

Regions Cities Industry Webinar Series

Global megatrends are transforming the way we live, work, interact, finance, produce and consume. At the same time, the increasing environmental impacts of human activities have sharpened the focus on sustainability of further development. New technologies potentially provide an opportunity to address, perhaps for the first time in the history of mankind, a substantial majority of the fundamental societal challenges, from nutrition, energy availability and sustainability, to access to products, services and information. However, these same global megatrends can also be highly divisive and therefore represent one of the biggest challenges for a global social, political and economic cohesion and even peaceful coexistence in more than a generation. In addition, we have newly remembered our global vulnerability to shocks such as the coronavirus and there can be no doubt that this will change the world in which we live prompting new questions and new priorities.

This RSA Webinar Series will present acclaimed researchers and policymakers addressing these questions.

Open to all and free to attend, this webinar series aims to bring experts in the field of regional studies, science and policy to you. The webinar can be watched live but will also be available on demand. The webinars will run live once a month and feature researcher and policymaker experts. They include time for discussion, questions and comments.

В рамках серии вебинаров, инициированных [Regional Studies Association](#) состоится лекция

Regional Worlds: From Related Variety in Regional Diversification to Strategic Coupling in Global Production Networks

29th April 2020, 7am EDT, 12 noon BST, 1pm CET, 7pm SGT

Chair/ Introduction: Prof. Jennifer Clark, The Ohio State University, USA

Speaker: Prof. Henry Wai-chung Yeung, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Discussant: Prof. Andres Rodriguez-Pose, London School of Economics, UK

The recent literature in regional studies has at least two influential but parallel tracks. In the evolutionary economic geography (EEG) track, much has been written on and debated about knowledge and innovation in regional path development and the role of related variety in regional diversification. In the second and relatively smaller strand of literature linked to the global production networks (GPN) approach, researchers are concerned with how regional actors and assets can be strategically coupled with the competitive dynamics of global production networks. This lecture intends to serve as an initial and sympathetic attempt to pave a "sidetrack" to connect these two parallel strands that can enable researchers on both tracks to engage more explicitly with each other. To do so, I offer a reconceptualization of "regional worlds" as a central concept in regional studies. I argue that both strands of literature are premised on their different conceptions of "regional worlds" of innovation and production – a more endogenous view of regions as "specialized worlds" of production in the EEG track and a more relational view of regions as "interconnected worlds" of production in the GPN literature. Extending further Boschma's (2017) Regional Studies annual lecture, I believe this reconceptualization of "regional worlds" can allow analytically the possibility of strategic coupling with GPNs as a new form of related variety in regional diversification by highlighting

the importance of extra-local/regional linkages and network dynamics. By relating related variety to strategic coupling, this view can potentially reconcile the coexistence of endogenous and exogenous sources of regional transformation. I will end the lecture with some future agenda for theory and practice in regional studies.

To register, please

[click here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Best wishes,

Lesa

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