

*Special Session on:  
Cultural Evolution & Regional  
Innovation Networks:  
Knowledge Creation via  
Diversity Leveraging and  
Institutional Filtering*



**Organizer**

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**Purpose and Scope**

This special session aims to establish a crucial academic platform for exploring the **co-evolutionary mechanisms** driving regional innovation systems. Traditional views often linearly link cultural diversity to innovation success. This session moves beyond this, focusing on the dynamic roles of **network connectivity (Bridging)** and **systemic filters (Institutional Filtering)** as mediating forces that determine whether cultural heterogeneity leads to sustained growth or knowledge stagnation.

We seek to build a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary view that integrates evolutionary economic geography, network science, and institutional theory, making a vital contribution to understanding why innovation systems in seemingly similar regions yield vastly different outcomes.

We invite theoretical, empirical, and modeling papers that address the following key questions:

- **Diversity Thresholds and Nonlinearity:** Research identifying the optimal threshold for cultural and technological heterogeneity. When does diversity shift from an asset (source of novel combinations) to a liability (cognitive overload, fragmentation)?
- **Network Dynamics and Actor Mobility:** The influence of talent flow (actor mobility) on the dynamic restructuring of innovation networks. How does mobility spread specific "cultural genes" and affect network topology (e.g., density, centrality, homophily)?
- **Systemic Filtering Mechanisms:** Analysis of how institutional rules, administrative boundaries, or network homophily act as "filters" to suppress or selectively promote knowledge diffusion and absorption.
- **Failure Modes and Policy Implications:** Investigating network lock-in, negative spatial spillovers, or other systemic suboptimal development paths caused by self-organizing filters. Papers should provide clear policy recommendations for designing effective bridging and filtering strategies.
- **Methodological Innovations:** Novel approaches, including advanced spatial econometrics, Exponential Random Graph Models (ERGM), agent-based modeling (ABM), and the use of big data for measuring intangible cultural capital.

**SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT**