



SAPIENZA, UNIVERSITY OF ROME

Doctoral School of Economics

In collaboration with the **University of Florence**

PhD in Development Economics and Local Systems

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Academic Year 2020-2021

(*Teachers:* Filippo Celata, Sapienza; Andrea Ascani, GSSI; Raffaella Coletti, CNR; Federico Martellozzo, Unifi; Filippo Randelli, Unifi)

SYLLABUS

The course introduces participants to some of the most recent theoretical and methodological advancements in the field of economic geography and related disciplines, focusing on local and regional development theories; spatial agglomeration and territorial disparities; institutional, relational and evolutionary perspectives; transnational enterprises and global production networks; urban and regional economic policies; environmental and sustainability issues. It will include standard lectures and engage participants in the discussion of specific research themes, programmes and papers.

It will be structured into the following modules:

1. Research and publication strategies (Celata, 3 hrs): the aim is to provide a map of publishers, scientific journals, peer-review and evaluation systems, and of contemporary publication practices in economic geography, in order to assist participants in defining their research strategies.

Readings: Blunt A & Souch C (2009) *Publishing in geography: A guide for new researchers*. RGS-IBG.

2. Geographies of agglomeration and sociospatial inequalities (Celata, 6 hrs): the aim is to provide an overview of contemporary dynamics of regional economic divergence, of their geographies and implications, and an intellectual history of how scholars have dealt with the issue through Neoclassical, Keynesian, radical, institutional and relational perspectives.

Readings:

- Storper M (2018) Separate worlds? Explaining the current wave of regional economic polarization. *Journal of Economic Geography*.

- Rodríguez-Pose, A. (2018). The revenge of the places that don't matter. *Cambridge journal of regions, economy and society*.

3. Global production networks, multinational enterprises and regional development (Ascani, 6 hrs): this module aims at developing conceptual and empirical understanding of the interplay between globalization and territorial development, with an emphasis on the increasing importance of multinational enterprises within global production networks and on global-local linkages as key to regional development.



Readings:

- Yeung H W (2020) Regional worlds: From related variety in regional diversification to strategic coupling in global production networks. *Regional Studies*,
- Ascani A, Bettarelli L, Resmini L and Balland P-A (2020) Global networks, local specialisation and regional patterns of innovation. *Research Policy*.
- Iammarino S, Padilla-Perez R and von Tunzelmann N (2008) Technological capabilities and global-local interactions: the electronics industry in two Mexican regions. *World Development*.

4. The evolutionary approach in economic geography (Randelli, Martellozzo, 3 hrs): the aim is to highlight the diffusion of evolutionary approaches in economic geography, and to focus on mechanisms and processes driving economic evolution.

Readings: Boschma R and Martin R (2010) The Aims and Scope of Evolutionary Economic Geography. *Papers in Evolutionary Economic Geography*.

5. European Cohesion Policy and regional development (Coletti, 6 hrs): the module will present past evolution and future perspectives of the European Cohesion Policy, as the most relevant strategy for regional development in the EU, with a specific focus on the two main current objectives: *Investments for Growth and Job* and *European Territorial Cooperation*.

Readings:

- Farole T, Rodríguez-Pose A, Storper M. (2011) Cohesion Policy in the European Union: Growth, Geography, Institutions, *Journal of Common Market Studies*,
- Medeiros E (2018) *The Role of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) in EU Cohesion Policy*, in Medeiros E (ed) *European Territorial Cooperation. Theoretical and Empirical Approaches*, Springer.

6. The transition towards sustainability (Randelli-Martellozzo, 6 hrs): this module aims at highlighting the funding assumptions onto which the dynamic theoretical rationale disentangling the concept of sustainability and its intrinsic linkages with human development are based. Furthermore, participants will critically explore and discuss the (un)sustainability of socio-ecological systems in the Anthropocene.

Readings:

- Geels FW (2002) Technological transitions as evolutionary reconfiguration processes: a multi-level perspective and a case-study, *Research Policy*.
- Häyhä T et al (2016) From Planetary Boundaries to national fair shares of the global safe operating space — How can the scales be bridged? *Global Environmental Change*.
- Landholm D.M. et al. (2019) Climate change mitigation potential of community-based initiatives in Europe. *Reg Environ Change*.

When: March 2020

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