

**Galilean School, Padua University  
Fall 2013**

**Seminar on  
THE GEOGRAPHY OF INNOVATION**

**COURSE PROFESSOR**

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**SEMINAR DESCRIPTION**

The understanding of the geography of innovation is one of the most important and challenging aspects of the knowledge-based economy. Innovation is a process becoming more open or distributed, in turn associated with increasing levels of collaboration and outsourcing. This has led the analysis to investigate more closely the role and links with external partners on innovation. At the same time, innovation process of firms lies in the importance of collocation and geographical concentration of actors, which facilitate and stimulate access to knowledge. Therefore, firms' innovative activities are shaped by the business and innovation system in which they are located within.

The seminar aims to equip students and researchers with an understanding of the main issues in the geography of innovation. It provides evidence of the different analytical concepts and development tools that seek to understand and support innovation at different geographical levels. The seminar itself draws upon my research activities within the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa in Canada.

**SEMINAR DESCRIPTION AND DETAILS**

The seminar is composed of 4 lectures. During the lecture students and researchers are encouraged to ask questions and discuss the material. All the slides and materials from the seminar will be available.

## **LECTURES**

### **LECTURE I: WHAT IS INNOVATION?**

**(WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER, 3:00 TO 6:00PM)**

In this lecture, we introduce the management of innovation and review the main challenges in the management of innovation and support of innovation in terms of policy.

### **LECTURE II: THE SPATIAL ORGANISATION OF INNOVATION**

**(THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER, 3:00-6:00PM)**

In this lecture, we explore how firm's innovative activities are shaped by the business environment and the innovation systems in which they are located within. We also examine how proximity influences innovative activities and performance of firms.

### **LECTURE III: INNOVATION IN HETEROGENOUS GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXTS**

**(THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER, 3:00 TO 6:00PM)**

In this lecture, we explore why innovation vary across regions and the way economic structures and institutional features within clusters and regions affect innovation performance.

### **LECTURE IV: INNOVATION AND PROXIMITY IN THE SERVICES INDUSTRY**

**(FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER, 3:00-6:00PM)**

In this lecture, we explore, using the case of the knowledge-intensive business services, the link between geography and innovation from two different perspectives: i) how KIBS innovate and the extent to which innovation strategies is linked to geography? ii) The use of KIBS in innovation process of manufacturing firms and the importance of proximity in the use of external services.