

Regional Innovation Cultures

How do energy regions innovate?

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About the project

- Focus on how to promote innovation in peripheral regions
- The economic geography of innovation: Does collaboration with different types of partners in different locations matter for innovation?
- How can companies successfully collaborate with partners at a distance?
 - Non-geographical proximities
 - Soft institutions (regionalised values and attitudes / culture)
- The impact of regional institutions on innovation

Current activities

- Comparative study of five Norwegian city regions (Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger, Trondheim and Kr.sand)
 - Based on survey data of 1600 businesses
 - Two articles published so far in international journals, three more on the way
- Comparative study of European energy regions
 - Starting in June 2011
- Comparative study of energy regions
 - Starting in January 2012
- Funded until December 2012 - post.doc + some additional activities
- Collaboration IRIS - London School of Economics (Andrés Rodríguez-Pose)

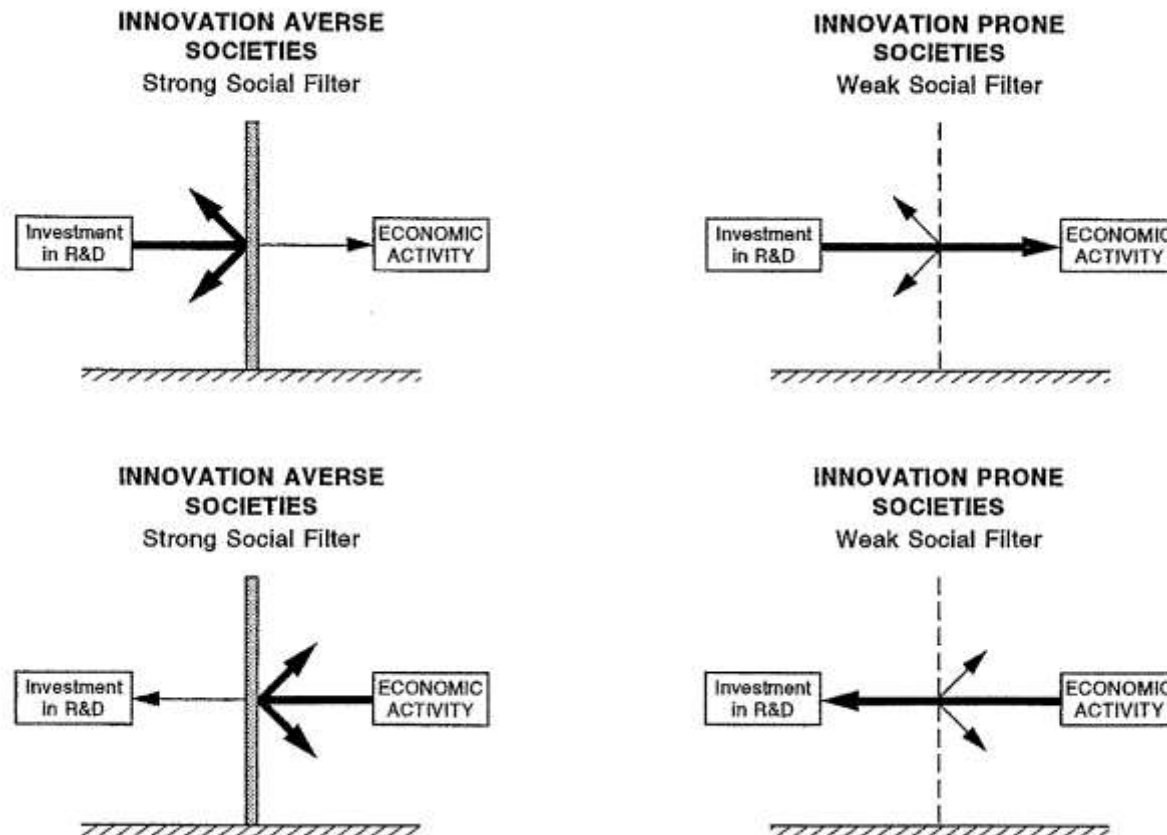
Agglomeration as a driver for innovation

- Agglomeration leads to:
 - Greater externalities
 - Face-to-face interaction (tacit knowledge)
 - Knowledge spillovers
 - Innovation
- Across theoretical strands
 - Endogenous growth theory
 - New Economic Geography
 - Institutional strands (institutional thickness)
- What are the options for peripheral areas?

Options for peripheral areas

- Overcoming geographical distance
- Different types of proximities
 - Cognitive
 - Organizational
 - Social
 - Institutional
- How are these types of proximities maximized?
 - Through collaboration...
 - But at a distance (geographical)

Innovation Proneness and the Social Filter



Rodríguez-Pose 1999: "Innovation Prone and Innovation Averse Societies"

Comparative study of energy regions

- How are energy regions different from other regions?
- Joint challenge of non-renewable natural resource dependency
- Focus on regions with mature production or post-production: How to reduce dependency on local energy production?
 - Transforming city regions
 - Innovation as a strategy for positioning in the global value chain and/or for diversification into other industries
- Flows of knowledge between energy regions (global pipelines)
- Division of labour between energy regions in new product and process development - and the role of MNEs

Prospects for collaboration

- Comparative case studies of two or more energy regions
- System-wide study of the energy industry within these regions
- Need for data from other energy regions that is comparable to our data from Stavanger
- Aim for joint publications
- Ongoing project, fully funded on the Norwegian side