

# SAPIENZA, UNIVERSITY OF ROME

Doctoral School of Economics

## ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Academic Year 2021-2022

*Teachers:* Filippo Celata, Sapienza; Andrea Ascani, GSSI; Raffaella Coletti, CNR; Cesare Di Felicianantonio, Manchester Metropolitan University, Federico Martellozzo & Filippo Randelli, Unifi; Venere Stefania Sanna, Sapienza.

### 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; spatial agglomeration and regional disparities; transnational enterprises and global production networks; urban and regional economic policies; environmental and sustainability issues; research methods and publication strategies. It will include lectures and engage participants in the discussion of specific research papers and challenges.

It will be structured into the following modules:

**1. Geographies of regional disparities and sociospatial inequalities** (Celata | 5 hrs | 8 April): 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 classical, radical, institutional, relational and neoliberal perspectives.

*Readings:*

- Storper M (2018) Separate worlds? Explaining the current wave of regional economic polarization. *Journal of Economic Geography*.
- Kemeny-Storper (2020) Superstar cities and left-behind places: disruptive innovation, labor demand, and interregional inequality. LSE III Working paper 41.

**2. Challenges in data collection methods and analysis** (Di Felicianantonio | 5 hrs | 13 April)

The module invites students to engage critically with some of the key-questions related to data collection methods and analysis in geography (and the social sciences): i) the benefits and limits of 'mixing methods'; ii) the positionality of the researcher and research ethics.

Note: in preparation for the module, students are asked to prepare a 2 minute presentation (no need for ppt) of their main idea for their PhD research, including research question and methodology.

*Readings:*

- Elwood S (2010) *Mixed Methods: Thinking, Doing, and Asking in Multiple Ways*. In: D. DeLyser et al., *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Geography*, pp. 94-114. Sage.
- Ferreri M (2021) *Politicising vacancy and commoning housing in municipalist Barcelona*. In: O'Callaghan-Di Felicianantonio, *The New Urban Ruins: Vacancy, Urban Politics and International Experiments in the post-Crisis City*, pp. 181-196. Policy Press.
- Dyer-Demeritt D (2009) Un-ethical review? Why it is wrong to apply the medical model of research governance to human geography. *Progress in Human Geography*.
- England K (1994) Getting Personal: Reflexivity, Positionality, and Feminist Research. *The Professional Geographer* 46(1): 80-89.

**3. Public policies and regional development** (Coletti | 4 hrs | 15 April): the aim is to provide an overview and introduce participants to the analysis of regional development policies, with a focus on the evolution and future perspectives of the European Cohesion Policy, and particularly *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, *European Territorial Cooperation. Theoretical and Empirical Approaches*, pp. 69-93. Springer.
- Celata-Coletti (2014) Place-based strategies or territorial cooperation? Regional development in transnational perspective. *Local Economy*.

**4. Global production networks, multinational enterprises and regional development** (Ascani | 5 hrs | 22 April): this module aims at developing conceptual and empirical understanding of the interplay between globalization and territorial development, with an emphasis on multinational enterprises within global production networks and on global-local linkages.

*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*.

**5. Geographies of sustainability transitions** (Martellozzo-Randelli | 5 hrs | 26 April): 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.

*Readings:*

- Geels F W (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. *Global Environmental Change*.
- Landholm D M et al. (2019) Climate change mitigation potential of community-based initiatives in Europe. *Regional Environmental Change*.

**6. Environmental policy and the circular economy** (Sanna | 2 hrs | 28 April) This module aims at providing an overview of EU environmental policy debating the integration of the circular economy paradigm within the environmental sustainability framework, and discussing the growing role of its external and international dimensions.

*Readings:*

- Hobson K. (2015) Closing the loop or squaring the circle? Locating generative spaces for the circular economy. *Progress in Human Geography*.
- Geissdoerfer M et al. (2017) The Circular Economy. A new sustainability paradigm? *Journal of cleaner production*.

- Hartleya K, van Santenb R, Kirchherrb J, (2020) Policies for transitioning towards a circular economy: Expectations from the European Union. *Resources, Conservation & Recycling*.

**7. Research and publication strategies** (Celata | 3 hrs | 29 April): 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.

**Where:** Faculty of Economics, fifth floor, 'Geografia economica' corridor, room 'Aula Master' (module 5 will be online).

### Calendar

MODULE	DATE	PLACE AND TIME	TEACHER
Sociospatial inequalities	April, 8	11-13 + 15-18	F. Celata
Research methods	April, 13	11-13 + 15-18	C. Di Feliciantonio
Regional development policies	April, 15	11-13 + 15-17	R. Coletti
Global production networks	April, 22	11-13 + 15-18	A. Ascani
Sustainability transitions	April, 26	11-13 + 15-18 (online)	F. Martellozzo-F. Randelli
Circular economy	April, 28	11-13	V.S. Sanna
Publication strategies	April, 29	14-17	F. Celata

Students are also invited to attend the workshop "**Seeing like a city**", with **Ash Amin** (Professor of Geography at the University of Cambridge) at the Società geografica italiana, Villa Celimontana, Rome, on **April 11th, afternoon**.

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