



Call for Papers

SIEM special session

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“Spaces of Innovation Management”

under the overarching topic *Innovation Economies* at the Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography
Mapping Economies in Transformation URL <http://www.gceg2015.org/>

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Economic growth, knowledge creation, novel technologies, and life-long learning have ever since been fundamental harbingers of change within societal systems leading to different types of innovation (e.g. product, process, organization). Furthermore, various generation models with regard to the innovation process (linear, chain, open) (Schumpeter 1934, Kline & Rosenberg 1986, Chesbrough 2003) have been developed. Those circumstances have been recognized and deeply investigated by economic geographers by means of multi-scalar territorial innovation systems (LIS, RIS, NIS etc.) or spatially dependent models without a specified scale (e.g. innovative milieus, localized production systems, clusters of innovation, new industrial spaces, technology parks) where the types and processes were integrated (Moulaert and Sekia 2003). These investigations resulted in stylized facts about the geography of innovation, namely: (1) innovation is spatially concentrated, (2) innovation profits from local buzz and global pipelines or (3) innovation evolves from ‘localities of learning’ or localized ‘ecosystems’ (triple helices) consisting of HEI and research think-tanks, for-profit businesses, and political institutions (Feldman and Kogler 2010). All approaches dealt with a spatially dependent generation of innovation.

But, who or what is really generating innovations? Is it a spatially mediated phenomenon? Are those nations, regions, or locales? Certain businesses and institutions? Or rather agents or groups of agents? And who or what is maintaining, diffusing or exploiting innovations? Against this background, we would like to shed some light upon the nexus between ‘the management’ / the respective agents ‘the managers’ of innovation and space. Although, fairly established in management sciences and adjacent disciplines, the **character of the manager remains insufficiently examined in economic geography in general, and with regard to innovation in particular**. The principal objective of this SIEM session is to highlight how innovation is managed by individuals, in teams, communities, networks, clusters within or across institutions, firms, and markets. Our understanding of innovation encompasses creativity, invention, and entrepreneurship. We prefer, but are not limited to, **an actor-based perspective** within the realm of ‘**Management Geography**’ (Schlunze et. al. 2011, Yeung 2011, Oinas and Suwala 2012) based on ‘**practices**’ of managers (Wenger 2002, Jones and Murphy 2011, Jones 2014) or on insights from economic and urban geography, management science, sociology and psychology.

This session invites conceptual, empirical and methodological papers addressing entrepreneurs, executives, business leaders, and boundary spanners or teams of these stakeholders and their role in managing innovation in or across spaces. Papers might address, but are not limited to:

- Innovation management and individuals, COPs, networks, clusters, and markets
- Creativity, Innovation, Entrepreneurship and managerial networks
- The creation of novelty (by knowledge, learning) in and across umbrella organizations
- Change, evolution, path-dependence, or lock-ins within innovation management
- Globalized and localized innovation – myths of territorial innovation cultures
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If you are interested to contribute to our special session do not hesitate to contact Profs. Dr. **Rolf D. Schlunze**, Dr. **Andrew Jones** and/or Dr. **Lech Suwala** until January 30, 2015. Mail your name, presentation title and a short abstract (about 200 words) to info@siemrg.org. The most promising papers will be invited to publish in the SIEM on-line journal, to be launched in 2016. Please feel free to distribute the CFP by advertising the following link URL <http://www.siemrg.org/siemat-4gceg2015.html>

Background on SIEM:

SIEM is sponsored in part by the Japanese government and focuses on an actor-based analysis around the nexus of managers and space. The research group is expanding and opens towards new collaborators who wish to spur theoretical, methodological and/or empirical studies on Spaces of International Economy and Management. Currently, we are conducting an investigation on Japan-based international managers’ preferences and networking which functions as pilot project to launch larger investigation on. Check also for our further research objectives at <http://www.siemrg.org/objectives.html>



Useful References

- Yeung, H. (2011): Challenges for Management Geography: transnational Management and global production networks. In: Schlunze, R. D., N. O. Agola & W. Baber (Eds.) (2011), Spaces of International Economy and Management. Palgrave Macmillan. pp.vii-xix.
- Jones, A. and Murphy, J.T. (2011). Theorizing practice in economic geography: Foundations, challenges, and possibilities. Progress in Human Geography, 35(3), 366-392.
- Jones, A. (2014): Geographies of production I: Relationality revisited and the 'practice shift' in economic geography. Progress in Human Geography August 2014 38: 605-615
- Oinas, P. and Suwala, L. (2012): On Management Geography. Presentation given at the IGU conference in Cologne Aug 2012, www.siemrg.org/images/PDF/4-Oinas-Suwala.pdf
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- Wenger, E., R. McDermott and W. Snyder (2002). Cultivating communities of practice: A guide to managing knowledge. Boston: Harvard Business School Press