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UNIVERSITY
OF TRENTO - Italy

RETHINKING CLUSTERS: CRITICAL ISSUES AND NEW TRAJECTORIES OF CLUSTER RESEARCH

International workshop

University of Florence, 3rd - 4th May 2018

[DELoS](#) (Development Economics and Local Systems) Ph.D. program, [Department of Economics and Management](#), University of Florence and [Doctoral School of Social Sciences](#), University of Trento, announce an international workshop on:

RETHINKING CLUSTERS: CRITICAL ISSUES AND NEW TRAJECTORIES OF CLUSTER RESEARCH

The workshop focuses on new or emerging trajectories of change in place-based productive and innovation systems, in particular in clusters, industrial districts and other local systems. In so doing, the workshop aims at charting the way forward for cluster research.

After the rise and the progressive diffusion of the cluster concept in a variety of disciplines and countries, many contributions have stressed the negative qualities of the cluster concept, labelling it as 'chaotic', while others have discussed its decline in contemporary research and its loss of importance in the explanation of contemporary economies. At the same time, other contributions show a renewed interest in the analysis of the micro-foundations of clusters, and in particular on firms' strategies. Moreover, some empirical researches show that some clusters are resilient with respect to the intense challenges coming from the economic and financial crisis, the globalization and the raising competition from developing and emerging countries.

What is then the future of clusters and industrial districts? What will be the relevance of the cluster concept in the future academic research? Is it time to rethink the cluster concept and related models of local development?

The contents of the workshop relate, but are not limited, to key themes on cluster research, such as:

1. Multinationals, clusters and global value chain
2. Technological change and innovation networks
3. Clusters and networks in cultural and creative industries
4. Clusters in developing and emerging countries
5. Cluster life cycle and evolutionary trajectories of local systems
6. Relatedness, un/related variety and industrial structure
7. Entrepreneurship in clusters and local systems
8. Crisis and resilience of clusters and local systems
9. Research methods on clusters, industrial districts and local systems
10. Rethinking clusters and industrial districts. Exploring critical issues
11. Industrial policy, clusters/platforms policy

Both theoretical and empirical (qualitative / quantitative) contributions are welcome, from a wide spectrum of different disciplines at micro, meso and macro level.



Organizational matters

The workshop will take place at the **Department of Economics and Management** at the University of Florence on **May 3rd-4th, 2018**.

Interested contributors should send an extended abstract of 300-500 words to the email address: clusters@disei.unifi.it from **December 1st, 2017** till **February 28th, 2018**. Please indicate a suggested track theme.

The acceptance of proposals will be notified by **March 15th, 2018**.

Registration and fee: Fee will cover lunches and coffee breaks during the days of the workshop. Registration will open from March 15th. Fee information will be published on the workshop website.

Local organizers: Luciana Lazzeretti (luciana.lazzeretti@unifi.it) and Francesco Capone (francesco.capone@unifi.it).

Co-organizers: Silvia Rita Sedita (silvia.sedita@unipd.it) and Annalisa Caloffi (annalisa.caloffi@unipd.it), University of Padova; Rafael Boix (rafael.boix@uv.es), University of Valencia; José Luis Hervás (jose.hervas@omp.upv.es), Polytechnic University of Valencia.

The workshop will be supported by the University of Trento, Ermanno Tortia (ermanno.tortia@unitn.it).

Important dates

Call for papers deadline:	February 28 th , 2018
Notification of acceptance:	March 15 th , 2018
Submission of full paper (optional):	April 15 th , 2018
Workshop dates:	May 3 rd -4 th , 2018

Publication opportunities

A **selection of papers** on the new trajectories of cluster research will be published in a **Special Issue** of an international journal or in an **edited book** published by an international publisher.

Young Researchers Session

A **Young Researchers Session** will be organised during the workshop, where Phd candidates and young researchers (within 3 years after the Phd) may receive interesting advice and comments on their ongoing research projects.

VISIT THE WEBSITE: <http://www.clusters.unifi.it>