

Regional Innovation Policy Dynamics: Actors, Agency and Learning

Third workshop of the Regional Studies Association Research Network
September 23-24th 2013

Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, Conference Suite
Tenth Floor, Harold Hankins Building, University of Manchester

Monday 23rd September (room 10.02)

9.00 – 9.30 Arrivals and coffee (room 10.04)

9.30 – 10.00 Welcome and Introduction (Phil Shapira and Elvira Uyarra)

10.00 – 10.40 Keynote: **Regional policy repertoires for place-based innovation**
Kevin Morgan, Cardiff University (UK)

10.40 – 11.00 Coffee break

Session I Innovation policy dynamics and governance (Chair: James Wilson)

11.00 – 11.40 **Cluster governance: A practical way out of a congested state of governance plurality**

Miranda Ebbekink, Nijmegen School of Management (The Netherlands)

11.40 – 12.20 **Three tales of smart regional specialization: the case of Wind Energy in Spain**

Cristian Matti, Davide Consoli, Ingenio (CSIC-UPV, Spain)

12.20 – 13.00 **Discovering smart specialisation emergence through triple helix gap analysis**

Seija Virkkala, Åge Mariussen, University of Vaasa (Finland)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch (room 10.04)

Session III Policy evolution and policy learning (Chair: Markku Sotarauta)

14.00 – 15.00 **Smart specialization as an evolution in regional innovation policy**

David Charles, University of Strathclyde (UK)

14.40 – 15.20 **Territorial Strategy Evaluation: Beyond Evaluating Policy-Mix**

Eduardo Magro and James Wilson, University of Deusto (Spain)

15.20 – 16.00 **Use of multi-level self-regulating agents to evaluate the impact of innovation policies in socio-economic environments**

Dimitri Gagliardi, University of Manchester (UK)

16.00 – 16.30 Discussion

19.00 Workshop dinner

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Tuesday 24th September (room 10.02)

Session II	Actors and agency in policy (Chair: Kieron Flanagan)
10.00 – 10.40	Institutional Entrepreneurship and Innovation Systems Markku Sotarauta, University of Tampere (Finland)
10.40 – 11.20	Universities as drivers of innovation policy change or regional innovation policy as university's strategy for specialization? Mabel Sanchez Barrioluengo, Ingenio (CSIC-UPV, Spain)
11.20 – 12.00	The Role of Universities in Path Renewal, Formation, and Creation in Different Types of Regions Ward Ooms, Open University in the Netherlands
12.00 – 12.15	Coffee break
12.15 – 13.00	Roundup session and workshop close
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch (room 10.04)

Attendance is free but numbers are restricted. To apply to attend please email: elvira.uyarra@manchester.ac.uk

RSA Network: Understanding Regional Innovation Policy Dynamics

Regional innovation policy has grown in prominence and scope during recent years, with a realm of action that increasingly stresses the demand side (or the doing, using, interaction (DUI) mode of innovation) alongside a supply side innovation policy based on science and technology. This expansion of the accepted (or aspirational) realm of action for innovation policy and the high expectations on innovation policy to tackle new and pressing problems paradoxically coincides with changes in governance that may affect the capacity of regions to influence policies. The implication of these two trends (expansion of innovation policy and emergence of multi-level, multi-actor governance) is a need to pay closer attention to policy complexities, including tensions between different instruments and over time and also in terms of understanding actors (and their agency, and how it may shape/be constrained by institutions) in processes of change.

While regional studies have long recognised the importance attached to institutions and public policy in explaining regional development, there is 'a theoretical blind spot' in relation to the processes that connect micro behaviour of actors to institutional evolution and change (Maskell & Malmberg, 2007; Sotarauta & Pulkkinen, 2011). This Network aims to address this gap, seeking a better integration between scholarly efforts dealing with dynamic complex systems, geography and policy evolution. In particular, it seeks to advance the understanding of regional policy dynamics, the role of agency and leadership in policy change and institutionalisation, and associated challenges for policy evaluation.

The Network will address these distinct yet interconnected questions by providing a scholarly forum for discussion in the form of 3 workshops to be organised during 2012 and 2013 in San Sebastian (Spain), Tampere (Finland) and Manchester (UK)