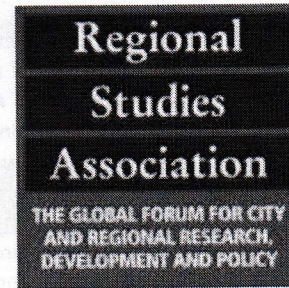


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## Regional Studies Association Early Career Conference 2012 Abstract Submissions

### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESS FOR UK MARITIME INDUSTRIES?

David Adkins, Plymouth University, UNITED KINGDOM

There is considerable literature exploring the economic advantages of clusters in the maritime sector. However, there appears little specifically relating to clusters in the context of non-economic development and innovation within the UK maritime sector. The aim of this research is to examine the literature using a structured, systematic review to evaluate the development of clusters within the UK maritime sector in the context of non-economic, i.e. environmental and social dimensions of, sustainability. It has been argued that by examining clusters, it is possible to identify the individual innovative contributions that can be made by each of the actors. A study conducted a detailed network analysis of ports that supports this view. However, whilst it may be possible to identify individual contributions within a cluster, there appears to be a gap concerning the contribution specific regions, be they local, national or supranational, can make to developing innovation within the maritime sector. Singapore is strengthening their position within the global maritime sector through the development of a global knowledge hub – a centre of excellence for maritime R&D. A study mapping and analysing knowledge based industries in Norway has identified opportunities for developing innovation in the Norwegian maritime sector through such hubs. However, there still remains little in terms of tangible social and environmental benefits of clusters and their potential for the UK. Although some studies show the potential for the development of knowledge hubs, further work is required to establish the tangible non-economic benefits of clusters globally, and furthermore potential benefits of such hubs within the UK maritime sector. Given the continuing need to develop a sustainable maritime sector in these times of austerity, this work will be of interest to those charged with that task as it identifies strengths and areas of development across the clustering concept.

### LOCALISED LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF PERIPHERAL FUNCTIONAL URBAN REGIONS: EXAMPLE OF VALKA/VALGA URBAN AREA

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The aim of this paper is to investigate how (via processes and actors) local institutions stimulate human, economic, social development in region. The role of educational and knowledge institutions to contribute to

## AN EVOLUTIONARY UNDERSTANDING OF INDUSTRY EMERGENCE AND ITS GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

**Anne Tanner, Technical University Of Denmark, DENMARK**

This paper sets out to develop an evolutionary understanding of spatial industry emergence. It is the overall claim of this paper that in the field of economic geography, research questions about how new industries emerge and the degree to which their emergence are anchored in regional economies are less commonly studied than concepts of for example localisation economies and clusters. Consequently, there is little knowledge regarding where new industries emerge and why new industries emerge where they do. Therefore there is a need to establish a more rigorous research agenda that will elucidate some of the more fundamental elements that contribute to the creation of new industries. It is the objective of this paper to contribute to the recently emerged evolutionary thinking in economic geography (Boschma and Martin, 2007, Boschma and Frenken, 2006, Grabher, 2009) with a conceptual clarification of industry emergence. Although it may be argued that the influence of evolutionary economics in economic geography is new and untested (Maskell, 2001), this approach has generated a series of new questions about regional economic development and the geographical context of industrial dynamics. The evolutionary turn in economic geography has thus stimulated questions regarding the origin and evolution of spatial economic phenomenon, such as clusters (Braunerhjelm and Feldman, 2006, Menzel et al., 2010, Menzel and Fornahl, 2010, Martin and Sunley, 2011), and as in this paper, the spatial emergence of new industries. The paper first reviews the definition of emerging industries as it appears in the field of industrial organisational economics (Porter, 1980) and in evolutionary economics (Dosi, 1984, Nelson and Winter, 1982). Second, the paper discusses the particularity that characterizes the temporal scope of industry emergence and it is claimed that the literature often lack attention to periods that precede the conventional industry life cycle (Forbes and Kirsch, 2010), or in terms of evolutionary economics: the period during which the emerging technological paradigm is developed 'under a general weakness of market mechanisms' (Dosi, 1982, p. 155). Thirdly, the paper reviews the most commonly used approaches to industry emergence and industry evolution in economic geography and concludes that studies in economic geography are subject to the same lack of attention towards industry emergence. Finally, the paper seeks to develop a conceptual framework that is able to capture the emergence of new industries in their geographical context. This framework builds on the evolutionary understanding of industry development and modifies previous understanding of industry emergence, which has characterized the field of economic geography. In particular, the framework builds on a critique of the predominant role previous theories have ascribed to chance events.

## SMART WORK (TELEWORK) IN RURAL AREAS: CASE STORIES FROM EUROPE

**Alise Vitola, Riga Technical University, LATVIA**

The proportion of rural population is decreasing all over Europe and the young and highly-qualified are the first to leave. At the same time the economy is changing toward a more creative conceptual age; routine tasks are being replaced by creative and flexible activities. According to Richard Florida's three T's economic growth theory, main drivers of development are technologies, tolerance and the creative class and talent - well educated people dealing with creative or conceptual tasks in their professional life. Although the concept of creative class is most commonly associated with large cities, the nature of creative work allows employees and their tasks to be distributed across settings away from a physical business location (i.e. a central office). Undoubtedly, the concentration of resources in the agglomerations brings benefits to the economy. At the same time, the information and communication technologies allow reaching the concentration of resources not only physically, but also virtually (digitally). The centrifugal forces play a role, e.g. the rise of the rent of land and such externalities as the noise, pollution, stress etc. For example, since the year 2000 Sweden is experiencing a tendency of young families with children and elderly people moving from cities to rural areas. The main cause behind this life-cycle related migration is high living costs and expensive real estate in cities, proximity to nature, as well as children-friendly social and cultural environment. Smart work centers, shared office spaces with information and communication technologies that support distant work, have been established in several European countries (United Kingdom, Hungary, Estonia, France etc.) in order to increase

economic activity and sustain local populations in rural areas. In some cases smart work centers have been established by the regional and local authorities (e.g. Berwick WorkSpace in United Kingdom and smart work center Nagykáta in Hungary), in some cases by local NGO's (e.g. Kõnnu and Kolga smart work centers in Estonia). Accordingly they differ significantly in their size. Some of the centers are integrated with business incubation services, some offer training, some child care facilities. Smart work centers bring benefits to employees, employers, local communities. Employees get the chance to live in a more peaceful, natural environment, decrease their commuting time, achieve a better work-life balance etc. Employers on the other hand can achieve decreased personnel and operating costs and recruit better motivated employees. The local municipalities and communities can achieve an increased perception of the quality of life, advance economic activity and consequently local budget income. Moreover, smart work centers, especially those established as a bottom-up initiative, increase local social capital. To conclude, smart work contributes to sustaining the rural populations and counterbalancing the concentration of economic activity in the metropolitan areas. However, further research is required in order to offer sustainable solutions for smart work in rural areas.

### **THE LOCAL STATE AS INSTITUTIONAL ENTREPRENEUR: INSTITUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IN CHINA'S URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN TRANSITION**

Christian Wuttke, University of Bremen, GERMANY

The Chinese path in transition is characterized by its gradual and not oriented towards a predefined set of goals. Local experiments with new institutional and organizational arrangements on the local or regional level serve as laboratories for the national reform and opening-up process. The key hypothesis is that institutional innovations and change should be interpreted as deeply rooted in bottom-up strategies, experiments and learning of local and regional actors rather than as simply being the result of national reform, globalization, or exogenous shocks. Since the beginning of China's opening up to the world, the Pearl River Delta has been at the very forefront of and eminently influential to the country's transition. In three decades of reform, the former rural periphery developed into one of China's most important economic centres and one of the largest (mega-)urban agglomerations worldwide. Spatially and temporarily varying and changing modes of governance and types of institutional change can be identified. These represent the changing local economic and urban development strategies under context-specific constraint and opportunity structures in the process of transition. Several of these experiments served as showcases with implications on a national scale. Drawing on recent advancements and integrating different strands of research on comparative urban governance and the new institutionalism in the social science literature, an analytical framework is being developed and employed to disentangle and contextualize the forces at work in innovation, change, or resilience of the institutions of urban governance and economic development on the local scale. Thereby, a contribution is made towards an improved understanding of the comparatively under researched local state in China. Moreover, it is hoped that a link can be established between the empirically rich branch of area studies and the more general and theory-driven discussions in human geography and the social sciences.

### **COMPARATIVE URBAN GOVERNANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVE SPACES IN CHINA**

Philipp Zielke, University of Hamburg, GERMANY

Since the promulgation of the "Scientific Outlook on Development" in 2003, China has increased its efforts towards a knowledge- and innovation-based economy. Against this structural background of the "Second Transition" a shift from a quantitative growth model towards more qualitative approaches is a key strategy. Thereby, creative spaces have become important urban symbols for the shift from "Made in China" to "Created in China". The author maintains, that this not only implies the reconfiguration of physical urban space, but also a whole new and innovative set of urban governance modes. For a long time, municipal governments have followed a modernist approach, which went along with a demolition of old industrial and residential properties in favor of developer driven commercial development. Nowadays, derelict factory sites get increasingly revalorized and transformed into so-called creative spaces. Beijing 798 and Shanghai M50 are