

GPN@NUS SEMINAR SERIES

Topic: Pervasive but neglected?

Conceptualising services and global production networks

ABSTRACT

Services account for a very large share of employment and economic growth across the globe. In recent years, a global shift in service delivery has occurred through the relocation, or offshoring, of ICT-enabled service employment to countries in the global South. Despite the pervasiveness of services in the global economy, empirical research employing the global production network (GPN) framework has not fully engaged with services and continues to be characterised by a 'productionist bias' (Coe and Yeung 2015, p. 24). This talk addresses the neglected function of services in GPNs and global value chain research and interrogates the potential of the globalisation of service delivery for regional economic development. Services in GPNs are conceptualised using three lenses: a services-within-manufacturing networks lens (seeing services as intermediaries), a dedicated services networks lens (seeing services as independent service production networks), and a local support services networks lens (focusing on the rise of local service networks in regions). This conceptualisation is explored empirically drawing on research on the information technology and business process outsourcing sector in India and the Philippines. Employing a local support services networks lens makes visible otherwise hidden territorial processes and reveals a rising local service-sector nexus at the urban level. Thus, it will be asked to what extent a stronger focus on the urban scale can be introduced to GPN research (which has generally taken the region as the spatial unit of analysis), in order to fully grasp opportunities for economic development in the global knowledge economy.



SPEAKER:

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CHAIR:

Dr Karen Lai

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DATE:

Friday, 04 Nov 2016

TIME:

3:30pm – 5:00pm

VENUE:

Seminar Room 06-42
The Shaw Foundation Building,
Block AS7, Level 6
5 Arts Link
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Jana M. Kleibert

Jana M. Kleibert is an economic geographer interested in global production networks, services industries, global cities, and urban development in the global South. She works as a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS) in Erkner, Germany and is Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Environment, Education and Development at the University of Manchester. She received her PhD in economic geography and Master's degree in political science from the University of Amsterdam.

Her research on the expansion of global service production networks to the Philippines and India has been published in international journals, including *Environment and Planning A*, *Geoforum*, *Regional Studies*, and *Urban Geography* and she is co-editor of “*Globalisation and Services-driven Economic Growth*” (Routledge, 2016). Her most recent research deals with questions of value creation and contestation in global production networks of fashion.