



Political Science  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Geography and Program in Planning  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## Global Innovation & Regional Development

### Speaker Series

*Presents*

## OLIVER IBERT

(Leibniz-Institute for Regional Development & Structural Planning Erkner)

### *Mushrooming Entrepreneurship: The Dynamic Geography of Innovation Originating from Communities of Interest*

Wednesday July 16th , 2014

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sidney Smith Hall 3130



#### **Abstract**

Communities of interest encompassing manifold sophisticated users, highly skilled enthusiasts and dedicated hobbyists are increasingly being taken seriously by economic geographers as sources of innovation. The lecture applies a time-spatial approach to empirically access the process through which entrepreneurial activities arise and proliferate within such communities. In a qualitative ex-post analysis of two case studies of evolving communities of interest – geocaching and fingerboarding – the lecture will trace how the social composition of these communities changed over time and how entrepreneurial ambition co-evolved with these changes. Particular emphasis will be put on the tensions between the communities' norms of sharing knowledge freely among peers and the entrepreneurial logic of monopolizing knowledge.

*Sponsored by the Canada Research Chair in Innovation and Governance*

For more information please contact Harald Bathelt ([harald.bathelt@utoronto.ca](mailto:harald.bathelt@utoronto.ca))

or Pierre Desrochers ([pierre.desrochers@utoronto.ca](mailto:pierre.desrochers@utoronto.ca))