accurate multi-contextual and multi-faceted picture on the origins, processes, effects and responses in regards to housing-related transformations? And what empirical, conceptual, theoretical and methodological insights can help us to meaningfully engage with this topic?

We believe economic geography, in particular if practiced with the globalizing economic and institutional context in mind, should be well-placed and well-endowed to shed new light on these questions, set agendas and inform political and policy responses. Its rich disciplinary heritage, mid-level analytical gaze and productive openness to other disciplines should be key advantages that ought to be utilised to intellectually tackle pressing urban housing challenges and responses from a global perspective.

Examples of topics:

- Rationale behind the emergence of housing challenges and crisis conditions
- Describing, mapping and explaining the socio-spatial implications of urban housing challenges
- Policy makers key responses, including the re-regulation of foreign investment, taxation and land-use as well as creating/encouraging new supply of affordable and social housing etc.
- Political mobilisation, grass-roots movements and ongoing contestation of housing-related urban political questions
- (New) political economy of urban housing, including financialised housing, speculative urban land markets, neoliberalised state-regulatory apparatuses etc.
- Processes of de-coupling urban housing markets and labour markets
- Comparative urban housing studies (north/north; north/south; south/south)

DIGITAL ECONOMY AND DIGITAL LABOUR

31. DIGITAL ECONOMIES, DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY, DIGITAL MARGINS I: DIGITAL LABOR AND PRODUCTION NETWORKS

Mark Graham, Mohammad Amir Anwar

People, places, and processes are becoming digital, digitised, and digitally-mediated at an astonishing pace. In 2017, over half of the humanity can be considered to be internet users. At the same time, hugely transformative changes are occurring in the global economy. First, an ever-increasing amount of economic value creation is affected by the digitisation of goods, processes and services. Second, places in every corner of the planet now aspire to become centres of digital production and entrepreneurship.

This session seeks to bring together scholarship that directly addresses issues of changing connectivities and the effects that those changes have on, and in, economic margins, particularly on digital labour. We are defining digital labour to include a wide variety of work practices, which, both at individual and organisation-level, can be outsourced through the internet such as web development, graphic designs, transcription, article writing, data entry, virtual assistant, etc. This session hopes to bring together papers from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives that explore the nuanced ways in which digital labour in economic margins is incorporated into the global production networks. In doing so, it aims to explore what the changing connectivities mean for economic geography of work and



its implications on labour in economic margins, particularly for economic inclusion, exclusion, upgrading, downgrading, etc. In this session, we welcome papers addressing key issues including but not limited to:

- Divides and positionalities in digital production networks (incl. digital production and online labor);
- Nature, origin, roles and formation of human capital and skills in digital labour;
- Demographies and biographies of digital workers and entrepreneurs;
- Articulation of previously disconnected labour forces into the global markets;
- Labour market segmentation, regulation, institutions, rural-urban [re]structuring of new labour markets;
- Labour standards, social upgrading, labour control, alienation, workers' agency, collective organisations, etc. in new digital production networks.

32. DIGITAL ECONOMIES, DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY, DIGITAL MARGINS--SESSION II: DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND INEQUALITY

Nicolas Friederici, Mark Graham

People, places, and processes are becoming digital, digitised, and digitally-mediated at an astonishing pace. A majority of the world's wealthy have long been connected, but it is the world's poor and economically marginal that have only relatively recently been enrolled into digital networks. In 2017, for the first time in human history, over half of the humanity can be considered to be internet users. At the same time, hugely transformative changes are occurring in the global economy. First, an ever-increasing amount of economic value creation is affected by the digitisation of goods, processes and services. Second, places in every corner of the planet aspire to become centres of digital production and entrepreneurship.

This session seeks to bring together scholarship that directly addresses issues of changing connectivities and the effects that those changes have on, and in, economic margins (i.e., across the Global South or economic peripheries within the North). It seeks to move beyond over-simplified narratives about whether digital tools and technologies are a panacea for development. Instead, it hopes to bring together papers that explore the nuanced ways in which digital technology shapes opportunity and value creation in economic peripheries. In other words, the session wants to unpack the complex economic changes that digital connectivity has inflicted upon people, organizations, and institutions at economic margins.

In this session, we welcome papers discussing development implications of digital economies (incl. local development impacts, inequality, measurement issues, rural/urban divides, etc.) and digital entrepreneurship (incl. digital production, geographies of markets and opportunities, value creation, business models, clusters/entrepreneurial ecosystems, skilled labor pooling, etc.). Contributors can refer to our second session on "Digital Labor and Production Networks" if they gravitate more towards those aspects of digital economies.

33. DIGITAL LABOUR GEOGRAPHIES, 'SHARING' ECONOMY WORK FUTURES

Al James, Hannelore Roos

This session engages with the series of dramatic, digital transformations of work, employment and labour relations that have accompanied the extraordinary growth of on-demand labour in the so-called 'sharing' economy. Underpinning these transformations, the internet is used to unbundle production and value creation from formal employment, with online labour markets and algorithms used to manage and motivate work carried out beyond the spatial and temporal boundaries of 'typical' workplaces (Huws 2015). Other monikers include the collaborative / gig / on-demand / and peer-to-peer economy. Whatever the label used, many commentators are excited about the digitally-mediated possibilities for enabling workers from a wide range of backgrounds to access new forms of 'flexible' work and income opportunities in multiple sectors (notably in professional services, household services, and personal transport). This excitement is particularly apparent in the EU, where the 'sharing economy' is worth an estimated €28 billion in 2015 (PwC 2016). Crucially however, the quality of those on-demand work opportunities in the 'sharing



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economy' is also prompting growing criticism around attendant working conditions, wage levels, and distributions of income and wealth (see Schor 2017). With reference to a range of online work platforms (Uber, TaskRabbit, Upwork, Amazon M-Turk, Helpling), critical work to date has explored: the 'dark side' of 'sharing' economy labour relations for workers who have limited legal protection as 'independent contractors' (the cybertariat) on for-profit platform apps; how digital platforms and clickwork are potentially crowding out old jobs rather than creating new ones; and how digital on-demand work is reinforcing stubborn labour market inequalities rooted in gender and race, re-inscribed through customer reputational reviews and the digital platform algorithms which route jobs out and set the terms under which digital workers labour. These critiques find expression in a range of provocative terms including 'sharewashing', 'crowdfleecing', and the 'share the scraps economy'.

This session takes issue with a striking asymmetry within this growing research agenda. In short, while internet geographers have begun to engage with issues of work and 'digital labour' in the sharing economy, labour geographers have for their part been rather slow to engage with digital work platforms from 'the other direction'. The result is a very partial set of analyses of digitally-mediated work-lives, and scope for developing a digital labour geographies research agenda (cf. Herod 1997: 30; see also Castree 2007, Lier 2007, Rutherford 2010). So motivated, this session is concerned to bring the nascent research agenda around digital work in the 'sharing economy' into new productive conversation with the labour geographies research agenda. It aims to prompt new conversations around how workers are capable of actively making and remaking the geographies of the 'sharing economy' and 'platform capitalism' and effecting positive changes in their work and employment conditions - rather than simply watching passively from the sidelines and being affected by the dynamics of economic change writ large by platform developer companies and their shareholders. Likewise, to explore how place matters in shaping patterns of 'constrained worker agency' (Coe and Lier 2010), focused on digitally-mediated labour markets as the 'spatial settings and contexts... that specific employment practices, work cultures, and labour relations become established' (Martin 2000: 456; see also Peck 1996 2003).

The session will bring together established and new scholars with diverse research interests around digital transformations of work, to learn from each other and to explore new possibilities for animating more progressive worker outcomes in the sharing economy in the global South and global North. In so doing, the session responds to growing international calls for economic geographers to develop more critical analyses of how and where economies function, for whom, and to what ends (Christophers et al. 2016). As such, the substantive focus of this session is crucial to GCEG2018's core concern with the geographical outcomes of uneven economic growth, economic futures, and scope for effecting positive change that narrows the gap between winners and losers. Specific topics might include, but are by no means limited to:

- Analytical contradictions between celebratory media and policy commentaries of digital labour market 'flexibility' with the negative realities of digital work (focus on e.g. corporate globalisation, increasing precariousness of incomes, wage inequality, the institutionalisation of labour market risk, and shifting welfare policy priorities).
- Comparisons between everyday work-lives in the sharing economy with previous/simultaneous work-lives in 'mainstream' paid employment
- On-demand career building and gig economy advancement – geographical possibilities for online labour market progression?
- Variations in worker experiences between different online work platforms, and between workers who use the sharing economy to generate all versus some of their annual income?
- Feminist geographies of digital work; and how gendered and racialized identities and varied responsibilities of care differently shape workers' abilities to participate and succeed as digital microentrepreneurs in the sharing economy.
- Geographical possibilities for organising on-demand platform workers in the face of digital 'subcontracted capitalism' (Wills 2009).



- Alternative platform work models (cooperative platforms) that seek to 'take back the sharing economy' a la Scholz and Gibson-Graham.
- Mutual gains / interventionist possibilities to improve the work-lives of on-demand workers in a manner that simultaneously improve service delivery for customers and increase revenues for digital platforms (in short, are these necessarily competing alternatives?)
- The methodological challenges and useful strategies for doing research on digital labour geographies in practice and using online work platforms as a robust source of survey data.

34. INDUSTRIAL INTERNET, INDUSTRY 4.0 AND DIGITAL MANUFACTURING AS TRANSFORMERS OF SPACES OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

Martina Fromhold-Eisebith, Päivi Oinas

A new era of advanced information technology (IT) based goods production is on the rise in various industrial economies: notions such as 'Industrial Internet' in the Anglo-American sphere or 'Industry 4.0' in European countries put into terms that innovative IT solutions and Internet of Things (IoT) applications are expected to trigger leapfrogging changes in the ways how manufacturing is organized, value chains are coordinated, and production interacts with consumption. So called Cyber Physical System (CPS) technologies allow products to expediently communicate with their processing machines as well as among each other while running through the value chain. Additive Manufacturing techniques, or 3D printing, enable consumers to individually manufacture various items from digital blueprints locally at short notice. These new qualities of interaction promise to increase industrial efficiency, to reduce malfunctions, waste and losses, and to better adapt end products to customers' needs.

While the engineering and management requirements of these trends have already been debated for a couple of years, major implications for industrial spaces, their labour markets and institutional contexts of production remain to be explored. Linking to the main theme of GCEG 2018, dynamic technology changes will probably significantly transform unequal geographies of production. For instance, will 'Industrial Internet' or 'Industry 4.0' help traditional, depressed industrial localities to revitalize through substantial rationalization and increased customer orientation? Which industry sectors and associated service providers will mostly benefit from upcoming technology shifts? How should national or regional innovation systems respond to the new challenges? And how will local labour market and skill requirements change, potentially deepening international and interregional digital divides, hence industrial development disparities? The suggested session aims at compiling seminal contributions that shed light on these and related issues.

35. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS) AND DEVELOPMENT

Peter Dannenberg, Julia Verne

In the last decade a large debate has grown on the potentials of information and communication technology for development (ICT4D). This debate was fueled by the rapid distribution of mobile phones and currently also the internet to most developing countries including even remote areas and poor income groups. Various studies came to the conclusion that ICT is clearly improving the economic and social development of large numbers of people, businesses, and whole societies. However, going through the scientific literature of the last years, it becomes obvious, that this positive perspective is not only partly driven by wishful thinking. Indeed younger studies even indicate negative effects (e.g. a digital divide or increasing dependencies of small scale businesses).

This session aims to contribute to a more robust and differentiated scientific foundation by presenting and critically discussing fresh conceptual and empirical findings on information and communication technologies in developing countries.



Presentations might e.g. include ICT-related dynamics and spatial configurations in: knowledge access and exchanges; livelihoods; inequalities, labor relations, business relations and opportunities; value chain configurations, development policies.

36. THE RISE OF THE PLATFORM ECONOMY

Koen Frenken, Gernot Grabher

Digital platforms have entered in many sectors in the economy including retail, mobility, housing, energy, food, healthcare, journalism, and education. Platforms range from asset sharing (e.g., Airbnb, Drivy), gig economy (e.g. Uber, Upwork, Helpling), second hand markets (e.g. eBay, Fairmondo), business-to-consumer rental models (Car2Go, Mobike), to various crowdfunding, crowdsourcing and open source initiatives. Across all sectors, platforms reorganize labor, disrupt established industries, and often bypass regulations.

The rise of the platform economy poses many new questions:

- which business models can be distinguished in the platform economy?
- why do platforms emerge in certain sectors rather than others?
- what explain the geography of platforms, in terms of their headquarter locations and operational locations?
- which institutional varieties of platforms can be distinguished and to what extent do these varieties map onto “Varieties of Capitalism”?
- which have been the regulatory responses of local and national governments, and why do these responses differ?
- what notion of value and valuations operate on platforms?
- which non-for-profit and cooperative models have emerged, and what explains their success or failure?
- what are the impacts of platforms of work, income, jobs, productivity, sustainability and social relations?
- how does labor and local communities respond (e.g., through forms of unionization)?
- are communitarian or environmental values increasingly crowded out by mere economic considerations?
- which theories and methodologies are helpful in studying the platform economy?

We also welcome other topics related to the rise of the platform economy.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

37. ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS IN AN AGE OF INFORMALITY, EPHEMERALITY, VIRTUALITY AND THE AESTHETICIZATION OF THE URBAN

Erik Stam, Rolf Sternberg, Heike Mayer

The emergence of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem approach has co-evolved with a revival of the interest in the context for entrepreneurship and the role of entrepreneurship in local and regional economic development (Mack & Mayer 2016; Stam & Spigel 2018). However, many issues are still unresolved, regarding the nature, measurement and explanation of the emergence, evolution and effects of entrepreneurial ecosystems (Stam 2015; Acs et al 2017). In this session we focus on the governance of entrepreneurial ecosystems and the role of institutions, both formal and informal, in the functioning of entrepreneurial ecosystems. This focus on governance and institutions also provides opportunities to increase the policy relevance of economic geography.

There is a long-standing tradition in the study of the geography of entrepreneurship (Sternberg 2009). This has gained prominence with the emergence of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem approach. We marry this with the increased relevance and study of governance and institutions at the regional and local level of analysis, to better understand the economic development of places (Farole et al 2010; Rodriguez-Pose 2013; Charron et al 2014). The session will both reinforce the study of the geography of entrepreneurship, and explicitly combine economic geography with debates in



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neighbouring disciplines (public administration, economics, business studies, law) on the role of governance and institutions in economic development.

38. ENTREPRENEURS, PLACES AND PROCESSES IN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Suntje Schmidt, Elizabeth A. Mack

The topic of entrepreneurship has a long tradition in economic geography and regional studies. More recently the frame of entrepreneurial ecosystems connects several strands of prior work and depicts entrepreneurship as a blend of inter-connected entities and people interacting within regional environments. Although a comparatively new framework, critiques of ecosystems highlight a lack of emphasis on entrepreneurs and a lack of attention dedicated to space-time aspects of community building, partnerships and collaborative arrangements (e.g. de Bruin et al., 2017). So too have studies neglected different types of entrepreneurial activity above and beyond growth-oriented ventures such as entrepreneurship in creative and cultural industries, and gendered aspects of ecosystems.

In an effort to expand the scope of research on entrepreneurial ecosystems in these directions, this session invites both conceptual and empirical papers that put the “entrepreneur” in ecosystems center stage. Papers that offer e.g. a gendered perspective, examine coworking, maker spaces, and/or accelerators as nodes in ecosystems, or take on a space-time perspective on the development of entrepreneurial ecosystems are particularly welcome.

39. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN EMERGING ECONOMIES

Wenyang Fu, Javier Revilla Diez

Entrepreneurship is the cornerstone of modern economy that drives the creation of new economic opportunities, and it has gained the attention of economic geographers in the past decade by viewing it as a spatially-bounded phenomenon and regional event. While there has been considerable work done to explore the spatial processes of entrepreneurship in advanced economies, there needs to be more engagement from the emerging economies on this topic. This is especially so as the regional environment in the emerging economies has shown considerable dynamism within the context of institutional reform and technological catching-up. The inflow of knowledge through FDI, thriving entrepreneurial culture, improving marketized institutions and transport infrastructure have all contributed to a facilitating regional environment for the emergence and growth of entrepreneurial activities. On the one hand, many city regions in the emerging economies have become the hothouses for opportunity-driven entrepreneurship which is characterized by high growth and innovativeness. Situated within in the fast-changing socio-economic and institutional environment, the entrepreneurs have also exhibited great agency in employing spatiality strategies to leverage resources and networks. On the other hand, the vast rural areas lag far behind the urbanized areas in regard to limited economic opportunities and inferior accessibility to markets, hindering the development of high-quality entrepreneurship and thereafter the potential of sustained growth. This inevitably led to the enlargement of urban-rural divide and rising spatial inequality. With the foregoing in mind, the session seeks papers, both theoretical and empirical, that address the uniqueness of regional entrepreneurial systems in emerging economies, compared to that in advanced economies, and explores the place-specific factors that determines and moderates the regional entrepreneurial processes. In addition, it welcomes participants to interrogate the way that entrepreneur's initiative behaviors shape and reshape local milieu and spatial structures in emerging economies.

40. TRANSNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MEETS ENTREPRENEURIAL ECO-SYSTEMS

Rolf Sternberg, Ernesto Amorós

This session seeks to address scholars working in the fields of migration studies, transnational (diaspora) entrepreneurship and/or entrepreneurship in general. Transnational entrepreneurship, while established as a sub-discipline since about two decades, recently has received increased attention both in the academic arena and in



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government policy due to its close relationship to globalization processes, the emergence of global migration flows and the government policy responses to these new developments. The Entrepreneurial Eco-system (EES) concept is a rather young idea to conceptualize how entrepreneurship works within a system of interdependent actors and conditions. The EES-idea has recently gained enormous popularity among scholars and, even more, among policymakers who intend to support local economic growth by entrepreneurship activities. As such EES are strongly determined by local factors and actors, they are mainly situated at the sub-national level of regions, i.e. it is a dedicated research topic of economic geography. We are looking for theoretical, empirical and/or policy papers that analyze the role of transnational entrepreneurship by migrants with an EES. Among several other target groups potential contributions are expected in particular from two large international research consortia, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) (www.gemconsortium.org) and the DiasporaLink project (www.diasporalink.com).

Scholars who are interested to present at this session are asked to provide a three pages summary of a potential paper (to be submitted later) by March 15, 2018, to Rolf Sternberg: sternberg@wigeo.uni-hannover.de

Chairs have signed a contract with the British publisher Edward Elgar for an edited volume "Transnational Diaspora Entrepreneurship" (working title). Papers of the session may be considered for this volume.

EPHEMERALITY, TEMPORALITY AND INFORMALITY

41. AGGLOMERATION IN AN AGE OF INFORMALITY, EPHEMERALITY, VIRTUALITY AND THE AESTHETICIZATION OF THE URBAN Nicholas Phelps, Stefania Fiorentino

Despite a vast literature on the subject of agglomeration, there remain blind spots. Literature on joint action and agglomeration in developing countries is poorly attuned to the majority of informal businesses to be found there (Moreno-Monroy, 2012). Theory and empirics might also usefully focus on the different aspects of the 'personal networks' that now represent the contemporary institution supporting agglomeration (Duranton, 2001) and the creeping informality found in the global north as a result of the increasing precariousness of employment and the 'gig economy'. Research has explored the contributions of ephemeral events such as trade fairs and exhibitions to processes of 'temporary clustering' (Maskell et al., 2006). Can these ideas be extended to informally-constituted temporary or 'pop-up' events making use of vacant or under-used sites within cities? Despite the call to refigure economic geography around issues of virtuality and digital technologies (Thrift and Olds, 1996), the implications of e-commerce and digital technologies for existing agglomerations or the emergence of new agglomerations remain underexplored. E-commerce has promoted many new 'Taobao' villages in China. Scholars have also been quick to study new agglomerations of tech and 'maker' industries (Anderson, 2013) as part of 'start-up urbanism' (Rossi and Di Bella, 2018). Finally, the role of urban morphology and amenity as the micro-foundations of agglomeration have been little explored (Duranton and Puga, 2004). Economic geographers have concentrated on the institutional, labour market and knowledge bases of the untraded interdependencies of agglomeration (Amin and Thrift, 1992; Storper, 1995) but they have rarely considered the impacts of amenity and the aestheticization of urban space (Scott, 2010) on the agglomeration of business. We invite papers that speak to: informality and agglomeration; temporary clusters such as trade fairs, pop-up events; e-commerce and its relationship to agglomeration; the contribution of the built environment to agglomeration.

42. LINKING REGIONAL ECONOMIES TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD: AGENTS, NETWORKS AND TEMPORARY SETTINGS Sebastian Henn, Harald Bathelt

Regional economies have long been at the center of research in economic geography. Researchers have been particularly interested in understanding the local factors that explain why clusters of interconnected firms in related industries are competitive and exhibit dynamics start-up processes. In recent years, however, it appears that cluster research has lost some of its momentum – even though the same industrial agglomerations are still drivers of the



economy and play an important role in regional policies. Much work over the past decade has shown that the success of localized industry settings cannot be attributed to local factors and processes alone. It depends substantially on linkages with a variety of agents and organizations from other regions or countries that provide knowledge about external markets and technologies thus enabling these agglomerations to constantly adapt to changing economic, technological and political environments. Permanent linkages between industrial agglomerations or clusters, for example through corporate networks developed through foreign-direct investments, but also face-to-face encounters during temporary community events, such as leading global trade-fairs or B2B conferences, have been found to play a significant role when it comes to understanding how firms access and make use of knowledge created elsewhere. While a growing number of studies have dealt with such external connections that link regional economies to the outside world, the nature, role and impact of such relations has been vastly understudied.

This session seeks to explore the structure of external networks and linkages by focusing on the following questions: Which actors generate trans-local connections? How do temporary get-togethers of industrial communities affect permanent industry settings? How can regional policy support the development of interregional and international linkages? How is knowledge developed elsewhere transferred and applied locally? How does external knowledge travel between co-located firms? How can regional impacts of external linkages be measured?

43. TEMPORARY LOCAL ECONOMIES AND URBAN QUARTER DEVELOPMENT

Petra Luetke, Sebastian Henn

The dynamics in an unequal world (this year's motto of the GCEG) do not only affect the structure and performance of national or regional economies but are also reflected in the transformation of economic settings at the level of single urban quarters. Global trends, such as the social acceleration, economic flexibilization, as well as the increased mobility of labor and capital tremendously in fact have significantly contributed to the change of local economies and, along with this, to the polarization of cities. While the concept of local economies is typically associated with economic activities that are permanently bound to certain urban quarters, such as small restaurants, travel agencies or betting shops, the examples of mobile vending, pop-up-stores and small-scale trade-fairs demonstrate that temporary activities play an important role at the level of urban quarters as well. Even though such activities create jobs and income, contribute to a distinct identity of the quarter population and can help to stabilize disadvantaged urban quarters, research, up to now, has widely neglected such temporary local economies and their impact on urban quarter development. This comes to a surprise when considering the great importance that local economies have played in integrated urban policies in the last years. Against this background, this session aims at deepening our understanding about such local temporary activities. In particular, it focuses on the following and related questions:

- Which types of temporary local arrangements can be distinguished?
- Which factors affect the emergence and change of temporary economies at the level of urban quarters?
- How do temporary local arrangements affect the development of urban quarters?
- How do permanent and temporary local economies interact?
- How can temporary local arrangements be supported by local communities?

EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVES AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

44. EVOLUTIONARY ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY IN EMERGING AND DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

Canfei He, Shengjun Zhu

We invite papers that address the theme of 'Evolutionary Economic Geography in Emerging and Developing Economies'. Evolutionary economic geography (EEG) has made significant inroad in the economic geography literature through examining three specific phenomena and processes: clustering as evolutionary process (entry and exit



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patterns of firms), related variety and regional growth, and regional branching. Developed countries are normally used as empirical cases to illustrate these processes.

As already outlined by Boschma and Capone (2015, Research Policy), the varieties of capitalism (liberal versus coordinated market economies) could have a significant impact on the patterns of diversification in (un)related activities. With different institutional environment, the emerging and developing economies could provide interesting insights for some of the well-studied hypotheses outlined in the EEG. Will the long-standing hypotheses of EEG hold for the emerging and developing economies? Will some of these explanatory variables play different roles in the evolutionary processes in regional development of emerging and developing economies? What may be the potential theoretical contributions to the EEG?

We encourage empirically or theoretically informed paper submissions that reflect on the domains of institutions and institutional environment, and its dynamic analysis. Research questions and issues could include (but are not limited to):

- To what extent the different institutional environment in emerging and developing economies matter for the evolutionary processes and the subsequent clustering of firms?
- To what extent the technical change and innovation (through localized learning), related and unrelated varieties contribute to the regional development in emerging and developing economies?
- Will the product relatedness play different roles in the regional branching of emerging and developing economies?
- Are there specific patterns in the spatial evolution of industries, especially how economic actors and social institutions may or may not be able to break out of the existing lock-in through diversification of its products in these economies?
- What may be the potential theoretical implication for complexity and path dependency theories?
- The wider theoretical and methodological issues between firm-based evolutionary theories of economic change (c.f., Nelson & Winter, 1982) in the EEG (and its criticisms on the excessive focus on micro-scale actors and processes) and the potential importance of institutions, including social institutions and their wider power relations.

Please send expressions of interests/queries and abstracts (of no more than 250 words) to Canfei He (hecanfei@pku.edu.cn) or Shengjun Zhu (zhus@pku.edu.cn) by 15 March 2018. The GCEG 2018 website (<https://www.gceg2018.com/home.html>) provides more information about the conference.

45. MOVING BEYOND THE 'SINGLE PATH VIEW' IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Michaela Trippel, Björn Asheim

Over the past years much progress has been achieved in understanding how new regional industrial paths emerge in different spatial contexts. Most conceptualisations and empirical analyses in economic geography to date have been focused on one path or new path development activities in one field only. This 'single path view' prevailing in the literature seems to be a severe limitation. Many regions host a variety of new path development activities in different fields occurring more or less at the same time. Scholarly work has thus far neglected potential relationships between new growth paths and as a consequence little is known about how they shape each other's evolution. This calls for conceptual and empirical research on 1) the ways by which new paths complement and reinforce each other in their development (supportive relationship), providing opportunities for path coupling; and 2) when and how they compete with each other over scarce resources (such as highly qualified labour or private risk capital), mobilisation of stakeholders, policy support, etc. (competitive relationship).

We welcome abstracts which connect to one of the following questions: What are the determinants of inter-path relationships and how do competing and supportive relations affect new path development? What is the geography of "path coupling"? Why do some regions succeed in creating supportive relationships between new growth paths whilst



others fail? Which institutional capacities of regional innovation systems favour mobilisation and orchestration of heterogeneous actors involved in path coupling to ensure experimentation and technological, social and institutional learning between new growth paths? How do actors, policy incentives and other influences at higher spatial scales affect inter-path relationships? Which policy implications emanate from insights into supportive and competing relationships between new regional industrial growth paths? What is the role of policy in building connections and balancing competition and cooperation between newly emerging paths?

46. SHAPING REGIONAL GROWTH PATHS

Markus Grillitsch, Markku Sotarauta

Regions have different preconditions to compete, innovate, and stimulate economic growth. Structural factors such as industrial composition, the size of the region, capital and labour endowments, and infrastructure partly explain regional growth paths. What remains unexplained are structural factors that are difficult to capture quantitatively such as institutions and agentic processes that underpin new path development. The current conceptualization of path-dependency in economic geography suggests that history shapes but does not predetermine the further development of regional and industrial paths. Embedded, distributed and foresightful agency comes into play as a major cause for new path development.

The special session is devoted to papers that i) disentangle the structural and agentic effects on regional growth, ii) provide insights into the interplay between structure and agency and iii) focus on the micro-level processes that cause new industrial path development in regions. Contributing to this line of inquiry, the special session invites papers that address questions of the following sort:

- To what extent, under which conditions, and how can agency contribute to regional growth paths beyond what could be expected due to structural preconditions?
- Which processes within and beyond firms underpin regional growth paths?
- What are the causal factors explaining new path development in (different types of) regions?
- How do different regional industrial paths interplay and shape regional growth paths?
- Why and how does regional path development differ by regional contexts?
- What is the role of policy in shaping regional growth paths?

47. ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN MYANMAR

Frauke Kraas, Khin Khin Soe

Myanmar is, latest since 2010, experiencing strong and multiple processes of economic transformation. They can be characterised and summarised as follows: To date the rich potential of the landscape and natural resources has only been partially tapped. Agriculture provides employment and thus the economic basis for a large proportion of the population. The many political and economic reforms passed after 1988 and particularly after 2010 aim to improve countrywide infrastructure, promote the private sector and attract direct foreign investment. They promote decentralisation of the administration and institutional transformation, the eradication of price controls and subsidies, the modernisation of the tax and customs system, the diversification of the export sector, the improvement of import and export procedures, and the restructuring of wages and prices. They also provide increased freedom of choice for farmers in terms of the crops they cultivate and the processing, transport and trading of those products. However, these measures have not yet overcome state capitalism to a significant extent.

The greatest obstacles to the mobilisation of direct foreign investment are related to the ongoing problems of macro-economic stability, extensive bureaucracy, widespread infrastructural deficits, economic diversification, the ensuring of long-term guarantees, a lack of openness of the financial sector to foreign competition, and restrictions on the transfer of foreign capital and profits. However, the privatisation measures of recent years have led to the emergence of numerous manufacturing, trading and services companies that supplement the large, efficient, state-



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owned enterprises with their export trade. In addition to growing numbers of companies involved in textile, garment and food production there are more and more service enterprises (especially in the tourism sector). Foreign investment is particularly over-concentrated in the metropolitan areas of Yangon and Mandalay.

Against this background, it is the aim of the session to analyse and discuss the recent economic transformation processes of the country and to develop recommendations for improved transformation processes country-wide and for its different States and Regions.

FIRMS, INDUSTRY AND TRADE

48. FOREIGN INVESTMENT, MULTINATIONALS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Riccardo Crescenzi, Alexander Jaax

In order to maximize their economic development potential in terms of employment, growth, and innovation, regions cannot rely exclusively on local knowledge assets, but should benefit from a combination of “local buzz” and “global pipelines” or, more generally, global networks. A crucial role in this respect is attributed to foreign investment (FDI) and multinational enterprises (MNEs) that tap into pools of knowledge outside their place of origin, generating multidirectional flows of capital, labour and knowledge between places, with potential contributions to local and regional innovation and development. Policy makers in virtually all countries and regions have adopted a variety of measures and incentives to attract MNEs in order to leverage these potential benefits.

This special session invites papers that explore the linkages between regional trajectories and economic development and Foreign Direct Investment and Multinationals. We particularly welcome submissions that analyse longitudinal data to explore the following areas:

- Location behaviour and strategies
- Local impacts regarding economic development, growth, employment, and innovation
- Local and regional policies targeting FDI
- New methodological approaches to the measurement of firm performance and local impacts
- The relevance of entry mode (greenfield vs. M&A) and business function of subsidiaries
- The link between FDI and labour mobility
- Relations between domestic agents (e.g. firms, inventors) and subsidiaries of multinational enterprises

*****Session Organisers: Nicola Cortinovis (Erasmus University Rotterdam – cortinovis@ese.eur.nl), Riccardo Crescenzi (London School of Economics – r.crescenzi@lse.ac.uk), Alexander Jaax (London School of Economics – a.jaax@lse.ac.uk), Frank van Oort (Erasmus University Rotterdam - vanoort@ese.eur.nl) ***Sponsored by the European Research Council MASSIVE Project

49. MANAGEMENT GEOGRAPHY - AN ASIAN PERSPECTIVE

Rolf Schlunze, Taira Atsushi

Management geography is a new avenue of economic geography which focuses on the nexus of managerial practices in a globalizing world from a geographical perspective. The research objective is the analysis of the socio-economic and cognitive spatial behavior of managerial subjects influencing organizational performance through preferences, interactions and perceptions.

The nexus of managerial practices is created in the overlapping areas of location, workplace and mindscape. In real space the location matters. Concentration of managerial elements and resources define the locational capacity available to the economic actor in space. In the relative space distance is important to managerial mobility and intercultural interactions. In the relational space the workplace matters most. Here managerial subjects relate to each



other and embed various managerial processes. The degree of embeddedness matters with the issue of interaction within and among connected workplaces. In the topical space the mindscape of the managerial subjects is important. Issues of perception are important to grasp the managerial capacity of individual and organizational subjects.

SIEM welcomes submissions in the following issues in relation to International Business (IB):

- i. Theorizing on management practices in geographic space using approaches related to leadership, international human resource management (IHRM), managerial and/or innovative practices, and networking of boundary spanners.
- ii. Proposing new methodologies for investigating managerial practices, preferences, networking and decision-making in private and governmental organizations transforming spaces of international economy and management.
- iii. Providing empirical evidence on all kind of management issues including localizing and globalizing practices. In particular, studies that focus on managerial embeddedness, Community of Practices (COPs), GPNs and strategic coupling of transnational firms.
- iv. Developing implications how to build international social capital in corporate entities and global city locations.

50. SMES, FAMILY FIRMS, AND ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Lech Suwala, Rodrigo Basco

In the face of big business, big data and big transitions, there are still small and medium enterprises (SMEs), many of them family firms which provide the economic backbone and continuity in most economies. SMEs and family firms comprise diverse types of businesses from traditional Japanese century-old dynasties, America's family farms, Germany's Mittelstand to novel Shanghai and Silicon Valley' elites. Simultaneously, they are geographically uneven phenomena with regard to their distribution, impact on, and interplay with the local, regional, and national level that require more academic attention, also in the field of economic geography. Against this background, we invite Economic Geographers and scholars from adjacent disciplines such as Regional Economics, Management, Organization Studies, and International Business with interest in spatialities of SMEs and families firms – in particular spaces (locations, places, landscapes) and scales (from local to global) to submit their research. Our rationale is to initiate a profound debate by collecting various work – independent of the methodological approach (qualitative or quantitative) – on SMEs and/or family businesses in a spatial context to shed light on past and current SME and/or family firm peculiarities and trajectories from around the world.

- Conceptual, empirical and methodological papers might address, but are not limited to:
- Conceptual and theoretical debates about the nature of SME/Family firms
- Evolution and trajectories of SME/ Family firms
- Contribution and impact of SME/ Family firms on the economy
- SME/ Family firms specific issues (succession, governance, reputation, professionalisation etc.) in a spatial context

The session is a follow-up on two sessions organized at the 2017 Annual RSA meeting in Dublin and intends to launch an interdisciplinary research group.

51. THE (POST)INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY: FROM DE-INDUSTRIALISATION TOWARDS RE-INDUSTRIALISATION?

David Bole, Marco Bontje

There is a sense that most post-industrial urban models paint a rather gloomy picture of industrial activities in cities. It is sometimes implied that manufacturing is to be avoided, upgraded into something "better", more "creative" or "innovative". Policy prescriptions routinely overlook industry- and place-specific factors that enable or restrict the



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viability of manufacturing over time (Doussard & Schrock, 2015). The workshop is organised in the scope of the BRIGHT FUTURE project (funded by the JPI Urban Europe programme). The project wishes to open the dialogue on the role of industry, particularly in smaller traditional industrial towns across Europe. We wish to create new developmental paradigms better suited to the industrial reality of our towns and draw on their specific territorial capital and potential.

Papers addressing the following questions are welcome: are there conceptual alternatives for (re)development of former and present industrial cities/regions? What are the positive and the negative development trajectories of (post)industrial cities/regions? Are there good practices of re-development in industrial cities/regions? Do the (neo)industrial cities/regions possess any differences in ideas, interests and politics in comparison to their predominantly expanded successor the 'capitalist city'? If yes, what are the spatial, social and economic implications? Can the values and heritage of industrial society (unionized work, solidarity, 8-h work time, social security, etc.) still be traced in neo-industrial city vs. post-industrial/capitalist one? Can we talk about greater solidarity, social cohesion, and intergenerational dialogue in (neo)industrial cities? Can we merge all these differences under the umbrella of 'forgotten heritage of industrial city'? Are there collective and individual practices connected with industrial past that could be used for future development? These are just some examples of the questions that could be addressed in this workshop. Any other papers challenging the dominant negative notions of industrial cities/regions are also welcome.

52. THE CHANGING ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Petr Pavlinek, Bolesław Domański

The automotive industry continues to be one of the most important industries in terms of employment, potential regional development effects in both more and less developed countries, and the volume of invested capital in foreign locations. It is also one of the most globalized industries, which is dominated by a relatively small group of large assembly firms and global component suppliers. It is facing radical technological changes that have a potential to significantly alter its economic geography. The economic geography of the automotive industry has experienced important changes at different geographic scales as a response to its increasing internationalization and globalization and changing production strategies. This session will consider various theoretical, conceptual and empirical aspects of these changes at the global, macro-regional, national and regional scales. Topics may include global production networks in the automotive industry, geographic shifts, effects of automotive foreign direct investment in host economies, the role of the state in the development of the automotive industry, spillovers of technology from foreign to domestic firms, supplier networks and supplier linkages, labor issues, spatial division of labor, research and development, geographical effects of technological changes, such as electric cars, autonomous and self-driving technologies, and other topics related to economic geography of the contemporary automotive industry.

53. TRADING PLACES

Wouter Jacobs, Markus Hesse

This session welcomes contributions that draw attention to how particular places facilitate, influence and are influenced by international trade. Trading places may be urban and non-urban. They may be a trading floor, building, district, or online platform, they may be a warehouse, terminal, jetty, or indeed a vessel with in-transit stock being traded. They may be a clandestine back alley, a parking lot, or a temporary intermediate place (airport lobbies, an office desk, a coffee corner/ shop) where deals are made. They are locales of exchange (of commodities, manufactured goods, currencies, stocks or risks) which have in common that they are sites in which important information is held and revealed; information on qualities and quantities, on origins and destinations, on possible uses and substitutes, and on the risks that may be levied against them. What differentiates trading places from each other? How do they differ with respect to the processing of (geographically dispersed) information into actions and decisions, in discovering price and price differentials, and in conducting transactions and trade deals? How do some places seem to benefit more from international trade than others despite the widely available and instant access to certain forms of information; why are



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some places seem better equipped to capture the value of technologically driven informational changes than others. We want to focus on how one set of globally oriented economic activities – trade – influences the economic, social and political development and dynamics of places at various scales. As such, we build upon traditional work within geography, institutional and value chain analysis, and the New Economic Geography, but welcome other approaches within and beyond economic geography. We are interested in contemporary and historical perspectives, approaches, which may range from the theoretical to the empirical, and that employ methods from case studies to quantitative.

GLOBAL COMMODITY CHAINS, GLOBAL PRODUCTION NETWORKS AND THE TRANSNATIONAL VIEW

54. EMERGENT GLOBAL MACROECONOMIC GEOGRAPHIES: CAPTURING 21ST CENTURY GLOBALIZATION

Rory Horner, Seth Schindler

Globalization is in flux, giving rise to new global macroeconomic geographies. Richard Baldwin (2016) has suggested that the latest round of ‘unbundling’, facilitated by information and communication technologies, has led to a “great convergence” between the G7 and a number of large emerging economies. This “rise of the South” (UNDP 2013) has played a key role in reducing aggregate global income inequality since the 1990s (Milanovic 2016). However, in the same period, there has been an increase in inequality within many countries. While a populist backlash against globalization has appeared in some OECD countries (e.g. Trump, Brexit, AfD, etc.), Xi Jinping has stated that China will assume leadership of 21st century globalization. Shifting geographies of economic globalization have far-reaching implications and involve and relate to income distribution, the international division of labour, trade patterns, the growth of middle classes, a reduction of extreme poverty and a simultaneous intensification of precarity, political unrest and a general rolling back of liberal-democratic institutions. Meanwhile, dramatic and transformative changes loom, such as the fourth industrial revolution (Schwab 2016) and second machine age (Brynjolfsson and McAfee 2014). Economic geography has previously been accused of “missing the boat” on globalization (Dicken 2004), and it risks doing so again as “macroeconomic geographies...have to varying degrees receded from the foreground into the blurrier background” (Peck 2016: 308). This session invites papers that explore the shifting “tectonic plates of the globalizing economy” (Peck 2016) and their implications for our conceptualisation of economic geography. Topics could include, but are not limited to: Global convergence?; Rise of the South?; The 4th industrial revolution; Drivers of 21st century globalization; the globalization backlash; Emergent global geographies of: Trade, Production and consumption, New international divisions of labour and de/industrialization, Finance, Poverty and inequality.

55. GEOGRAPHIES OF FOOD WASTE - VALUE CHAINS AND BEYOND

Amelie Bernzen, Christine Bonnin

The emerging literature on food waste has identified it as one of the most pressing global challenges today, highlighting both negative environmental and socio-economic implications and the clear urgency to reduce food waste at all scales and stages of the production-consumption chain. While the negative impacts, including CO2 emissions, groundwater exploitation, contested land use, increasing food prices and associated food and nutrition insecurity have been widely mentioned, it is above all the quantification of total food loss and waste that have been at the core of much of the literature. Bearing in mind that this quantification of food waste depends much on the way it is conceptualised, the Food and Agriculture Organisation estimated that more than 1.3 billion tonnes (representing between one third and half) of all food produced for human consumption is either lost or wasted each year. There is no general agreement, however, on how much of this food waste is produced at different stages of the value chain, and the role of corporate players is particularly ambiguous. This Session welcomes researchers working on diverse aspects relating to the geographies of food waste, including, but not limited to, themes such as food waste governance, redistribution,



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consumption, environmental impacts, materiality, value chains, global North-South linkages, reduction strategies, sharing economies and food security.

56. GEOPOLITICS, SOUTH-SOUTH-COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Padraig Carmody, Phyllis Bussler

In the context of the current neoliberal world economy, many countries in the Global South, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, are following an approach of regional development and economic integration based on the export of raw materials and agricultural commodities. At the same time, and driven by the global crisis of 2008, advanced as well as emerging economies are struggling in a global scramble to secure their (long-term) access to resources and markets, with China in the lead. International cooperation efforts, from traditional donors from the North, as well as from non-traditional cooperation partners, such as the BRICS, are embedded into this logic of geopolitical interest. They entail new configurations in the international aid system, such as south-south and trilateral cooperation, which claim for themselves to follow principles of horizontality and non-interference. While there is a risk for economies in sub-Saharan Africa to fall back into the role of a supplier of commodities for a global economy, re-inscribing colonial patterns, communities on a local level are faced with the social and environmental effects of natural resource extraction, investments into related infrastructure and livelihood issues. Against this background, this session aims to contribute to the debates on south-south-cooperation, (geo-)political interests and development. We welcome theoretical and empirical informed contributions from economic geography, development geography, international relations and related fields dealing with:

- Resource conflicts in the Global South, especially in sub-Saharan Africa
- South-South and Trilateral Cooperation projects and their implications
- BRICS investments in sub-Saharan Africa
- Geopolitics and Neo-Colonialism

Each paper is expected to comply with the 20-minutes time slot. Please send your abstract, including name and affiliation to Phyllis Bussler via bussler@wiso.uni-koeln.de by March 15th.

57. GLOBAL COMMODITY CHAINS, MARKETIZATION AND UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT

Johanna Herrigel, Christian Berndt

Since the turn of the millennium, and paradoxically fuelled by the global economic crisis, enhanced marketization – the deepening of markets as well as the re-engineering of markets and of individual market behavior – is touted by a multiplicity of institutions. Indeed, enhanced marketization is the key element of policies circulating across the Global North and South and fostering the assemblage of a new (global) policy consensus. In light of these dynamics, a renewed analytical focus on the dynamical relationship between globalizing capitalism (reinforced by these pushes for marketization) and the diverse dimensions of uneven development is urgently needed.

Marxist, feminist and postcolonial critiques have long argued that dynamics in globalizing capitalism are co-constitutive with processes of socio-geographical differences and inequalities, and thus with uneven development. They have drawn attention to how globalizing capitalism relies on framing-cum-capitalizing on and thus continuously re-creating its multiple “Outsides”, ranging from nature (nonhuman) to reproduction (subsistence) and non-capitalist social relations of production and exchange (Fraser 2014, Tsing 2015).

It is the aim of this session to engage with the co-constitutive relationship between globalizing capitalism and uneven development through the lens of particular commodity chains, market realms or production networks. We encourage empirical and/or theoretical contributions that focus on the struggle over market b/orders and the (re)production of multiple differences and inequalities widely understood. We also encourage papers that bring contemporary theoretical perspectives into conversation with one another.



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58. RADICALISING GLOBAL PRODUCTION NETWORKS

Carlo Inverardi-Ferri, Dennis Stolz

As a heuristic framework for understanding the organisationally fragmented and spatially dispersed nature of contemporary production, the Global Production Networks (GPN) approach has become one of the most influential paradigms in geography today (Coe & Yeung, 2015). From its earliest formulations, the GPN framework held the promise of a critical investigation of uneven geographical development, integrating elements from world-systems theory, dependency analysis and other radical traditions in political economy (Dicken et al., 2001; Henderson et al., 2002). Later scholarship has in part departed from this initial agenda (Bair, 2005; Smith, 2015). While intersections between GPN and critical strands of geographical research have certainly emerged in the literature (Arnold & Hess, 2017; Hudson, 2008; Leslie & Reimer, 1999), this session suggests that a more robust engagement with radical schools of economic thinking is needed to fulfil the original promise of the project.

The session invites theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions that cover themes including, but are not limited to: Marxian approaches and GPN, Political ecology and GPN, Cultural political economy and GPN, Feminist geography and GPN, Neo-Gramscian approaches and GPN, Polanyian economic geography and GPN, Labour geography and GPN, State and institutions within GPN, GPN, primitive accumulation, and enclosures, Social reproduction and GPN, Food and GPN, Waste and GPN, Animal geographies and GPN, Mobility and migration in GPN, Informality and the illicit in GPN.

Informal queries can be addressed to carlo.inverardi-ferri@nus.edu.sg and dennis.stolz@u.nus.edu. Please submit your abstract at <https://www.gceg2018.com> by 15th March 2018

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59. PRODUCTION NETWORKS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AN ERA OF POLYCENTRIC TRADE

Khalid Nadvi, Rory Horner

Global production networks, and related global value chains, analysis has made valuable insights into the linkages that transform raw materials into final products and services, illustrating how value is created, and also differentially



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captured. A common, and arguably dominant, perspective amongst GPN and GVC scholars and policymakers has been an implicit focus on global trade involving North-South flows, stretching from initial stages of production in the global South to end markets in the global North.

Now, however, whether it be the prominence of the global South in manufacturing exports, its growing share of consumption or the fact that the dominant trade direction is now South-South rather than South-North, considerable change is afoot. Rather than emphasizing North-South oriented value chains/production networks, contemporary trade involves overlapping, multiple production networks oriented towards different end markets – domestic, regional and global – across both global North and South.

This session invites papers that explore shifting geographies of trade and which consider the existence of multiple, and often overlapping value chains and production networks, which include those targeted towards end markets in the global South. Topics could include, but are not limited to:

- Conceptualising polycentric production networks
- Domestic and Regional, as well as global, end markets
- New lead firms
- Standards in Southern end markets
- Network segmentation, switching and diversification
- Development strategies and outcomes (economic, social, environmental) across multiple value chains

60. THE ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHIES OF BY-PRODUCTS FROM AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

Kim Schumacher, John Overton

The global sourcing and production of agrarian products (food and fibre) has received broad attention in geographical research, especially their global chains and networks, including social geographies tied to production, distribution and consumption. There is also a growing body of literature on the geographies of waste, like e-waste. In this session we want to focus on a often neglected part of food production: the economic geographies of by-products, from agriculture and food production. By-products in the sense of this session might be for example residues from livestock farming like manure or waste from slaughterhouses as well as by-products from the processing of food.

These by-products are essential but neglected parts of the production process and of the production network. They often resemble burdens for the environment or population and are often overlooked as well as not included into the pricing of the commodity, therefore contributing to unequal developments.

We want to give a forum for the discussion of empirical case studies but also welcome contributions to a conceptual debate on a more inclusive discussion of agriculture and food production that also takes into account its by-products and side-products and their geographies.

61. THINKING THROUGH SERVICES IN, AND AS, GLOBAL PRODUCTION NETWORKS

Neil Coe, James Faulconbridge

As a now maturing theoretical framework, the global production network (GPN) approach offers a sophisticated conceptualisation of the operations of globally fragmented-yet-integrated production systems. In theoretical terms, it is open to the activities of value creation, enhancement and capture across independent or intersecting manufacturing and service networks. Empirical testing and verification of its ideas, however, is still arguably more developed in relation to manufacturing sectors than their service equivalents. This downplaying of services can be seen in two ways. Services such as advertising, finance, logistics, accountancy, retailing, staffing and telecommunications, among others, are integral to the value creation and enhancement processes of manufacturing global production networks, but they are also increasingly delivered and organised themselves through global production networks. In this session, we thus build on existing studies that consider both the role of services in global production networks and the global production



networks of services. We seek to enrich empirical understanding of the organisation of services in/as global production networks, and critically reflect on the conceptual tools within the global production network approach. In relation to the latter we are interested both in existing tools that can be used to theorise the role/nature of services, and those which are currently under-developed or absent but crucial for understanding services in/as GPNs. We thus encourage papers that draw on both case studies and conceptual analysis. Papers might address (but are not limited to) topics such as:

- The nature and role of services in resource or manufacturing GPNs;
- The relevance of the theoretical tools of the GPN approach to service GPNs;
- Comparing and contrasting the GPNs of different service sectors;
- Intersections between different kinds of service GPNs;
- The regulatory and institutional contexts and sensitivities of service GPNs;
- Measuring the contributions of services to GPNs of all kinds;
- The intermediating role of services in GPNs;
- Knowledge dynamics and services in GPNs;
- Value creation, enhancement and capture, and strategic coupling in service GPNs
- Ways of enhancing the analytical power of the GPN conceptual framework through studies of services.

INNOVATION IN NON-CORE AREAS, PERIPHERIES AND THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES

62. INNOVATING OUTSIDE OF AGGLOMERATIONS

Lukas Vonnahme, Markus Grillitsch

In a world of ever-increasing opportunities of mobility and communication, innovation is less restricted by geographical proximity. Current debates on the geographies of innovation progressively challenge well-established concepts like co-location and knowledge spillovers. In recent years, a number of empirical studies have stressed the importance of dispersed innovation activities that can appear at, but are not restricted to certain types of agglomeration such as cities and clusters, events like trade fairs, or (global) organisational networks. Another layer which adds to this complexity of innovation patterns is addressed by the topic of this session: innovating outside of agglomerations.

While established theories contribute to the argument of a negative correlation of innovation and periphery, recent empirical work demonstrates quite the opposite: through a broad variety of activities, firms can be highly innovative in such areas. Taking these findings into account, a more nuanced view on the geographies of innovation is needed. The aim of this session is to improve our understanding of innovation originating from 'peripheries' by uncovering concrete firm strategies, determinants, activities and impacts of innovation in such areas.

We call in particular for empirical contributions which explore:

- firm innovation in different 'peripheral' areas of the world
- specific firm-based strategies to innovation and main determinants of innovation
- the potential of firm innovations for regional and local development in such areas
- differences in innovation activities in different 'peripheral' settings
- ideas and approaches to better conceptualize the geographies innovation from a 'peripheral' perspective

63. INNOVATION AT THE PERIPHERIES

Kirsten Martinus, Johannes Glückler

Over the last few decades, research in innovation studies and in the geography of knowledge has focussed on the role of agglomeration economies, in particular on the density and diversity of large industrial clusters and metropolitan regions for the creation, recombination and diffusion of knowledge. This spatial blinker on gravity centers of innovation



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implies, though unconsciously, a blind angle: the role of knowledge creation at the peripheries. Recently, however, economic geographers, network researchers and scholars in organization studies have readdressed the question of how new knowledge is created outside spatial, organizational and network hotspots. This session pursues two objectives: to revisit multiple understandings and perspectives of the concept of periphery, and to explore the role of peripheries (in the gravity fields of organizations, networks, geography, governance regimes etc.) in innovation.

We welcome theoretical and empirical papers related, among others, to the following questions:

- Moving beyond a residual category: what are constructive understandings and substantive characteristics of peripheries?
- How do different perspectives on peripheries translate into place and space?
- How can peripheries become sources of innovation?
- Which types of knowledge and innovations flourish in peripheries?
- Are peripheries necessary to foster specific kinds of innovation?
- How can innovation transform peripheries into centers of economic wealth, and how do these dynamics unfold?

Please send your paper title and abstract to Kirsten Martinus (kirsten.martinus@uwa.edu.au) and Johannes Glückler (glueckler@uni-heidelberg.de).

64. INNOVATION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Päivi Oinas, Lucía Gómez

The role of innovation has been central in debates on economic growth and development for decades. It used to be the case that innovation was generally associated with advanced economies, their firms, their dynamic cities, innovation systems, or innovative clusters. Those possess the resources, possibilities for creative interactions, supportive organisations, institutions, and infrastructures. We now begin to know increasingly about how emerging countries invest in education, learning and knowledge generation, and about the ability of emerging market multinationals (EMNEs) to tap into sources of knowledge elsewhere so as to advance knowledge processes at home. It is not yet as extensively studied how less developed countries and regions put effort into upgrading their products, processes, and services. "Emerging" and "developing" countries and regions in the global South are differently positioned in terms of access to resources and supporting environments but both are increasingly becoming integrated in processes of innovation.

Papers are called for that help us shed light on the diverse ways in which diverse countries, cities, and regions in the global South are involved in generating innovative products, processes, services, technologies, organizational solutions, social processes, and so forth, through mechanisms such as:

- local entrepreneurship;
- foreign direct investment bringing in new knowledge, and tapping into local creative processes;
- transnational and translocal networks of firms, organisations, individuals, public bodies and intercultural exchanges;
- cities adopting urban planning practices for the attraction of investment and talent, and for stimulating creative interactions;
- university engagement with local economies and communities;
- digital transfer and local adaptation of innovative solutions
- etc.



65. RURAL ECONOMIES AND GLOBALIZATION

Francesca Fois, Michael Woods

Literature on globalization tends to focus on urban areas, often dismissing how such phenomenon has an impact on the economies of the countryside. However, not only cities but also rural areas are diversely impacted by global flows. Equally, they can play a crucial role in shaping global processes (Woods 2007). Though there is an emerging interest on the relation between the rural and the global (Rignall and Atia 2017; Wilson and Whitehead 2012; Nelson and Nelson 2010), this session aims to further explore which economic geographies are generated in such global-rural entanglements. Agriculture, migration, manufacturing, mining, and tourism are some of the themes (yet not exclusive) that could be taken in consideration to explore the dynamic nature of rural economies and investigate how the local scale can interact with the global scale. What kinds of economic global-rural process are enacted? How global-rural connections shape rural economies? How rural development influences/is influenced by globalisation? How rural economic geographical knowledges can impact policy makers? How global flows do produce more (un)equal rural context? We would like to open the space to those investigations that look at how globalisation influences, shapes and impacts the economic geographies of rural areas and/or how rural economies are actively involved (or not) in the production of global spaces and networks. This session is interested in theoretical, empirical and/or methodological contributions that look at one or more (but not limited) of the following economic geography dimensions in unpacking the relation between the rural and the global:

- Labour
- Financialisation
- Industries
- Development
- (In)equalities
- Gender
- Social economies
- Production networks
- Institutions
- Logistic and transports
- Technologies and communications

66. THE (SILENT) TRIUMPH OF THE PERIPHERY: CONCEPTUALIZING CREATIVITY FROM THE MARGINS

Oliver Ibert, Gernot Grabher

Centers have always been celebrated as places of creativity, innovation and progress. The historical record of centers in engendering all kinds of innovations from Renaissance Florence over Fin de Siècle Vienna to the present creative epicenters like New York or London is impressive. The periphery, in contrast, appears stuck in its role of sustaining conservatism. The genealogy of creativity attests nothing less than the irrefutable “triumph of the city” (Glaeser). This certainty, however, comes at a price. First, the fixation on the affordances of urban places has impoverished conceptualizations of periphery. The term is routinely used as a residual and deficient notion. This perception does neither do justice to the diversity of spaces of creativity that exist beyond metropolitan areas, nor does it provide any positive ideas of what peripheries are or could be. Second, the celebration of urban forms of innovation has unified our ways of thinking about creativity as relying on interaction between diverse actors co-located in thriving places. Modes of creativity beyond this predominant urban model, however, are widely neglected. Such modes can be found peripheries, but sometimes also dwell in niches right within the territories of creative cities. Third, the urban model regards innovation as a phenomenon bound to particular territories. A process-oriented perspective, however, reveals that creative projects usually tap into spatially distributed resources. Hence, the opposition of center and periphery should not be understood in terms of an exclusive dualism, but rather should be interpreted as a dynamic duality ripe with tensions and opportunities. We invite conceptual and empirical papers that



- provide differentiated notions of peripheries that foreground their unique qualities and affordances;
- advance novel approaches for the analysis of creativity with a particular focus on the affordances of peripheries;
- employ a relational understanding of peripheries, which acknowledge the interaction between

67. JOURNAL SESSION: UNIVERSITIES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO INNOVATION, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Thomas Brenner, Daniel Schiller

In recent years universities have changed with regard to their character, organisation and tasks they are expected to fulfil, not only in continental Europe, but also in emerging economies. Organisation has become more centralised and more oriented towards efficiency and excellence. In the context of these changes, universities are nowadays expected to provide more than scientific publications and graduates. Their so-called “third mission” is based on widespread interaction with the economy, policy makers and the society. This also includes a stronger interaction within the region. As a consequence, an increasing contribution to innovation, economic growth, structural change, and societal development is expected at the regional level.

The session provides a platform to present and discuss theoretical and empirical studies of such regional contributions and impacts of universities. The session is run in connection with the journal *Review of Regional Research* and a special issue is organised consisting of the accepted papers, which will appear in October 2019.

Contributions to the following issues, among others, are welcome:

- Universities' impact on regional growth
- Regional co-evolution of private and public research
- Regional collaboration between industry and science
- Interaction between regional policy and universities
- Regional impact of the transformation of the university education system in Europe
- Universities and regional development in the Global South
- New governance models for regional engagement of universities
- Interaction between universities and the regional society
- Universities and sustainable regional development

68. UNIVERSITIES IN THE PERIPHERIES

Michela Lazzeroni, Andrea Piccaluga

Universities have undertaken changes regarding their main functions and new missions linked to technological transfer and to their contribution to economic and social development. The current debate about their future swings between the need to invest in research and internationalization and a more intense orientation towards the so called third mission. Most studies in this field focus on advanced countries, for example analysing the impact of universities in global or middle cities. On the contrary, empirical analyses have overlooked universities' contribution to the development of peripheral areas. As a matter of fact, with regard to “global peripheries”, universities can contribute to the reduction of the gap between advanced and emerging/poor countries (participation to international circuits of research, training of qualified people, etc.). At national level, they can become development actors in marginal areas and soften polarisation phenomena of creative and technological activities in metropolitan ones. Universities can also be drivers for urban regeneration projects and for the re-qualification of peripheral areas. This session therefore aims to contribute to the debate on the relationship between universities and peripheries, especially on the following issues: contribution of the university to economic growth and technological advancement in peripheral areas through knowledge transfer processes, relationships with firms and local institutions, creation of new technology clusters and start-ups, etc.; liaison role of universities with international actors and the link between the peripheral contexts and the central areas, concerning the circulation of knowledge, joint research projects, mobility of students and professors,



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etc.; civic engagement of universities in peripheral contexts, in terms of promotion of cultural initiatives, new partnerships with the local community, social inclusion projects, shared spaces for the local population, etc.; participation of universities in urban regeneration processes, renovation of degraded neighborhoods, local development projects in marginal contexts (incubators, new buildings..).

MIGRATION IN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

69. GEOGRAPHIES OF PEOPLE FLOWS: PLACES FOR MIGRATION, DIASPORA ENTREPRENEURS, AND TRANSNATIONAL BUSINESS

Maria Elo, Päivi Oinas

Economic geography and international business have a long tradition of analysing location: environments with suitable conditions for the range of economic activities, such as investments, production, or market expansion. The dimension of people and migration flows has attracted less attention in these debates. Yet, people and their mobility are part of globalization and central in shaping economic landscapes, and very little is known on the selection of destinations of entrepreneurial investor- innovator migrants.

Ongoing debates on innovative ecosystems, entrepreneurial ecosystems, diasporic ecosystems, smart cities, mega cities, clusters, as well as research on the global competition for talent, investment and innovation capacity suggests an underlying people-dimension relevant for analysis. Further, in this complex era of de- and re-globalization there are numerous parallel – perhaps also intertwined – processes and flows taking place influenced by regimes, policies and economic centripetal forces. Understanding these flows more holistically, incorporating people, entrepreneurs, families, clans, diasporas, and other social formations is necessary for developing strategies and policies for promoting locations. The actors shaping a place are increasingly diverse. Their transnational networks may co-develop the location and various non-local agendas for business development start being involved in “local” economy. In addition, digital diasporas and their businesses together with the digitization processes emphasize the dynamism beyond brick and mortar layer of business.

In short, there is a need to discuss, analyze, and reflect the diversity of people flows and explanations of their location to enrich the current body of knowledge with new insights and dynamics explaining the complicated mechanisms. Migration theories do not examine these entrepreneurial dynamics, while sociology addresses other aspects and international entrepreneurship focuses more on the internationalization aspects, like most international business theories. Thus, we call for papers conceptualizing and contextualizing an attractive place for incoming flow of migrant talent and entrepreneurship.

70. LABOUR, MIGRATION AND BROKERS

Huey Shy Chau, Jennifer Steiner

In many contexts around the world, the services of brokers play a decisive role in enabling labour migration. Even in spaces of relatively free movements, such as within Europe, labour brokers have been gaining importance. Our session examines this ‘middle space of labour migration’ (Lindquist, Xiang and Yeoh 2012).

The term broker here refers to a party that mediates between other parties, such as between employers and workers (ibid.). It encompasses various forms of brokers including temporary staffing agencies, agencies that hire migrant workers for specialised services (such as for live-in care), and informal brokers. Our session aims at exploring the role of labour brokering in relation to migration in a variety of contexts. Papers may address (but are not limited to) the following questions:

- How is labour migration brokered in different geographical and regulatory contexts?
- In what ways do labour brokers shape working conditions of migrant workers?



- How do labour brokers influence the organisation of migrant workers' movements and migrant workers' agency?
- What is labour brokers' role in shifting constellations of migration control?
- In what ways do brokering services enable the emergence of specific transnational labour arrangements, migration channels and geographies?
- What are the institutional and regulatory contexts in which labour migration brokers emerge?
- In what ways do labour migration brokers shape (labour) markets?
- How can a focus on labour migration brokers contribute to understanding current processes of social transformation?

NEW APPROACHES IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY, EXISTING APPROACHES REVISED I: INSTITUTIONS AND NETWORKS, PERCEPTIONS AND PRACTICES

71. ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY, NETWORKS AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Johannes Glückler, Emmanuel Lazega

Ever since economic geographers proclaimed the 'institutional turn' (Amin, 1999; Jessop, 2001; Martin, 2000), institutions have been recognized as playing a pivotal role for the place-dependence of regional development and for the relative persistence of economic disparities across regions. As institutions, the stable patterns of social interaction, cannot simply be replicated to other places, a key challenge for institutional theory is to understand how institutions emerge, how they transform and how, potentially, they can be influenced to transform in ways that are conducive to inclusive and prosperous development. Despite recent advances in theories of institutionalization (e.g. institutional hysteresis, institutional entrepreneurship, institutional work, neo-structural theory of institutionalization), our knowledge is still limited about what makes institutions place-specific and about the mechanisms that drive institutional change. This session invites original contributions to the dynamics of institutional change and the relation between institutions, networks and organizations, as well as policies and regulations in affecting social and economic development. We welcome both theoretical and empirical papers. Exemplary issues, among many others, are: How do place-specific institutional contexts affect institutional transformation? What are the relational infrastructures and networks that affect processes of institutionalization? How can motivated actors purposively initiate and steer institutional change? How do existing regulations and policies interact with institutions?

Please send your abstracts to Johannes Glückler (glueckler@uni-heidelberg.de) and Emmanuel Lazega (emmanuel.lazega@sciencespo.fr).

72. PERCEPTIONS, PREJUDICES AND PARTITIONS: CONCEPTUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF CORPORATE ISOLATION AND EXCLUSION

Martina Fuchs, Sebastian Henn

Economic disparities that tend to characterize our 'unequal world' (the motto of this year's GCEG) are continuously being produced and reproduced by individual agents embedded in diverse social networks. Even though the globalized economy relies on intense exchanges across cultural boundaries, empirical evidence suggests that most economic agents, influenced by their cultural socializations, political indoctrinations and medial representations, intentionally or unintentionally delimit themselves, their networks resp. the firms they work with from (alleged) others (e. g. foreign investors) and act accordingly. As a result, economic nationalisms have evolved at different scales that affect national and regional economic development in a yet unprecedented way (e.g. by scaring away foreign investors). To go even further, current political developments in various countries foreshadow that xenophobia and related populist policies must be considered an increasing threat to firms, value chains and entire nation states.

Though economic geography and related disciplines have referred to individual and corporate practices of self-differentiation with different concepts, such as 'othering', the underlying conceptual debate has remained quite vague



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up to now. This session therefore aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the link between perceptions and related actions by reflecting upon trends of corporate isolation and exclusion as well as of discussing methodological challenges related to assessing such perceptions, prejudices and partitions.

We invite papers from economic geography and related disciplines like ethnology, political sciences, sociology that are related (but are not limited) to

- a. theoretical-conceptual problems related to othering etc. in international economic relations and/or between firms and their surrounding regions,
- b. methodological implications of researching perceptions and related actions of economic agents,
- c. patterns of perceptions, 'intercultural' learning, policy recommendations and implications for research about MNCs or M&As and
- d. implications for research about local contexts, e.g. institutional contexts and actor networks.

73. PRACTICE, SPACE AND THE ECONOMY (REVISITED)

Andrew Jones, James Murphy

Since the emergence of debates about practice and economic geography in the 2000s, there has been a significant growth and diversification of interest in 'practice-oriented' approaches to economic geography. Earlier work on economic practices largely adopted a firm-oriented lens for both theorising and researching practice and its spatiality in the global economy. And whilst considerable parallels were drawn with the so-called 'relational turn' in economic geography, clear differences between relational and practice-oriented work have also become apparent. Recent economic geographical work on practice has thus overlapped with an increasingly broad set of schools of thought including for example, work within geographies of finance, geographical political economy, environmental economic geography and urban and regional development. It therefore seems timely to revisit the nature of practice-oriented research across the sub-discipline, and assess the nature and evolution of this broad approach. This sessions seeks therefore to attract a wide range of contributions in order to compare and contrast different contributions to work on economic practices within economic geography and, perhaps ambitiously, create a forum at this conference to both take stock of where such work has led the sub-discipline as well as engage with the challenges and limitations that have become evident. The organisers would welcome papers from any area of economic geography that might make a contribution to this debate about the practice-oriented shift and these might include around (but are not limited to) research that relates to practice:

- Firm management or operation
- GPNs
- Urban and regional development
- Innovation
- Institutions and governance
- Financial geographies and financialization
- Markets and marketization
- Sustainability transitions

74. SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Gilbert M. Nduru, Peter Dannenberg

Spatial development Initiatives like growth corridors, cluster development, university spatial development or special economic zones are associated with often long-running plans to modernise, transform and develop certain parts of a country to foster socio-economic development. While these initiatives have been a classic instrument of economic development for decades, they have reached new attention in regional economic development policies in recent years, e.g. in Sub-Saharan Africa or Southeast Asia and developed new instrument sets. Modern corridors for



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example go beyond the pure provision of public physical infrastructure. Based on complex multi-stakeholder initiatives they are strategically designed as catalysts of regional economic integration by policy makers and private businesses, and pointedly pushing traditional businesses into increasingly complex international value chains. Special economic zones in the Global South are increasingly marked by mixed approaches including economic and residential estate development. However, the outcomes of such development initiatives are still barely understood. Critics argue that development policies are based on simplified models, which are not able to address sufficiently the complexity of regional development and the risks derived from them. Policies on value chain based corridor development can for example lead to conflicts, external dependencies, land rush, and environmental damages. Special Economic zones are often associated with enclave development, exclusion and a polarization of wealth. Against this background, the question arises: In how far do spatial development initiatives lead to desired and undesired effects and in how far do they contribute to an integrative development? This session invites conceptual and empirical studies in the broader range of this topic.

75. SOCIAL NETWORKS IN SPACE

Robert Panitz, Johannes Glückler

Social and economic settings have both a relational and a spatial component. Consequently, the economic development of regions depends on the structure and dynamics of social networks, and conversely, the evolution of networks often takes particular spatial form and depends on geographical context. While research in geography has started using networks to explain spatial phenomena, network researchers have recently identified space as an important aspect of the formation of social relations. These points of cross-fertilization have led to special issues in both fields, such as in *Social Networks* (Doreian and Conti 2012) or the *Journal of Economic Geography* (Glückler and Doreian 2016). Moreover, recent contributions in evolutionary economic geography (e.g. Boschma et al., 2015) have indicated ways in which interaction between the two research streams can lead to a better understanding of the spatiality of networks and the network foundations of regional development. This session aims to enforce the mutual engagement between theory-led economic geography and the growing portfolio of methods and techniques in network science. Within a broad range of possible topics at the intersection of relational geography and network studies, we invite contributions that may address the following issues: the spatial evolution of networks, the role of spatial context for social networks, the impact of organizational networks on regional economic development, concepts and methods for the relational analysis of regions and the spatiality of organizations, the dynamics of intra- and inter-organizational networks in and across space, the relational structure of markets at regional and global scale.

76. ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY – CONTEMPORARY TOPICS, RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS, AND ESSENTIAL INSIGHTS

Michael Leuchner, Dieter F. Kogler

This session will address cutting-edge topics and discuss new perspectives and developments in the field of contemporary economic geography. The session is dedicated to Springer's new Economic Geography book series, which serves as a broad platform for scientific contributions in the field of Economic Geography and its sub-disciplines and covers topics such as the geography of economic systems and spaces, geographies of transnational investments and trade, globalization, geographies of innovation and knowledge, evolutionary economic geography, urban economic geography, development geography and other forms of spatial organization and distribution of economic activities or assets. It features research monographs, edited volumes, advanced and undergraduate level textbooks, as well as conference proceedings.



NEW APPROACHES IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY, EXISTING APPROACHES REVISED II: MATERIALITY AND ECONOMIES OF THE BODY

77. MATERIALITY IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Fabian Faller, Susann Schäfer

The debate on conceptualizations and methodologies of the 'material' in human geographical research is one of the current ontological and epistemological issues in the field (Bakker und Bridge 2016; Gibson 2015). Economic geography experienced an import of social theories which consider materiality as an important element in the constitution of the social and economic world (e.g., practice theories, Actor-Network-Theory, assemblage theory). For example, practice theorists refer to practice-arrangement bundles (Schatzki 1996), Actor-Network-Theory uses the notion of the non-human actor (Latour 2005), and assemblage theory considers objects (Landa 2006). Consequently, it is an important question how materiality can be translated into economic geographical research, and whether and how paradigms and theories in economic geography (e.g. Evolutionary Economic Geography, Relational Economic Geography, Institutional Economic Geography, Global Production Networks, cluster research, regional development) can benefit from this extended perspective. In order to discuss conceptualizations of materiality in the context of economic geography and their implementations, the organizers invite both theoretical and empirical paper.

78. NEW ECONOMIES OF HEALTH AND BODY

Iris Dzudzek, Peter Lindner

In recent years health and the body have been subject to new modes of economization to an unprecedented degree. Broadly speaking, four closely interrelated drivers of this development can be identified:

- 1) Technoscientific advances in the fields of microbiology, genetics, epigenetics and transplantation medicine which increasingly allow for modification of what Nikolas Rose has called "life itself";
- 2) New mobile sensor-software technologies and 'wearables' which foster the optimization and economization of bodily behaviour;
- 3) Increased mobility in the fields of medicine and healthcare comprising e.g. the circulation of patients, health professionals, body parts, pharmaceuticals, reproductive technologies and healthcare services, often taking advantage of differing national or international regulations.
- 4) Preparedness and risk-reduction programs with regard to global health threats such as Ebola and malaria, involving state agencies, private companies and non-governmental organizations.

These processes have led to the emergence of new relational, transnational and unequal frontiers of economization and efficiency-oriented modifications of the self involving the renegotiation of ethical standards and biopolitical regulations. We invite the submission of abstracts that address these developments, critically question their implications, and think beyond the established spatial approaches of medical geography.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT I: CIRCULATION, CRISES AND INITIATIVES

79. NEXUS THINKING AND METABOLISM IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Alexander Follmann, Kim Philip Schumacher

Relatively little attention has been paid to conceptualize environmental aspects within economic geography's debates on chains and networks (cf. Bridge2008, Bush et al. 2015, Schmitt & Schulz 2016). However, economic geographers have much to contribute to questions of sustainability. The study of resource flows and their economic geographies is important to understand society-nature relations. In this context, nexus thinking has attracted increasing interest and debate within geography (e.g. RGS 2016 Nexus Thinking Conference) and the notion of metabolism has also seen a revival in geography and neighbouring disciplines (Newell & Cousins 2014), but also among policy-makers.



Nexus thinking and recent metabolism approaches call for an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach to link often separately understood resource systems and flows to socio-ecological challenges and questions of unequal development. This session invites papers addressing resource flows, nexus thinking and metabolism in (environmental) economic geography within a broad range of topics including urban and regional development, land use conflicts, conservation, agriculture, (renewable) energies, among others. We aim to foster a conceptual debate but case-study-based papers are also very much welcomed. Bridge, G. (2008) 'Global production networks and the extractive sector: governing resource-based development'. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 8(3), pp. 389-419. Bush, S. R., Oosterveer, P., Bailey, M., & Mol, A. P. J. (2015) 'Sustainability governance of chains and networks: a review and future outlook'. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 107, pp. 8-19. Newell, Joshua P.; Cousins, Joshua J. (2014) 'The boundaries of urban metabolism: Towards a political-industrial ecology'. *Progress in Human Geography*: pp. 702-728. Villarreal Walker, R.; Beck, M. B.; Hall, J. W.; Dawson, R. J.; Heidrich, O. (2014) 'The energy-water-food nexus: Strategic analysis of technologies for transforming the urban metabolism'. *Journal of Environmental Management* 141: pp. 104-115. Schmitt, T., & Schulz, C. (2016) 'Sustainable resource governance in global production networks. Challenges for human geography'. *Erdkunde*, 70(4), pp.297-312.

80. NATURAL HAZARDS, ADAPTATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Simone Sandholz, Javier Revilla Diez, Thomas Neise

Many parts of the world are characterized by an increasing risk of disasters, e.g. from floods or droughts, driven by the overlapping effects of environmental degradation, climate change, rapid urban expansion and agricultural intensification. These developments can affect the economic competitiveness of local businesses and entire regions. Particularly in emerging economies, disasters have the potential to jeopardize hard-won development progress. However, the question arises whether the increasing intensity and frequency of natural hazards can also trigger new and more sustainable regional development trajectories as they initiate adaptation and transformation processes.

The session, therefore, contributes to the conference by discussing how natural hazards and the adaptation to them might influence regional development. So far, the conceptual and empirical interest on adaptation and resilience within economic geography mostly applies to studies on economic crises. Research on the question how regions respond to natural hazards and environmental change is far less prominent. This is striking given that issues of private sector engagement to disaster risk reduction, climate-friendly innovations or hazard-affected supply chain disruptions – to only name a few relevant topics – show the explicit links between economic geography and geographical disaster risk research.

Therefore, this session integrates theoretical and empirical contributions in order to open an innovative and promising avenue for economic geography: the links between adaptation to natural hazards and regional development. Contributions addressing this link with a perspective on path dependency, innovation systems and adaptation governance are particularly welcome.

81. TERRITORIES OF THE GLOBAL CRISIS: CAPITALISM, DEMOCRACY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN QUESTION IN LATIN AMERICA

Pablo Ciccolella, Carlos Mario Yory

The objective of the Session is to review and discuss the contemporary territorial transformations in Latin America within the framework of the global crisis of capitalism, either from theoretical approaches or from case studies.

The analytical axes of work will focus on issues such as: the territorial impact of the growing instability of the economic system and traditional political structures; the deterioration of the quality of democracy and the questions in the relationship between production, environment and territory; between technological progress and increase in social and territorial concentration; between public policies and social, territorial and environmental justice; between right and left populisms, nationalisms, social movements and territorial identities threatened or made invisible.



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From the theoretical and contextual approach of these problems, the idea is to expose and discuss some cases of specific territorial problems, either from academic production or from technical assistance or extension activities.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT II: ENERGY

82. ENERGY GEOGRAPHY – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS FROM INNOVATION IN ENERGY SYSTEMS, MARKETS, AND STRATEGIES

Teis Hansen, Fabian Faller

The spatial organisation of power generation related processes is rapidly changing: production of energy is more and more decentralised due to renewable energy deployment; R&D for energy technologies is more and more decentralised, as various new SMEs enter the market around the world; and energy policy and strategies are more and more an inter- and supranational concern. Embedded in the western capitalist system this new energy geography is widely seen as growth opportunity for local and regional economies, as it supports the carbon decoupling of energy production, potentially allowing for sustainable industrial production, green mobility, as well as new regional value chains and energy markets. Still, we know little about the actual drivers of the new energy geography and its impact on economic development, including when and how regions may benefit in both economic and environmental terms; the relative importance of energy technology development and deployment activities in instigating economic development in different contexts; the multiple types of actors that may transform the opportunities offered by the new energy geography into economic development in various forms; and the potential deficiencies of ongoing transformations in the energy sector.

Against this background, the convenors of this session invite contributions that address energy geography in relation to emerging economic development opportunities.

83. ENERGY TRANSITIONS IN OLD INDUSTRIALIZED AGGLOMERATIONS - THE CASE OF THE RUHR AREA.

Ralf Schuele, Johannes Venjakob

In Germany, municipalities are faced with the demanding task to contribute to the German “Energiewende” by increasing energy efficiency and the share of renewable energies by 2050. Despite a comparatively high level of CO₂-emissions from the region’s energy-intensive industry, even cities and regional development organizations in the Ruhr area have voluntarily committed to ambitious reduction targets in line with national objectives. Furthermore, many of these cities and regional actors have set up climate action plans to deal with the local dimension of energy transformations. However, representing a unique spatial unity of energy sources (hard coal), centralised energy supply, and energy-intensive industry, in the Ruhr area conditions for implementation are much more challenging as in other metropolitan European areas.

With the focus on municipalities and regional development organizations, the proposed session „Management Challenges of the Energy Transition in the Ruhr Area“ (as a representative for a specific European type of old-industrialized agglomerations under transition) will address the following questions of regional climate and energy policy:

- What are main actors and organizations aiming at accelerating the energy transition in this agglomeration? What are their capacities to act, their targets, profiles of activity and main restrictions?
- What technical and social innovations have been under development to accelerate the energy transition within the specific conditions of this agglomeration?
- What activities have been started to improve the existing energy infrastructure towards sustainability (heat and electricity)?



- What efforts have been undertaken to involve the general public in decision-making processes at municipal and regional level?

The main objective of this session is to provide a lively showcase of research addressing the challenges, obstacles and innovative approaches to accelerate the energy transition in the Ruhr area.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT III: FINANCE

84. FINANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Janelle Knox-Hayes, Sabine Dörny

Issues of environmental change and sustainability are increasingly pressing as the human capacity to alter environmental conditions at the regional and global levels continues to expand with increasingly manifest consequences. Humans have long had environmental impacts on the micro scale, and these were relatively concrete to address in planning terms. As human ability to affect the environment on macro scales grows, the ability to shift geography to avoid impacts is radically decreased. At the same time, the ability to adjust to environmental changes and to implement sustainable solutions are increasingly financialized, as the global response to climate change (e.g. carbon markets) suggests.

'Green investments' have been gaining weight in global investors' strategies. Yet, green investments come not without costs. Critics point out that catchphrases such as 'green economy', 'impact investing' and 'smart growth' would only pretend to reconcile the economy with environmental concerns, yet neither abandon the capitalist logic of unending growth nor provide solutions to remedy resource depletion and environmental degradation. In contrast, debates revolving around 'alternative' or 'diverse' economies question the unbalanced growth- and profit-orientation and address new forms of societal power and control in more socially just and environmentally sustainable economic systems.

This session on finance and environmental sustainability invites conceptual and empirical contributions that seek to broaden our understanding of the relationship between finance and geography, and how this link shapes social system responses to environmental processes. We invite contributions on theoretical topics such as alternative economics, land valuation and environmental use, as well as empirical topics such as financing mitigation and adaptation, energy transition and infrastructure and technology transformation.

85. PRIMARY RESOURCES INDUSTRIES AND FINANCE - DEVELOPMENT PATHS OF RESOURCE PERIPHERIES

Johannes Rehner, Michael Handke

The exploitation of natural resources usually demands huge capital investments. Especially in resource peripheries, mining industries heavily depend on decisions that are made in the organized network spaces of international financial centers. Once operating, extractive industries themselves create massive but also highly volatile capital flows. However, the involved actors, patterns of financial decision making, and the geographical impacts of resource-related capital flows are insufficiently understood. How can resource peripheries benefit from earnings in the resource industries? The commodification of natural resources and the financialization of their values seem to be decisive for the funding of mining activities as well as for securing revenues for large private actors. In parallel, public actors in different geographical contexts – like for example in Latin America – promote development models and state revenues that are based on extractive activities. Interdependencies between mining companies and their financial investors, and how these are mediated by politics, financial intermediaries, and international capital markets are yet to be included in this discussion. At the regional and local level, the awareness of environmental and social costs is growing, and central neoliberal concepts like property and the private use of resources are questioned. Resource peripheries represent conflictive zones where varied boundaries between different economic and societal claims are



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drawn and reproduced recurrently. Actors demand new concepts of regional governance that, in particular, are able to address the challenges of governing the flows of capital. We invite conceptual and empirical contributions that seek to broaden our understanding of the relationship between financial flows that are related to resource industries and their impact on regional development. Papers on the resource curse, neo-extractivism, regional governance and the commodification of natural resources are welcome to participate in our session. Also work that relates geographies of financialization to the values or properties of natural resources, as well as discussions on the role of (offshore) financial places for resource economies, are invited.

TOURISM

86. DARK TOURISM SPACES: THE COMMODIFICATION OF THE DEATH, THE DISASTER AND THE MACABRE

Álvaro López López, Gino Jafet Quintero Venegas

Even though there has been a historic record dating from some centuries ago about the experiences of trips where visitors approach with phenomena linked to death, the disaster or the macabre, their academic focus derived from the English-speaking literature from the nineties, with studies such as Ashworth (1996), Foley and Lennon (1996) and Seaton (1996). The travelers' connection with death, disasters and the macabre has been called with different terms, but it is the one of 'dark tourism' the most dominant and consolidated among others (Light 2017).

As a result of the diverse academic papers reviewed by Van Broeck and López (2017), these authors assert that before a dark tourism practice is properly conducted, the proximity between visitors (not exactly tourists) and the exposure to sites of death, disasters or macabre, is normally held as a socio-cultural phenomenon. However, when there is a better knowledge by tourists or there is a bigger offer by the tourism industry, the phenomenon can be closer to dark tourism. Thus, the spaces where dark tourism occurs are inserted into an economic logic by the commodification of these socio-cultural phenomena.

Based on the above, the purpose of this session is to discuss how different socio-cultural phenomena associated with death, disasters or the macabre, are commodified by either the tourism industry or by the local communities until they become spaces of dark tourism. Thus, this commodification has spatial effects that are also of interest in this session.

- Ashworth, G. (1996). Holocaust tourism and Jewish culture: The lessons of Krakow-Kazimierz, en M. Robinson, N. Evans, P. Callaghan (Eds.), *Tourism and Cultural Change*, Newcastle, Reino Unido: Centre for Travel and Tourism, 1-12.
- Foley M. y Lennon, J. (1996). JFK and dark tourism: A fascination with assassination. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 2, 4, 198-211.
- Light, D. (2017). Progress in dark tourism and thanatourism research: An uneasy relationship with heritage tourism. *Tourism Management*. 61, 275-301.
- Seaton, A. (1996). Guided by the dark: From Thanatopsis to Thanatourism. *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 2, 4, 234-244.
- Van Broeck, A. y López, A. 2017. "Turismo oscuro. De la conmemoración a la comodificación de la muerte, los desastres y lo macabro". *Teoría y Praxis*. Accepted to be published in volume 24, March 2018.

87. EVOLUTIONARY APPROACHES IN THE ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHIES OF TOURISM: STATE-OF-THE-ART AND NEW AVENUES FOR RESEARCH

Marius Mayer, Patrick Brouder

In recent years, theories, concepts and approaches from the emerging field of evolutionary economic geography (EEG) (Boschma & Martin, 2010) have been transferred and applied to a tourism geography context (see Brouder et al., 2017 and Brouder 2014 for an overview). These contributions provide a vital push for the sub-field of the economic geography of tourism which usually is not so prominently represented in the community compared to other topics (e.g.



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geographies of knowledge and innovation, high-tech industries). We argue that evolutionary approaches can considerably enhance our understanding of crucial tourism research topics like the development of destinations or the networks of tourism businesses as tourism is a constantly evolving, highly dynamic and often volatile sector. For instance, EEG approaches can provide a more theoretically sound explanation for Butler's (1980) well-known destination area life cycle by referring to institutional and entrepreneurial elements such as lock-in and creative destruction instead of just the limits of destination carrying capacities.

This session aims to provide a forum to present and discuss the recent theoretical and empirical progress in the field and welcomes contributions, among others, on the following:

- Co-evolution in tourism
- Path-dependency, -creation and -plasticity in tourism destinations and enterprises
- Methodological considerations about the operationalization of EEG approaches in tourism research
- Critical discussions about the achieved progress and gained insights
- Insights for EEG approaches drawn from tourism
- Political economy implications for EEG and tourism

Boschma, R., & Martin, R. (2010). The handbook of evolutionary economic geography, 3-39. Edward Elgar.

Brouder, P. (2014). Evolutionary economic geography and tourism studies: Extant studies and future research directions. *Tourism Geographies*, 16(4), 540-545.

Brouder, P., Clavé, S. A., Gill, A., & Ioannides, D. (Eds.). (2017). *Tourism destination evolution*. Routledge.

88. GEOGRAPHY OF UNCERTAINTY – TRAVELING IN AN UNSAFE WORLD

Jürgen Schmude, Yoel Mansfeld

Safety and security play a key role in the tourism industry and are decisive determinants in tourists' destination choice processes. After the terrorist attacks on September, 11th 2001, and its consequences on global tourism, both tourism industry and tourism research began to focus on the influence of risks on tourism. Safety and security are considered as a *conditio sine qua non* for a positive development of a country's or region's tourism sector. External factors, such as economic fluctuations or natural and man-made hazards have a strong impact on tourism as an open and unstable system. Nowadays, every tourist has a large number of alternative destinations and therefore will most probably avoid all destinations which are perceived as unsafe. Therefore, the destination choice has a strong impact on the economic development of touristic destinations.

Travel decisions are always associated with a high level of uncertainty and risk. Uncertainty with travel decisions arises from the tourists' inability to process the mass of information about destinations to which every potential tourist is exposed or simply as a result of lack of information. The characteristics of the product 'travel', intangibility, inseparability, variability, and perish ability, add to the high level of uncertainty in the travel decision-making process. Risk on the other hand derives from the choice "among alternatives that can be described by probability distributions over possible outcomes". Thus, in contrast to uncertainty caused by partial knowledge, risk refers to possible but calculable negative results.

In the session theory oriented presentation (e.g. concerning destination choice process and the impact of unsafely) are welcome as well as presentations of case studies (e.g. arabic spring, terrorist attacks, natural hazards).



WORKPLACE AND LABOUR

89. LABOUR AND LIFE: CHANGING GEOGRAPHIES OF THE WORKPLACE

Nina Willment, Katy Lawn

This session will reflect on changes to capitalist work, its spatial constitution, and the consequent relations between labour and life. Stemming from the work of Herod (2001), a shift in the conceptualisation of the production of economic space has seen the ‘worker’ become a centralised force in shaping economic spaces of work and the geographies of capitalism. This session looks to bring a critical light to theorisations of work, workplaces and workers with this current era of contemporary capitalism. Classic accounts of work emphasised disciplinary power exercised through spatially and temporally bounded workplaces which produced a degradation of work and workers (Braverman 1974; Wright 2006). Today, labour theorists emphasise a capitalist ‘biocracy’ where a range of life abilities are ‘put to work’ through the blurring of boundaries between work and non-work spaces, times and identities (Fleming 2014; Gregg 2011). These arguments over changing relations between ‘labour and life’ require critical engagement. The complex heterogeneity of work is a recurrent yet underexplored aspect of economic geography, across both the global ‘north’ and global ‘south’ (e.g. Castree 2007; Crang 1994; McDowell 2009). As this boundary between financially remunerated work and ‘life’ feels to be continually eroding, economic geography scholarship can usefully resist all-encompassing accounts of changing capitalist work cultures; instead focusing on how the organisation and experience of work is shaped by particular forces. This session will therefore highlight current research in this area from within and beyond economic geography. Potential contributions may include:

- Theorisations of workplace geographies;
- Automation and emerging technologies of work(places);
- Cultural imaginaries of labour;
- Workplaces as sites of discipline and/or biopower;
- Workplaces as sites of pleasure and vitality;
- Workplace architectures and affective atmospheres;
- Work, life and boundary spaces;
- Creative methods for researching working life;
- Moralities/ethics of work

90. LABOUR GEOGRAPHIES OF WORK, WORKPLACES AND WORKERS’ STRUGGLES IN AN AGE OF AUTHORITARIAN AUSTERITY

Kendra Strauss, Karin Schwiter

Workers and their organizations are increasingly challenged by authoritarian populism, austerity policy and anti-worker politics in many parts of the world while corporate power seems undented. The ability to shape economic policy and landscapes in favor of labour thus remains a daunting task. At the same time, shifting constellations of power within and between the “global North” and “global South” are being met with creative responses and forms of organizing from working people and their organizations. Migrants’ rights, struggles for decolonization, anti-imperialism and climate justice all represent opportunities and challenges for labour movements. These sessions will explore these developments and the uneven responses of workers in contemporary and historical perspectives.

Papers and presentations may address (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Migrant labour regimes and flows and migrant workers politics
- Solidarities among labour, anti-fascist, and anti-racist groups
- Labour internationalism in an era of rising nationalism
- Labour, urbanization and urban politics
- Right-wing unions and new fascist mobilizations
- Possibilities for labour and left populism



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- Immigrant, indigenous and workers of colour organizing against white supremacy
- Greening work and labour politics amidst climate change skepticism
- Labour's engagement with LGBT and Queer activists and workers
- Resistance by unemployed and underemployed
- New workers' movements and community organizing (e.g., Fight for \$15)
- Basic income as a new compromise.

This session is a companion session to those organized at the 2018 AAG and CAG conferences.

91. LABOUR GEOGRAPHY AND CAPITALIST REPRODUCTION

Felix Silomon-Pflug, Stefanie Hürtgen

More than 20 years ago, both mainstream as well as radical economic geography were profoundly criticized for their blindness to labour's geographic agency, reducing it to an economic factor or a passive object of capital's strategy (Herod 1997). Since then, a wide range of literature and case studies has demonstrated labour's active space, scale, and place making. However, there is also a serious critique on labour geography. This critique tackles a certain empiricism due to the prevalent theoretical disconnection of labour's resistance and social abilities with wider societal, political and economic structures (Peck 2003; Mitchell 2011; Coe 2012; Herod 2016). Hence, the need for further development of labour geography is obvious to strengthen its very impact.

In our session, we want to discuss consequences and further steps following this debate. Our guiding question is: How can labour be conceptualized as an active, intervening social agent, transforming social landscapes and society - without falling into the trap of an "agency-centred ontology" (Peck 2013)? Following this question we invite theoretical as well as empirical contributions which could cover the following but also related issues:

- What is the relation between labour's spatial agency and the contemporary capitalist social formation?
- What kind of socio-spatial abilities and what kind of constraints do we observe on labour's side, and how could we conceptualise them?
- In what manner is labour's scale making important for the contemporary capitalist mode of production?
- How can we theorize conditions of labour's agency without falling back taking them as pure structural conditions, objectifying labour?

PANEL SESSIONS

92. PANEL SESSION: AFRICAN FUTURES AND THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM

Stefan Ouma, James Murphy

The trajectories of African economies and the history of Euro-Atlantic capitalism have been firmly entangled. While the continent became increasingly marginalized in academic debates and world affairs in the 1980s and 1990s, 'Africa' is now heralded as the last frontier of global capitalism by businesses, international organizations, governments and scholars inside and outside of Africa. Some even go further and say that the social, economic and ecological future of (global) capitalism is being shaped by movements and events taking place on the continent right now (Mbembe 2016). The theme of "African futures" reminds us that the future of Africa and that of globalized capitalism (and its potential alternatives) are intertwined in complex ways. What conceptualisations of "African futures" exist across the whole range of economic, technological, social and ecological fields? Whose futures are being considered and whose interests are being served? How does the rise of the BRICS and their increasing involvement in Africa recalibrate the question of African futures?

At the same time, it remains an open question how well economic geographers and other social scientists, inside and outside of Africa, are positioned to engage with the positionality of African political economies in globalized capitalism and the theme of "African futures"?



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Furthermore, what kinds of knowledges, narratives and framings do we mobilize to engage with both, especially in light of the recent calls for “decolonizing the curricula” and “decolonizing the academy”? How would we know when economic-geographical knowledge is more or less “colonized”? Is it simply about the positionalities and identities of researchers and from what locations they do or write the work? Is it about the methods used? Is it about our curricula and the demographic make-up of the academia? And if so – what readings and professional politics might support a decolonized politics of the future?

93. PANEL SESSION: ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY: FROM FRAGMENTED PLURALISM TO AN INTEGRATIVE PARADIGM?

Robert Hassink, Huiwen Gong

Over the last twenty years, modern economic geography has been increasingly fragmented concerning its themes, on the one hand, and its schools of thought, perspectives and paradigms, on the other. Concerning the latter, we have currently no fewer than four paradigms in the relatively small sub-discipline: Evolutionary Economic Geography, Relational Economic Geography, Institutional Economic Geography and Geographical Political Economy. Most of these paradigms are highly influenced by economics, in particular by heterodox economics, a fuzzy and heterogeneous group of approaches that mainly shares a critical stance to mainstream economics. Although there have been arguments in favor of engaged pluralism, what we see in reality is mainly fragmented pluralism. In this sense, Rigby's call for papers for the last Global Conference on Economic Geography in Oxford in 2015 speaks volumes: “There are no central questions, canonical methods or privileged ways of knowing. This is economic geography!” Fragmented pluralism can be problematic for the identification with the sub-discipline and the exchange with neighboring social disciplines. The panel session aims at discussing, first the reasons of fragmented pluralism, and secondly, potential solutions to solve this problem. These potential solutions include engaged pluralism (Barnes and Sheppard, 2010), the domination of one of the existing paradigms, such as geographical political economy (Peck, 2015) or the launching of an integrative paradigm of economic geography (Hassink and Gong, 2017). By approaching both representatives of the different paradigms as well as some observers of the overall sub-discipline, we expect a lively, relevant and badly needed debate about economic geography's state of the art, core and identity.

Barnes TJ and Sheppard E (2010) ‘Nothing includes everything’: towards engaged pluralism in Anglophone economic geography.

Hassink R and Gong H (2017) Sketching the Contours of an Integrative Paradigm of Economic Geography.

Peck J (2015) Navigating economic geographies.

94. PANEL SESSION: TEN YEARS AFTER THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS: CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON FINANCE AND ECONOMY

Karen Lai, Dariusz Wójcik

2018 marks the 10th anniversary of the collapse of Lehman Brothers, which many see as a watershed moment in the recent global financial crisis. What started as a loss of liquidity in the markets for complex and opaque mortgage-related instruments led suddenly to the evaporation of funding liquidity for intermediaries holding these securities and crises of confidence in many leading financial institutions. With a decade's worth of hindsight, this is a propitious moment to review the causes, key actors and variegated impacts of the crisis. Did the global financial crisis reshape the competitive landscape of international financial centres? How should we evaluate the various government responses to the credit crunch, bank failures and damage to the wealth and livelihoods of everyday consumers? Has the global financial crisis changed the ways in which we conceptualise the role of finance in the economy and the economy as a whole? This panel session brings together leading financial and economic geographers to reflect on the contribution of geographical research on the global financial crisis, evaluate its theoretical, empirical and policy impacts, and consider how these studies might shape our future research for understanding the global financial system, financial crises, governance, financialisation, and intersections of finance with politics and society.



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95. PANEL SESSION: THE SAVAGE NEOLIBERALIZATION OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH SOCIAL SPACES
Ester Limonad, Ana Fani Alessandri Carlos

Composition of the Panel: Prof. Dr. Ester Limonad (Brazil) Universidade Federal Fluminense - Department of Geography • Prof. Dr. Ana Fani Carlos (Brazil) Universidade de São Paulo - Department of Geography • Prof. Dr. Nuria Benach (Spain) Universidad de Barcelona - Department of Geography • Prof. Dr. Pablo Ciccolela (Argentina) Universidad de Buenos Aires - Department of Geography.

ABSTRACT: Neoliberalism as a political project was conceived as a panacea to global development problems. It has been implemented everywhere in order to overcome poverty, famine, health and social safety problems. But the neoliberalisation of Global South countries seems unable of meeting these challenges, rather assuming savage proportions deepening inequality, dispossession and spatial injustice. Besides it brings along neocolonial methods of exploitation with land grabbing, pillage, plundering natural resources, subordinating Global South countries and implementing harder forms of primitive accumulation. After all as Marx posited "If money, according to Angier (1842), 'comes into the world with a congenital blood-stain on one cheek,' capital comes dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt" (The Capital, Vol. 1, Chapter 31). This new phase of primitive accumulation triggers many dispossession processes, giving ferocious features to the neoliberalisation of social space within Global South countries. Which have to endure and deal with the merciless voracious blows of the neoliberal capitalism hunger. Social space becomes a valuable commodity, mainly modern urban spaces within Global South cities, as they are rare and unevenly distributed backing the uneven geographical development and movement of different capitals that is contradictorily supported and sponsored by State policies and resources. Thus, our intention in this panel is to discuss the particular way that these neoliberalising processes of social space assume in Global South countries as well as their impacts on social life.