

IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces

2014 Report

A. Membership

The IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces (CDES) does not have a formal membership base. However, the steering committee consists of fourteen members from different countries (Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Slovak Republic, The Netherlands, Turkey, UK, US). Our 'membership' list we use to distribute information consists of 605 active email addresses from all over the world (see Figure, Annex).

The members of Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces are as follows:

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B. Meetings

The Commission held and/or participated in the following events during 2014. These are:

1. Mini-conference on *Globalisation & New Patterns of Services Sector Driven Growth*. Held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 19-20, 2014. Papers presented – 20. Conference Summary - Recent changes have been reshaping the ways business processes are organized in the international division of labour. After drastic shifts in the (spatial) organization of the production of goods, increasingly fierce competition forces firms look critically at how the production of services is organized. Digitization and advances in information and communication technologies enable firms to unbundle service business processes, and the increased global availability of sufficiently skilled labour allows for the relocation of particular business processes around the globe, leading to a new geography of services production. As a result, various Southern cities now command a prominent role as service delivery hubs for the global market. A growing, export-oriented service sector here is commonly understood to generate new employment opportunities for an increasingly well-educated labour force. It is also associated with the formation of a new middle class. Learning fast, multinational services producing enterprises from the global South rapidly expand their global presence, thereby presenting new competition to their Western peers. Simultaneously, patterns are further complicated by the tendency towards regionalization of value chains with production moving back to the firms' regions of origin.
2. IGU Regional Conference in Krakow, Poland, August 18-22, 2014. Commission held various sessions on seven selected themes:
 - a. Complex Relations Between Proximity, Knowledge Spillovers, Innovation and Development (2 sessions, 9 papers);
 - b. Financial Geography (4 sessions, 16 papers);
 - c. Relocation of Economic Activity: Local, Regional and Global Dimensions (2 sessions, 6 papers);
 - d. Creative Industries: A Driver of New Spatial Dynamics? (4 sessions, 14 papers);
 - e. The Geography of "Greening the Economy" – Restructuring, Knowledge, Networks and Discourse (2 sessions, 8 papers);
 - f. Emerging Economic Spaces (3 sessions, 9 papers);
 - g. Dynamics of Knowledge Sectors in the Post-socialist Countries (2 sessions, 8 papers).

The Commission has the following events planned for 2015:

1. Global Conference on Economic Geography, Oxford, UK, August 18-22, 2015. Session Organizer (proposal has been placed). Unfortunately, there is an overlap with the IGU Regional Congress in Moscow, Russia, August 17-21, 2015. We assume, most economic geographers will attend the Global Conference on Economic Geography as the main world meeting in this field.

2. EUGEO Congress, Budapest, Hungary, August 30 –September 2, 2015. Session Organizer (2 session proposals have been submitted).
3. Mini-conference on *Local and Regional Development in Emerging Economic Geographies*. Organizer: Nuri Yavan (Ankara University, Turkey), October 2015. Conference Summary - Economic geography has been an extremely vibrant and versatile field of research both in human geography and in the social sciences. In recent years, economic geographers have shown increased interest in local and regional development dynamics. Local and regional development is one of the oldest and biggest theme that economic geographer study. Even though local and regional development is always at the heart of economic geography, it cannot be addressed from one single perspective as it is one of those multi-faced topics. Indeed, local and regional development is an increasingly multidisciplinary subject and therefore need to be understood not only from a multi-disciplinary perspective but also from different geographical and context-specific dimensions. This conference will provide a multi-disciplinary forum for researchers and practitioners in the field of economic geography, regional economics and regional planning, with a local and regional development orientation. This conference aims at discussing this exciting interface between local/regional dynamics and economic geography and at cross-fertilizing ideas and methodologies between the two areas. The conference focuses on the diverse and complex characteristics of local and regional economies. The conference's theme will focus on key issues such as regional and local economic development and regional policy, evolutionary perspective on local and regional growth, industrial districts, agglomeration and clustering, innovative and creative industries, entrepreneurship, embeddedness, path dependence and regional development, creative cities and regions, regional innovation systems, regional economic resilience, geographies of international trade and investment, uneven geographies of capitalism, place marketing and regional economy, location choice of firms and so on. Adopting the economic geographical perspective, this conference will bring together academic researchers, practitioners, professionals as well as policy-makers in these fields particularly from universities and regional development agencies.
4. Mini-conference on *New Resource Geographies*. Organizer: Michael Roche (Massey University, New Zealand), December 2015/2016. Conference Summary - The field of resource geographies is undergoing an important phase of intellectual renewal. This is partly a consequence of the resource boom, which has followed the global financial crisis of 2008. But it is also a result of new insights into resource geographies that have come from geographical work on materiality and the environment. The result is a new vibrancy in the sub-discipline. Resource geographies and resource peripheries are no longer at the margins of geographical research and theorizing; on the contrary, work on resource geographies is now the source of some of the most interesting research in the discipline. New Zealand is an excellent place to be discussing new resource geographies. This conference aims to bring together papers on a range of topics related to resource geographies. We invite contributions on resource geographies that could include case studies, new perspectives and presentations on resource futures.

C. Networking

1. CDES did not engage in any collaboration with any other IGU Commissions and task forces during 2014.
2. The Commission collaborated with the Regional Science Association in organizing a mini-conference on *Globalisation & New Patterns of Services Sector Driven Growth*. Held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 19-20, 2014.
3. CDES engaged in no cooperative efforts with either the International Social Science Council (ISSC) or the International Council for Science (ICSU) programs during 2014.

D. Publications

CDES has continued its very successful publishing relationship with Ashgate Publishers. Ashgate publishes a series entitled *Dynamics of Economic Space* and the Chair of the Commission serves as the Series Editor. Two books are forthcoming as outcomes of previous conferences.

1. Dannenberg, Peter and Elmar Kulke 2015. *Economic Development in Rural Areas: Functional and Multifunctional Approaches*. Farnham, England: Ashgate.

Analysing the ongoing changes and dynamics in rural development from a functional perspective through a series of case studies from the global north and south, this volume deepens our understanding of the importance of new functional and multifunctional approaches in policy, practice and theory. In rural areas of industrialized societies, food production as a basis for growth and employment has been declining for many decades. In the global south, on the other hand, food production is still often the most important factor for socio-economic development. However, rural areas both in the industrialized north and in the global south are facing new challenges which lead to significant changes and threats to their development. New forms of food production, but also new functional (e.g. housing or business parks) and often multifunctional approaches are being discussed and practiced yet it remains unclear the extent to which these result in better or more sustainable development of rural areas.

2. Micek, Grzegorz 2015. *Understanding Innovation in Emerging Economic Spaces. Global and Local Actors, Networks and Embeddedness*. Farnham, England: Ashgate.

A small number of countries, regions, cities, and localities are powerful gatekeepers and generate the bulk of creative and innovative ideas, while the majority is largely excluded. This book looks at neglected, but emerging innovation centres analysed from various spatial and organizational perspectives; ranging from entire countries and regions to individual firms and small neighbourhoods. Bringing together leading scholars from various disciplines, it examines a variety of economic sectors including biotechnology, agrotourism, and the food retail industry. The authors employ various, often contradictory, concepts, ranging from local buzz and the global pipeline, through an analysis of collective learning processes to geographical embeddedness, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The purpose of the book is twofold: investigating changes occurring in the regions and cities under transformation and attempting to find common and unique mechanisms behind these changes. Consequently, the authors shed light on the scale and scope of the innovativeness of selected economic and social processes.

CDES produced 1 journal special issue during 2014:
Special issue of *Die Erde – Journal of the Geographical Society of Berlin*, 2014. Dynamics in Agricultural Value Chains (ed. by Peter Dannenberg and Elmar Kulke), Vol 145 (3).

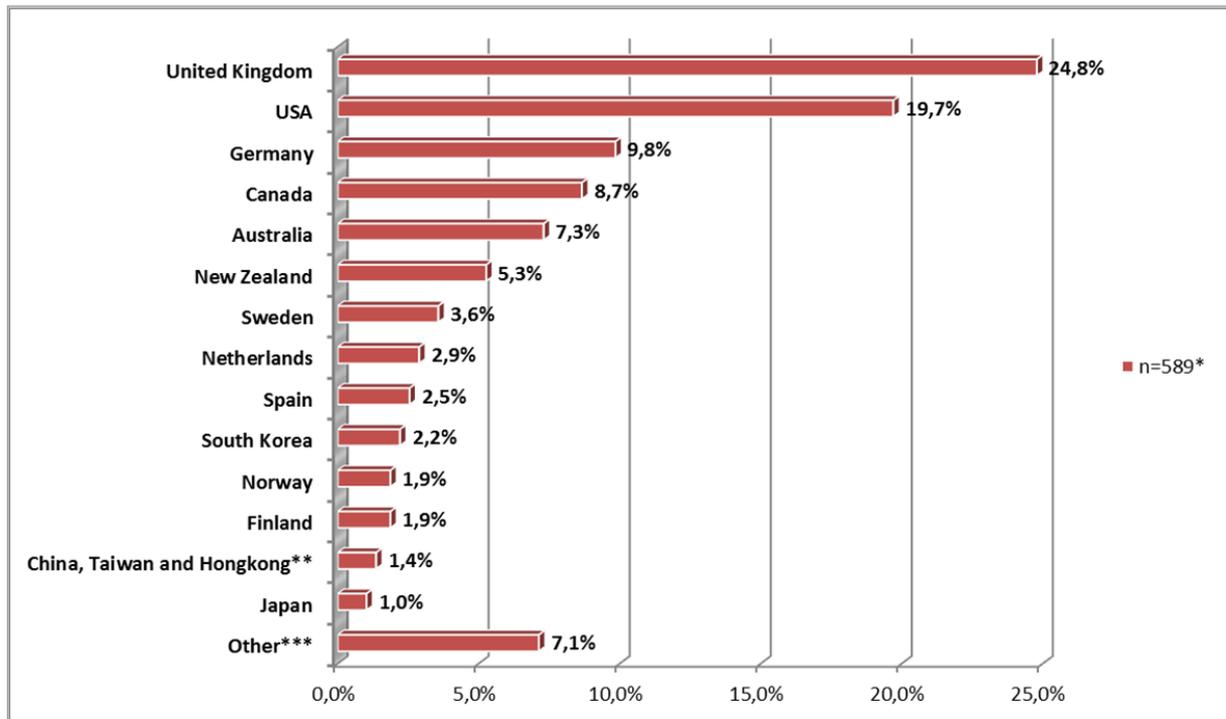
The current URL for the Commission website is <http://www.uni-vechta.de/igu/>

E. Archival Contributions

CDES has not provided any archival materials available but would be willing to do so.

Annex

IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces: 'Membership' by Country (December 2014, in %)



* From 605 email addresses 16 could not be related to a country

** China (0,34%), Taiwan (0,34%) and Hongkong (0,68%)

*** Poland (0,17%), Slovakia (0,17%), South Africa (0,17%), Belgium (0,34%), Ireland (0,34%), Portugal (0,34%), Turkey (0,34%), Austria (0,51%), Hungary (0,51%), Israel (0,51%), Singapore (0,51%), Greece (0,68%), Switzerland (0,85%), Denmark (0,85%), Italy (0,85%)