

IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces

2012-2016 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 542 active email addresses from all over the world (see Figure, Annex).

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

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The commission's current website is accessible under the following address:

www.uni-vechta.de/igu/

B. Meetings

The Commission held and/or participated in the following events between 2012 and 2015:

1. Mini-Conference on Innovation & Creativity in Emerging Economic Spaces: Local Entrepreneurship & Transnational Corporations. Held in Kraków, Poland, May 3-5, 2012. Papers presented – 22.

The objective of the Conference was to examine the innovative and creative local and foreign businesses and to study the relationships between local companies and global enterprises. It is widely accepted that the scope of innovative behavior is not limited to high-tech industries or knowledge-intensive business services; creativity in 'traditional' industries is no less important. Since operations and linkages of local and global enterprises are highly volatile, the dynamics of these relations can be especially intriguing

2. Mini-Conference on Dynamics in Food and Agriculture-based Supply Chains. Held in Berlin, Germany, July 11-13, 2013. Papers presented – 44.

During recent decades fundamental changes in the way food is produced (e.g. industrialization of agriculture), distributed (e.g. globalization of food trade), marketed (e.g. globalization and structural change of the retail sector) and consumed (e.g. growing market share of processed food, globalization of culinary culture, new rise of ecological food) have occurred in many countries of the world. The changes include fundamental shifts in the structure, organization and governance in food production and supply chains. These developments influence their regional and international settings and vice versa. Discussed topics included theoretical works (e.g. on Global Production Networks, Global Commodity Chains, regional food clusters, new institutional economics) case studies (e.g. regional examples, commodities, supply chains, retail and trade developments, institutional changes) and applied work.

3. Joint Conference with Commissions on Applied Geography, GIScience, and Modelling Geographical Systems on the theme of Applied GIS and Spatial Modelling. Held in Leeds, United Kingdom, May 29-June 2, 2013.

See Commission on Applied Geography Annual Report for additional details.

4. IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto, Japan, August 4-9, 2013. CDES held three special sessions on the theme of Management Geography. These special sessions were organized in conjunction with the Spaces of International Economy and Management (SIEM) Research Group at Ritsumeikan University in Japan. Papers presented – 13.

5. Mini-Conference on Globalisation & New Patterns of Services Sector Driven Growth. Held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 19-20, 2014. Papers presented - 20.

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.

6. IGU Regional Conference in Krakow, Poland, August 18-22, 2014. CDES 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).
7. Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography. Held in Oxford, United-Kingdom, August 19-23, 2015. CDES held three sessions on the theme of Sustainable Economies: Challenges, Transitions and Trajectories. Some sessions were organized in conjunction with the Spaces of International Economy and Management (SIEM) Research Group at Ritsumeikan University in Japan. Papers presented - 23.
8. Fifth EUGEO Congress on convergences and divergences of geography in Europe. Held in Budapest, Hungary, August 30-September 2, 2015. CDES held two sessions on the theme of Emerging economic spaces, industries and trends. Papers presented - 13.

9. Mini-Conference on Local and Regional Development in Emerging Economic Geographies. Held in Ankara, Turkey, October 22-24, 2015. Papers presented – 13.

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 provided 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.

The Commission has the following events planned for 2016-2018:

1. The 33rd International Geographical Congress, Beijing, China, August 21-25, 2016. Commission will organize three sessions on the following themes:
 - a. Rethinking the Dynamics of Economic Spaces: New Themes, New Ideas and New Approaches
 - b. Placing Finance in Urban and Regional Development
 - c. Foreign Direct Investment and Migration
2. Mini-conference on “New Resource Economies”, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, November 24-26, 2016.

The last CDES meeting to be held in New Zealand was in Auckland in 2005 prior to the IGU Regional Conference in Brisbane. This meeting by being based in the provincial city of Palmerston North, home of Massey University, originally established as an agricultural college, lends itself especially well to the conference theme of ‘New Resource Geographies’. New Zealand is many respects still an export specialized economy and in mid-2016 the dairy boom that has sustained the export sector for some years appears to be faltering rather severely. Simultaneously the international trade negotiations have stalled in part over the question of dairy access. The commission meeting is thus likely to coincide with some serious national policy discussion around the future trajectory of the dairy industry (milk powder – a late 19th century product - or more value added), the long called for and fraught rationalisation of meat industry processing, and the future place of an array of non-traditional primary exports (e.g. manuka honey) along with the risk of a new dependency on the Chinese market. All of this takes place in a context where New Zealand is one of the longer running neo-liberal experiments dating back to the mid-1980s. The meeting will also provide the opportunity for a debrief on the Biological Economies project, an externally funded venture that has probed new sources of rural value and experimentation in New Zealand and worldwide.

Further planned meetings:

1. Mini-Conference on “Sustainable Coastal Zones: Challenges, Governance, and Transitions/Engagement”, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, United States, 2017.
2. Mini-Conference, topic to be announced, Innsbruck, Austria, 2018.
3. Global Conference on Economic Geography. Cologne, Germany, July 24-27, 2018.
4. IGU Regional Conference 2018, August 6-10, 2018, Quebec, Canada.
5. IGU International Geographical Congress, 2020, Istanbul, Turkey.

C. Networking

1. The Commission collaborated with three other Commissions (Applied Geography, GIScience, and Modelling Geographical Systems) in organizing a conference on the theme of Applied GIS and Spatial Modelling that was held in Leeds, United Kingdom, May 29-June 2, 2013.
2. CDES did not engage in any collaboration with any other IGU Commissions and task forces during 2012-2015.
3. The Commission collaborated with Spaces of International Economy and Management (SIEM) Research Group at Ritsumeikan University in Japan (<http://www.siemrg.org/about.html>) at various meetings.
4. 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.
5. During 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 the IGU-CDES had no cooperative efforts with either the International Social Science Council (ISSC) or the International Council for Science (ICSU) programs.

D. Publications

CDES has continued its very successful publishing relationship with Ashgate Publishers (now bought by Routledge Publishers). The book series is entitled *Dynamics of Economic Space* and the Chair of the Commission serves as the Series Editor.

1. Reid, Neil., Jay D. Gatrell, and Paula S. Ross. 2012. *Local Food Systems in Old Industrial Regions: Concepts, Spatial Context, and Local Practices*. Farnham, England: Ashgate. 286 pages.

In recent years there has been an explosion of interest in local food systems—among policy makers, planners, and public health professionals, as well as environmentalists, community developers, academics, farmers, and ordinary citizens. While most local food systems share common characteristics, the chapters in this book explore the unique challenges and opportunities of local food systems located within mature and/or declining industrial regions. Local food systems have the potential to provide residents with a supply of safe and nutritious food; such systems also have the potential to create much-needed

employment opportunities. However, challenges are numerous and include developing local markets of a sufficient scale, adequately matching supply and demand, and meeting the environmental challenges of finding safe growing locations.

Interrogating the scale, scope, and economic context of local food systems in aging industrialized cities, this book provides a foundation for the development of new sub-fields in economic, urban, and agricultural geographies that focus on local food systems. The book represents a first attempt to provide a systematic picture of the opportunities and challenges facing the development of local food systems in old industrial regions.

2. Fromhold-Eisebith, Martina. and Martina Fuchs. 2012. *New Global-Local Patterns of Production, Work, and Innovation*. Farnham, England: Ashgate. 260 pages.

Recently, the international division of labour in industrial production has grown increasingly more volatile. The separation between 'high-end' tasks undertaken in the traditional core economies and 'low-end' tasks undertaken in newly emerging economies has become increasingly blurred. The new dynamics and unpredictability of actor and process configurations in internationalized production bring new challenges for research in economic geography, regional economics and management sciences. The allocation of R&D and production mandates within or between enterprises, the setting up, closing down, purchase or sale of subsidiaries at different localities, the shifting patterns of collaborative innovation, together with newly evolving forms of capitalism, all appear to interact in ways not seen before. It appears we have entered a new era termed 'industrial transition'.

This book forms the first approach toward conceptualising the term and compiling illustrative empirical underpinnings. Contributions by an international set of renowned economic geographers highlight the major features and case studies of 'industrial transition' and address various questions that matter for the future of our global economy: How are regions and localities affected by the shift of product mandates? In which ways do changes differ between industrial sectors and economic regions? How can regions and localities adequately prepare for or react to foreseeable changes; and how can regional resilience and response capacities be built and enhanced?

3. Tamásy, Christine and and Javier Revilla Diez. 2013. *Regional Resilience, Economy and Society. Globalising Rural Places*. Farnham, England: Ashgate. 306 pages.

There has been a great deal of restructuring of rural places and communities under globalisation, highlighting the interaction of local and global actors to produce new hybrid socio-economic relations. Recent research highlights the heterogeneity of globalisation in which rural places are different to each other, but also different to how they were in the past. Bringing together an interdisciplinary team of academics, and comparative case studies from Europe (West and East) and Asia, this book explores and discusses opportunities and challenges associated with globalising rural places, and identifies possibilities for policy and practical intervention by rural development actors. Special attention is paid to multi-scalar processes through which rural places are reshaped through globalisation.

Taking a geographical approach, the book produces new critical work on the interdependence between globalisation and rural spaces. It is organised into five sections: Part I focuses on 'Global-Rural Linkages' showing the multifaceted interrelation between actors at different geographical scale and demonstrating that globalisation is not only external to rural spaces. Part II on 'Rural Entrepreneurship and Labour Markets' explores the potential of business start-

ups in rural spaces which are not only necessity driven. Part III 'Rural Innovation and Learning' shows that rural places are also places for innovation and learning. Part IV on 'Rural Policies and Governance' argues that regional policies for rural places should promote side activities to maintain social capital and that regional policy should take a more integrative perspective between urban and rural spaces in order to explore complementary development paths. The concluding chapter 'New Approaches to Rural Spaces' discusses new approaches to globalising rural places in relation to the preceding chapters published in this book.

4. 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.

5. 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 2012-2015:

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).

E. Archival Contributions

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

F. Continuation

1. *Commission Name*

Our proposal is requesting that the name Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces be continued.

2. *Commission Mission*

The Commission's Mission is to extend international research and scholarship in economic geography through the development and dissemination of critical theoretical, conceptual and methodological frameworks, the conduct of rigorous empirical and policy analyses, and the building of research capacity in economic geography in different national and institutional contexts, to promote international collaboration in research activity and the dissemination of research findings and to facilitate knowledge transfer about economic geography and associated policy-related issues between countries and institutions.

3. *Steering Committee for 2016-2020*

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¹ In 2018 the commission's Chair will change from Christine Tamásy to Nuri Yavan.

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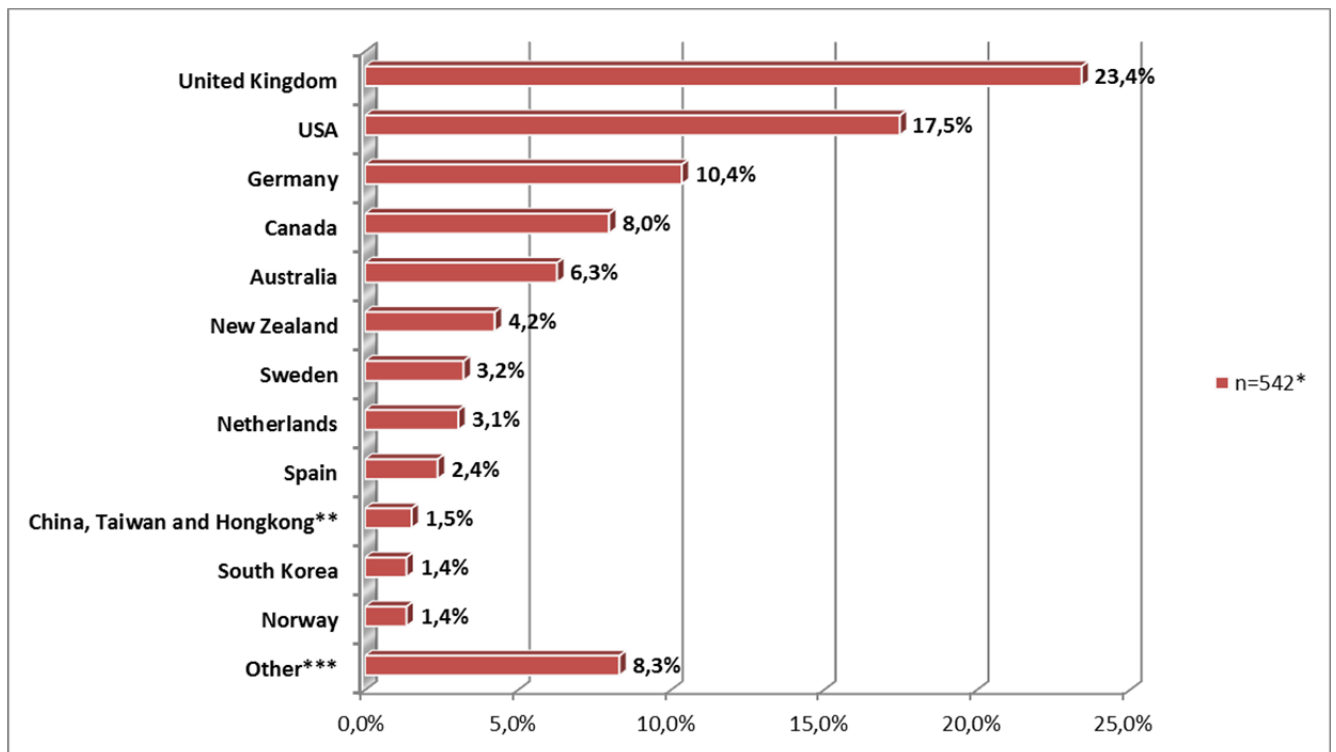
4. *Summary of Work Plan for 2016-2020*

As already mentioned above, the Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces plans to hold regular meetings during the period 2016-2020 (at least one mini-conference per year and visible participation in other IGU events). Please note that the conferences listed represent the minimum activity of the Commission. CDES will take advantage of other opportunities for workshops, conferences, and scholarly activities as they arise during 2016-2020. Furthermore CDES plans to continue its publishing relationship with Routledge (formerly Ashgate) Publishers. CDES conferences typically result in the publication of one edited book (sometimes two) that is published as part of Routledge's Dynamics of Economic Spaces series and/or special issues in international, peer-reviewed journals.

Much of the work that will be covered in the proposed conferences for 2016-2020 will build upon the work conducted by CDES during 2012-2016.

Annex

IGU-Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces: Membership by country (December 2015, in %)



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From 542 Email addresses 6 could not be related to a country

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Considering the One-China policy China (0,34%), Taiwan (0,34%) and Hongkong (0,68%) are put together in one class

All countries below 1% were put together in the class "Other": Poland (0,17%), Slovakia (0,17%), Brazil (0,17%), Belgium (0,17%), Ireland (0,17%), Portugal (0,17%), Turkey (0,34%), Austria (0,51%), Hungary (0,51%), Israel (0,51%), Japan (0,51%), Singapore (0,51%), Greece (0,51%), Switzerland (0,68%), Denmark (0,68%), Italy (0,85%), Finland (0,85%), France (0,85%)