



Political Science
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Geography and Program in Planning
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Global Innovation & Regional Development

Speaker Series

Presents

Richard Shearmur

(McGill University)

Innovation Beyond Cities: Remoteness and Slow Innovation

Friday, March 13, 2015

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sidney Smith Hall 3130



Abstract

Much of the geographic research on firm-level innovation is premised on the idea of open innovation. The prevailing idea is that innovation occurs more readily in urban settings or clusters, which benefit from local buzz and from easy access to external actors. However, there is a body of evidence that demonstrates that firms also introduce first-to-market innovations in remote regions. In this paper, building upon work by McCann (2007), we suggest that there are different types of open innovation: slow innovators, relying on publically sourced - often technological - information, infrequent contacts with interlocutors and internal resources, will tend to locate in remote regions. Fast innovators, relying on market information and frequent interactions, will locate closer to cities. Exploratory empirical results that examine information sources (market/non market) and frequency of contacts with service providers (as a proxy for frequency of contact with all interlocutors) Quebec manufacturing establishments validate these ideas.

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