



Call for papers

**The 2nd Research Area [X]
'Networks' Workshop**

Theme 2016

ENTREPRENEURSHIP – INNOVATION – TRANSFORMATION

The interrelatedness of networks and entrepreneurial activities, structural dynamics,
firm performance and economic growth

28 -29 November 2016
Ruhr-Universität Bochum,
Bochum, Germany

Even though the research area [X] 'Networks' is generally open to all kind of network-related issues we would like to turn our attention in the 2nd Research Area [X] 'Networks' workshop to **ENTREPRENEURSHIP – INNOVATION – TRANSFORMATION**. In doing so, we focus on three closely related research strands: (i.) dynamic perspectives on R&D collaboration and innovation networks, (ii.) the role of entrepreneurial activities in collective innovation processes, and (iii.) reassessing the link between entrepreneurship, innovation processes, and change processes at the level of the firm and the economy.

By focusing on **R&D collaboration and innovation networks**, we address networks in which economic actors' main rationale for cooperation is information exchange, knowledge transfer, learning and innovation. Accordingly, **the first objective** of this workshop is to contribute to an in-depth understanding of cooperation and network dynamics. We would like to understand how structuration and network change processes affect firm innovativeness over time. The **second objective** is to shed some light on the question of how entrepreneurial activities and innovation efforts in networks are related. On the one hand, we seek to understand how entrepreneurial firms affect the structural properties of innovation networks. On the other hand, it is a central question how network positions, cooperation modes and other factors can reduce the risk of firm exits for entrepreneurial firms and spur innovation and economic performance. The **third objective** of the workshop is to reflect critically the change processes at the level of the firm and the economy triggered by collaborative innovation efforts and entrepreneurial activities.

We welcome presentations in the following **exemplary research fields** whereby the methodical and disciplinary approach can be broad and creative in itself:

- Structural dynamics and resilience of innovation networks
- Exchange and diffusion of knowledge on existing network structures
- Collaborative innovation, network positioning and economic performance



- Institutions, modes and structure of collaboration – dyadic collaboration, multi-partner alliances and alliance portfolios – and innovation outcomes
- The role of entrepreneurial activities for the structural properties of networks
- The role of network embeddedness for the performance of entrepreneurial firms
- R&D collaboration and innovation networks as a tool of innovation policy
- Innovation networks in catching-up economies
- Sustainability and eco-innovation – an issue for innovation networks?
- Innovation-induced change processes at micro, meso and macro levels

Further topics related to these issues are highly welcome as well.

Keynote speakers

- Ron Boschma (University of Utrecht, Lund University)
- Bart Verspagen (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht)

Scientific committee

- Thomas Brenner (Philipps University Marburg)
- Uwe Cantner (Friedrich Schiller University, Jena), tbc
- Iciar Dominguez-Lacasa (University of Bremen)
- Wolfram Elsner (University of Bremen)
- Michael Fritsch (Friedrich Schiller University, Jena)
- Helmut Karl (Ruhr University Bochum)
- Andreas Kladroba (Stifterverband)
- Andreas Pyka (University of Hohenheim)
- Gero Stenke (Stifterverband)

Local organizing committee

The workshop is organized by the coordinators of the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE) Research Area [X] 'Networks' (Muhamed Kudic, University of Bremen & Stifterverband and Sidonia von Proff, Philipps University Marburg) and two associated partner institutions (Michael Roos, Ruhr University Bochum and Jutta Guenther, University of Bremen).

Publication possibilities

A selected number of presentations will be invited to submit a revised version of the paper to a well-known, peer-reviewed special issue. We are currently evaluating opportunities in several innovation and network related journals.

Organizational issues

The 2nd Research Area [X] 'Networks' workshop is planned as a two day event where each day is accompanied by an inspiring keynote speech. Accepted papers will be presented in parallel sessions and critically discussed by an expert in the field. Early stage research is particularly welcome. Presentation should not exceed 20 minutes. Discussants are expected to present within 5-10 minutes. **There will be no conference fee.** However, participants of the workshop are expected to cover their travel and accommodation costs.



Submissions

We invite contributions from all scientific disciplines and theoretical backgrounds that conduct cooperation and network studies addressing one of the above outlined research questions. Please submit extended abstracts (300-750 words, PDF or Word) to: rax2016@uni-bremen.de

Important dates

Submission deadline for extended abstracts:	14 October 2016
Notification of acceptance:	30 October 2016
Registration deadline:	13 November 2016
Submission of full papers:	20 November 2016
The 2 nd RA [x] 'Networks' workshop:	28 -29 November 2016

Location

Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Beckmanns Hof
Universitätsstraße 150
44801 Bochum