

# Call for Papers

## New Global Dynamics in Manufacturing and Services Relocation

### Special Session at Regional Studies Association Annual Conference on Global Growth Agendas: Regions, Institutions and Sustainability

24th – 27th May 2015

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza, Italy

One of the outcomes of the recent global recession has been a noticeable increase in support for 'made locally' expressed by customers and politicians alike, particularly in advanced nations. Both, the recession and 'made locally' attitudes, contribute to changing sourcing and production strategies employed by multinational enterprises and a move towards *backshoring* or *reshoring* of economic activity to the firm's country of origin. While the 'global shift-back' is yet to fully materialise, such emerging trends in relocation of manufacturing and services influence directions and volumes of inward investment flows and create diverse impacts in home and host regional economies.

Backshoring, arguably, is a supply chain strategy matter, but produces significant political, social, economic and environmental consequences and shapes development processes of areas providing and receiving returning activities. Consequently to many public institutions tasked with local and regional development, *backshoring* acts as an incentive to review inward investment support frameworks and regional policy approaches.

In recent decades the focus on manufacturing and later services location has been subsumed to the outsourcing and offshoring decisions, reflecting the dominant trends driven by businesses' desire to benefit from efficiency advantages offered by low-cost economies. More recently corporate attention has shifted to examine whether or not low-cost locations still provide optimal conditions for competitive and profitable operations. Correspondingly national, regional and local authorities in both developed and developing nations use ever more sophisticated regional policy tools to attract and retain investors. Research on these issues is only evolving, and this special session is designed to provide an arena to further incipient discussions and pave the way for identification of future research directions. The papers in this

session will explore recent dynamics of manufacturing and services relocation, its consequences and policy solutions aimed at attraction of backshored investments to areas until recently considered '*passé*'.

The contributions may explore, but should not be limited to the following issues:

- emerging trends in relocation of economic activities
- backshoring trends in manufacturing and service sectors
- factors determining backshoring decisions
- regional policy measures supporting backshoring of manufacturing and services
- consequences of backshoring for host and home regional/local economies
- regional revival or downgrading of skill base
- backshoring, knowledge back-transfers and regional innovation systems
- backshoring as a long-term trend or a short-lived phenomenon

Conceptual as well as empirical papers utilising qualitative and quantitative methodologies are welcome.

It is envisaged that a selection of papers presented at the session will form a special issue of a relevant peer-reviewed journal (details to be confirmed).

Please direct any queries to session convenor Dr Paweł Capik at [p.capik@keele.ac.uk](mailto:p.capik@keele.ac.uk)

**Abstract submission deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**For registration and abstract submission guidelines please visit:**

[www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/regional-studies-association-annual-conference-2015-piacenza-italy](http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/regional-studies-association-annual-conference-2015-piacenza-italy)