

# International PhD course on Economic Geography

*Main theme of the course 2018:*  
Geography of innovation, networks and transitions

*Place*  
Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

**10 September 14.00 pm – 14 September 17.00 pm**  
**29 October 13.00 pm – 2 November 17.00 pm**

*Local organizer:*  
Ron Boschma (Utrecht University/Stavanger University)  
Bjorn Asheim (Stavanger University)

*Co-organizers:*  
NORSI (Norwegian Research School in Innovation)  
University of Stavanger and University of Agder

*Guest lecturers:*  
Pierre-Alex Balland (Utrecht University)  
Abigail Cooke (University of Buffalo)  
Alessandra Faggian (Gran Sasso Science Institute)  
Rune Fitjar (Stavanger University)  
Koen Frenken (Utrecht University)  
Michael Fritsch (University of Jena)  
Simona Iammarino (LSE)  
Ilse van Liempt (Utrecht University)  
Anders Malmberg (Uppsala University)  
Andrea Morrison (Utrecht University)  
Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (LSE/University of Stavanger)  
Michaela Trippel (University of Vienna/University of Agder)  
Bernard Truffer (EAWAG, Utrecht University)  
Elvira Uyerra (Manchester University/Western Norway University of Applied Science)



### *Content of course:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each PhD student has to select a topic among the ones that are addressed in the September meeting and write a paper on that topic (max. 3,000 words). This paper has to be submitted to the local organizer a week before the October/November meeting. During the October/November meeting, the student will get feedback from a senior researcher and receive a grade, if sufficient. The best paper will win an award.

Each PhD student will receive a certificate of 7,5 ECTS when having fulfilled all requirements of the PhD course (presentation, discussant, assignment paper, attendance of all meetings).

## ***Program***

### **Monday 10 September**

*Room:*

14.00 welcome by Ron Boschma

#### **14.15 – 16.00 Ron Boschma (Utrecht University/Stavanger University)**

Evolutionary economic geography: regional diversification

16.00-16.45 Orsa Kekezi (CEnSE, Jonkoping International Business School)

Human capital, labour mobility and regional development

- senior discussant: Ron Boschma
- junior discussant: Ali Riza Alpaydin (University of Stavanger)

17.00-17.45 Claudia Rodriguez (SPRU-University of Sussex)

Regional diversification, social actors and space: an opportunity for transformation in Colombia

- senior discussant: Ron Boschma
- junior discussant: Kwadwo Atta-Owusu (University of Stavanger)

17.45-18.30 Tatevik Harutyunyan (Norwegian School of Economics)

Entrepreneurial ecosystems and high-growth entrepreneurship

- senior discussant: Michael Fritsch
- junior discussant: Paula Ribeiro (University of Porto)

### **Tuesday 11 September**

*Room:*

#### **9.00 – 10.45 Michael Fritsch (University of Jena)**

Geography of entrepreneurship

11.00 – 11.45 Leonardo Mazzoni (University of Florence/Trento)

Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial discovery process within smart specialization strategy

- senior discussant: Michael Fritsch
- junior discussant: Amonpat Poonjan (Denmark Technical University)

11.45 – 12.30 Tore Frimanslund (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences)  
Determinants and performance measures of the financial component of entrepreneurial ecosystems

- senior discussant: Michael Fritsch
- junior discussant: Elise Stenholt Sorenson (University of Copenhagen)

12.30-13.30 lunch

*Room:*

**13.30 – 15.15 Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (LSE)**  
Institutions and regional development in Europe

15.30-16.15 Jonathan Muringani (University of Stavanger)  
The role of formal and informal regional institutions in economic development in European regions

- senior discussant: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose
- junior discussant: Sarah Franz (University of Gothenburg)

16.15-17.00 Dylan Jong (University of Groningen)  
Local governments

- senior discussant: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose
- junior discussant: Artur Santoalha (TIK-University of Oslo)

17.15-18.00 Arnault Morrison (University of Reggio Calabria)  
Regional government and new industrial path development

- senior discussant: Bjorn Asheim
- junior discussant: William Arant (University of Bremen)

### **Wednesday 12 September**

*Room:*

**9.00 – 10.45 Bjorn Asheim (Stavanger University)**  
Knowledge bases, regional innovation systems and new path development

11.00 – 11.45 Yijia Chen (Kiel University)  
Regional industrial path creation. The case of Fintech in Shenzhen

- senior discussant: Bjorn Asheim
- junior discussant: Simon Baumgartinger-Seiringer (University of Vienna)

11.45 – 12.30 Delio Lucena (LEREPS-University of Toulouse 1 Capitole)  
Innovative dynamics of clusters

- senior discussant: Bjorn Asheim
- junior discussant: Miro Spurek (University of Bratislava)

12.30-13.30 lunch

**13.30 - 15.15 Abigail Cooke (University of Buffalo)**  
Migration and spatial inequality

15.30 - 16.15 Alessia Mastrangioli (Gran Sasso Science Institute)  
A categorization of Italian territories within the National Strategy for inner areas based on tourism development

- senior discussant: Abigail Cooke
- junior discussant: Santiago Jose Perez-Balsalobre (University Autonoma of Madrid)

16.15 – 17.00 Gerald Chan (University of Manchester)  
Spatial dynamics of the markets for KIBS

- senior discussant: Abigail Cooke
- junior discussant: Aske Egsgaard (University of Copenhagen)

17.15 - 18.00 Simone Maria Grabner (Gran Sasso Science Institute)  
Determining regional economic resilience: urban and rural perspectives

- senior discussant: Abigail Cooke
- junior discussant: Thiago Monteiro Mendes (University of Porto)

## **Thursday 13 September**

*Room:*

**9.00 – 10.45 Simona Iammarino**  
Multinational enterprises and regional development

11.00 – 11.45 Sarah Franz (University of Gothenburg)  
How MNEs build their innovation efforts in emerging markets

- senior discussant: Simona Iammarino
- junior discussant: Sergio Manrique (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

11.45 – 12.30 Ditte Lyngemark (University of Copenhagen)  
The spatial organization of multi-establishment firms

- senior discussant: Simona Iammarino
- junior discussant: Jonathan Muringani (University of Stavanger)

12.30-13.30 lunch

*Room:*

**13.30 – 15.15 Alessandra Faggian**  
Graduate migration and regional development

15.30 – 16.15 Eloise Germain (Linköping University)  
Doctoral education for future labour market in regions

- senior discussant: Alessandra Faggian
- junior discussant: Rhoda Ahoba-Sam (University of Lincoln)

16.15 – 17.00 Saeed Moghadam-Saman (University of Stavanger)  
Collaboration and mobility as learning opportunities in PhD education

- senior discussant: Alessandra Faggian
- junior discussant: Gerwin Evers (Aalborg University)

17.15-18.00 Therese Danley (Umeå University)  
The geographic history of regions and human capital

- senior discussant: Alessandra Faggian
- junior discussant: Fieke Visser (University of Groningen)

## **Friday 14 September**

*Room:*

**9.00 – 10.45 Bernhard Truffer (EAWAG, Utrecht University)**  
Geography of Transitions

11.00 – 11.45 Alexandra Frangenheim (University of Vienna)

New regional industrial path development: Multiscalar influences, inter-path dependencies and barriers to change

- senior discussant: Bernhard Truffer
- junior discussant: Kaya Faerovik (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences)

11.45 – 12.30 Nhat Strom-Andersen (TIK, University of Oslo)

Exploring sustainability transitions towards bioeconomy: an empirical evidence from the Norwegian food industry

- senior discussant: Bernhard Truffer
- junior discussant: Jonas Heiberg (EAWAG, Bern)

12.30-13.30 lunch

**13.30 – 15.15 Ilse van Liempt (Utrecht University)**

Qualitative research methods

15.30 – 16.15 Elise Stenholt Sorenson (University of Copenhagen)

Urbanization, mobility and educational choice

- senior discussant: Ilse van Liempt
- junior discussant: Alessia Mastrangioli (Gran Sasso Science Institute)

16.15 – 17.00 Daria Kovalevskaya (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

Lean management in Norwegian clusters and networks

- senior discussant: Ilse van Liempt
- junior discussant: Ditte Lyngemark (University of Copenhagen)

**Monday 29 October**

*Room:*

**13.00– 14.45 Andrea Morrison (Utrecht University)**

Migration and innovation

15.00-15.45 Thiago Monteiro Mendes (University of Porto)

Global innovation systems and pandemic outbreaks

- senior discussant: Andrea Morrison
- junior discussant: Nhat Strom-Andersen (TIK, University of Oslo)



15.45-16.30 Gerwin Evers (Aalborg University)  
Formal and informal networks for university-industry interaction

- senior discussant: Andrea Morrison
- junior discussant: Arnault Morrison (University of Reggio Calabria)

16.45-17.30 Rhoda Ahoba-Sam (University of Lincoln)  
Networks of individuals in university-industry relationships

- senior discussant: Andrea Morrison
- junior discussant: Daria Kovalevskaya (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

17.30-18.15 Simon Baumgartinger-Seiringer (University of Vienna)  
Innovation-based path transformation

- senior discussant: Bjorn Asheim
- junior discussant: Claudia Rodriguez (SPRU-University of Sussex)

## **Tuesday 30 October**

*Room:*

9.00 – 9.45 Jonas Heiberg (EAWAG, Bern)  
Geography of transitions

- senior discussant: Andrea Morrison
- junior discussant: Simone Maria Grabner (Gran Sasso Science Institute)

**10.15 – 12.00 Koen Frenken (Utrecht University)**  
The rise of the Platform Economy

12.15 – 13.00 Aske Egsgaard (University of Copenhagen)  
Do sharing economies change the cities: evidence from the rapid growth of Airbnb in the Copenhagen metropolitan area

- senior discussant: Koen Frenken
- junior discussant: Tore Frimanslund (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences)

13.00-14.00 lunch

*Room:*

**14.00 – 15.45 Rune Fitjar (Stavanger University)**  
**15.45 – 16.15 Anders Malmberg (Uppsala University)**  
Universities and regional development

16.30 – 17.15 Sergio Manrique (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)  
Assessing the impact of university-firm collaboration on firm performance and regional development

- senior discussant: Rune Fitjar
- junior discussant: Saeed Moghadam-Saman (University of Stavanger)

17.15 - 18.00 Utku Ali Riza Alpaydin (University of Stavanger)  
University-industry collaboration for innovation: a matter of proximity dimensions?

- senior discussant: Anders Malmberg
- junior discussant: Therese Danley (Umea University)

18.15 – 19.00 Miro Spurek (University of Bratislava)  
Localized knowledge spillovers of universities

- senior discussant: Rune Fitjar
- junior discussant: Eloise Germain (Linköping University)

### **Wednesday 31 October**

*Room:*

**9.00 - 10.45 Elvira Uyarra (Manchester University/Western Norway University of Applied Science)**  
Regional Innovation Policy

11.00 – 11.45 William Arant (University of Bremen)  
The impacts of innovation policy instruments

- senior discussant: Elvira Uyarra
- junior discussant: Dylan Jong (University of Groningen)

11.45 – 12.30 Kwadwo Atta-Owusu (University of Stavanger)  
Universities as regional nodes in global knowledge networks: a micro-perspective

- senior discussant: Elvira Uyarra

- junior discussant: Orsa Kekezi (CEnSE, Jonkoping International Business School)

12.30 - 13.30 lunch

*Rooms:*

13.30 – 18.30 feedback on papers by international researchers (4 parallel sessions)

## **Thursday 1 November**

*Room:*

### **9.00-12.30 Pierre-Alex Balland (Utrecht University)**

Network dynamics and economic geography

12.30-14.00 lunch

### **14.00-18.00 Pierre-Alex Balland (Utrecht University)**

Network analysis

Computer Practicum

## **Friday 2 November**

*Room:*

### **9.00 – 10.45 Michaela Trippel (Vienna University)**

New policy approaches for regional structural change

11.00-11.45 Amonpat Poonjan (Denmark Technical University)

Science parks and smart specialization strategies in developing countries

- senior discussant: Michaela Trippel
- junior discussant: Yijia Chen (Kiel University)

11.45 - 12.30 Paula Ribeiro (University of Porto)

Regional innovation systems in the cross-border region Galicia-Norte de Portugal

- senior discussant: Michaela Trippel
- junior discussant: Alexandra Frangenheim (University of Vienna)

12.30-13.30 lunch

13.30 – 14.15 Artur Santoalha (TIK-University of Oslo)  
Smart specialization: where do European regions stand?

- senior discussant: Michaela Trippel
- junior discussant: Leonardo Mazzoni (University of Florence/Trento)

14.15 – 15.00 Santiago Jose Perez-Balsalobre (University Autonoma of Madrid)  
Complexity indexes for products and regions

- senior discussant: Pierre-Alex Balland
- junior discussant: Tatevik Harutyunyan (Norwegian School of Economics)

15.15 - 16.00 Fieke Visser (University of Groningen)  
Urban dynamics

- senior discussant: Pierre-Alex Balland
- junior discussant: Gerald Chan (University of Manchester)

16.00 - 16.45 Kaya Faerovik (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences)  
Drivers and challenges for cross-industry innovation in Western Norway

- senior discussant: Pierre-Alex Balland
- junior discussant: Delio Lucena (LEREPS-University of Toulouse 1 Capitole)

16.45 announcement of the best paper award