



DRUID Special Issue Call for Papers

Microgeography of Innovation

Guest editors

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Background and Objective

There is growing scholarly attention to the role of microgeographies in structuring the rate and direction of innovative activity. Complementing more macro perspectives (e.g., at the MSA- or city-level), this burgeoning literature examines how neighborhood configurations, business districts, as well as the physical infrastructure and layouts of streets and buildings contour local interactions. As such, there is reason to suspect that these localized sets of interactions will impact a range of salient innovative outcomes, although greater theoretical and empirical attention is required. The aim of this DRUID Special Issue is to bring high quality research that furthers our understanding of how microgeographies shape innovative behaviors, broadly defined. These behaviors may encompass activities in a broad array of settings, including those that are not traditionally thought of as innovative.

Our focus on microgeography is motivated in part by the extensive literature on how innovation generally, and knowledge diffusion in particular, is influenced by what one might refer to as the “macro” spatial positioning of actors. Innovation tends to be geographically clustered (Audretsch & Feldman, 1996), especially where spillovers play a decisive role. Although information and communications technologies continue to eliminate barriers to interaction, distance is hardly dead. Spatial separation—measured in kilometers—as well as geopolitical borders circumscribe the flow of knowledge between firms (Jaffe, Tratjenberg, & Henderson, 1993; Thompson, 2006; Singh & Marx, 2013).

However, less attention has been paid to the linkage between microgeographies and innovation. This is particularly surprising given a long-standing literature on microgeographies and social networks (e.g., Festinger, Schachter, Back, 1950; Allen 1977), and this topic has recently seen a resurgence in interest (e.g., Marmaros and Sacerdote, 2006; Reagans, 2011; Kabo et al, 2014; Chown and Liu, 2015; Liu and Srivastava, 2015). Paralleling this body of literature, but still largely disconnected from it, is a vibrant body of literature emphasizing the critical importance of social networks for innovative outcomes (e.g.,

Rosenkopf and Nerkar, 2001; Fleming and Sorenson, 2004; Hansen, Mors, Løvås, 2005; Singh and Agrawal, 2011). As a consequence, there are strong reasons to suspect that microgeographies will be linked to innovative outcomes.

This special issue intends to offer a forum to bridge the current disconnect between microgeographies and innovation. We welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions from a diversity of disciplines, including economics, sociology, psychology, and management. Research adopting a variety of research methodologies is welcome, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method approaches. Ideally, empirical studies should explicitly contribute to a theoretical agenda.

Research Topics

The Special Issue editors invite papers that examine novel phenomena, employ original methodologies, and offer interesting empirical insights and theoretical contribution related to microgeographies and innovation. Possible topics and research questions that would be appropriate for this special issue could include, but would not be limited to, the following list:

- Interplay between geography and local regulatory environments.
- Firms configured in local innovation clusters.
- Microgeographies and knowledge sourcing/diffusion.
- Localized markets for knowledge workers.
- Interplay between micro- and macro-geographic perspectives.
- Microgeography in entrepreneurial investment.
- Cross-national differences in the salience of micro-geographies on innovation.
- Variation in microgeographies and innovation across industries.

Important deadlines

- Submissions to the Special Issue due by **30 November 2016**
- Publication of the Special Issue in **Fall 2017**

Related events

The topic of this special issue is inspired by the main theme of the DRUID16 20th Anniversary Conference in Copenhagen.

Submission Process

We invite papers, including papers presented on this theme at the DRUID16 20th Anniversary Conference, for consideration in this special issue. Paper submissions will undergo rigorous editorial screening and double-blind peer review by a minimum of two recognized scholars. The standard requirements of *Industry and Innovation* for submissions apply. Please consult the journal submission guidelines available at

<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=ciai20&page=instructions>.

Key references

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