

Call for Papers

The 6th Research Area [X] ‘Knowledge, Networks and Regions’ Workshop

Theme
2021

Economics of knowledge creation and utilization in regions

1-2 October 2021

Department of Economics, University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece

On-site event

(with a hybrid fallback option, participants will be informed about the type of event in 29. August 2021)

Keynote speaker:

Cesar Hidalgo (University of Toulouse)

Organizing team:

Yeoryios Stamboulis (University of Thessaly)
Muhamed Kudic (University of Siegen)
Claudius Gräbner (University Duisburg-Essen)
Andreas Pyka (University of Hohenheim)

Scientific committee:

Ron Boschma
Bart Verspagen
Dominique Foray
Michael Fritsch
Wolfram Elsner
Mark Knell
Daniel Schiller
Michael Roos
Jutta Günther
Martina Eckardt
Ben Vermeulen
Matthias Mueller
Tobias Buchmann
Paolo Saviotti

Workshop philosophy

In the meantime, we look back on a [long history of workshops](#), all of which characterized by excellent scientific contributions, inspiring keynotes as well as rewarding publication options. Our workshop series provides since 2015 a platform for constructive, open and interdisciplinary scientific discourse. The aim of our workshop is to contribute latest scientific findings at the intersection of knowledge, networks and regions to the contemporary debate. To accomplish this, we bring together researchers from different disciplines and paradigms to discuss current advances on the role of networks in knowledge creation and utilization in a regional context in an amicable and constructive atmosphere. Contributions by young scholars are highly welcome.

The 6th RA [X] 'Networks' Workshop will focus on the 'Economics of knowledge creation and utilization in regions'. It is a joint initiative of the EAEPE Research Area [X] 'Knowledge, Networks and Regions' (Muhamed Kudic and Claudius Gräbner) and the Research Area [D] 'Innovation and Technological Change' (Andreas Pyka and Ben Vermeulen) and will be realized in cooperation with the University of Thessaly (Department of Economics and Research Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Yeoryios Stamboulis).

The sessions will be organized around presentations by the participants (20 minutes). All participants are expected to give a short co-presentation to another presentation at the workshop (5 minutes). We also leave room for paper-specific questions as well as general discussions (5 minutes).

Submission process, important dates, and further information

We invite conceptual as well as empirical contributions within the thematic scope described above. Please submit extended abstracts (500-750 words, PDF or Word) online to: rax-workshop@protonmail.com

Important dates

Abstract submission Deadline	Notification of acceptance	Registration deadline and payment of workshop fee	Two-day workshop
15. August 2021	22. August 2021	29. August 2021	1-2 October 2021

Location of the event

We plan to organize an on-site event. [Volos](#) is a beautiful Greek port city and it is the home to the University of Thessaly. Volos offers excellently equipped facilities for conferences, exhibitions and major sporting, cultural and scientific events. The city lies at the foot of Pelion mountain, a diverse ecosystem between the Aegean sea and Pagasitikos gulf, with scenic villages, beautiful beaches and plenty of nature routes. A visit to the Volos may also be combined with a trip to the Sporades islands ([Skiathos](#), [Skopelos](#) and [Alonnisos](#)), only a few hours by boat. Further details and practical information will be provided through our [workshop webpage](#).

Conference fee

A fee will be charged for participation. Thanks to local sponsors we can realize a very low workshop fee. Senior researchers and post-docs are asked to contribute 75€, PhD candidates pay 50€. Dinner and catering during the workshop are included. Please transfer the fee after acceptance of your contribution to the following account:

Recipient: EAEPE
IBAN DE84820200860017089862
BIC HYVEDEMM498
Identifier Workshop RAX

Content and motivation

Knowledge and innovation are considered to be among the main drivers of economic prosperity. As for today, the relevance of the accumulation of knowledge both for growth and development on the national and regional level, as well as for the business success on the firm level has been documented by numerous empirical investigations from distinct economic paradigms. At the same time, differentials in the accumulation of knowledge might be essential to explain the large and persistent economic disparities at the national and regional level both within and across nation states, in Europe as well as overseas.

These disparities have motivated a wide range of innovation policies. However, the success of such policies is by no means guaranteed, and the economic development patterns among countries over the past decades have been considerably uneven. In other words, we are still confronted with numerous open questions when it comes to understanding how knowledge relates to regional development, what is the role of institutions and system failures or how regional policy interventions can be used to foster egalitarian development.

In doing so, we consider different analytical levels such as (i.) the individual actors of the system, (ii.) various types of relationships among these actors, and (iii.) the institutions guiding the behavior of the actors in the system as well as the relevance of systemic dynamics impacting upon the individual actors in the system. Even though we emphasize the merits of a complex adaptive systems perspective for these questions, we are open to complementary theoretical approaches and follow a multi-method philosophy.

In summary, this year's workshop on the "Economics of knowledge creation and utilization in regions" welcomes contribution addressing the following issues:

- How can an innovation system perspective contribute to an in-depth understanding of regional knowledge creation and utilization processes?
- What is the role of knowledge creation and diffusion for regional development and to what extent can it explain regional, national and international inequalities?
- What are the positive and negative aspects of innovation networks for economic development?
- What are the implications of network competition among established and new technologies?
- Given that new technologies tend to be related to existing ones, what is the danger of a 'vicious specialization' on unsustainable technologies?
- What kind of policies can be implemented to foster regional development and reduce inter-regional disparities?
- What are the potentials and limits for industrial policy?
- How can we identify system failures in technological, sectoral or regional innovation systems?
- Do digital technologies influence the emergence, development and composition of innovation systems?
- How do knowledge networks vary with emerging disruptive knowledge?
- How can regional innovation systems stay innovative when they face disruptive technological change?

Presentations will be organized in topically consistent panels. Each presentation receives a short co-presentation by another participant and will feed into more general moderated discussions among participants. Depending on the number and topical focus of the submissions we consider the publication of a special issue in a respectable peer reviewed journal.