

A Joint Seminar with the Department of Geography

Topic: Creating strategic couplings in global production networks: regional institutions and lead firm investment in the Humber region, UK

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to unpack and analyse the institutional and political dynamics of strategic coupling from a host region perspective, adopting an actor-centred approach that focuses on regional institutions' efforts to attract and embed lead firm investments within global production networks. We are particularly concerned with understanding the strategic agency and shifting coalitions of actors that create couplings and shape their evolution over time. This involves opening up the institutional underpinnings of strategic couplings by focusing more specifically on the key episodes in their creation and the organisation of the temporary coalitions that do the work of creating couplings. This approach is operationalised through a case study of the Siemens offshore wind turbine plant in the Humber region of England. In conclusion, we emphasise the need for regional institutions to develop adaptive coupling creation strategies that co-evolve with the reconfiguration of production networks and the reshaping of national institutional and political environments.

SPEAKER:

[Dr Stuart Dawley](#)

Head of Geography
Geography & Centre for Urban
and Regional Development
Studies
Newcastle University

CHAIR:

[Prof Neil Coe](#)

Department of Geography
National University of Singapore

DATE:

Friday, 23 Aug 2019

TIME:

3:30pm – 5:00pm

VENUE:

Earth Lab #02-03
Department of Geography
Block AS2, Level 2
5 Arts Link
Singapore 117570



Stuart Dawley

Stuart Dawley is a Reader in Economic Geography and the Head of Geography at Newcastle University, UK. He has a long standing interest in understanding the dynamics of uneven regional development and conducts his work through the Centre for Urban Development Studies (CURDS).

His recent work seeks to develop a broader geographical political economy approach to the burgeoning field of path creation studies within Evolutionary Economic Geography (EEG). In particular, by taking more seriously the roles of extra-regional dynamics and actors, this work offers a closer dialogue with the notion of strategic couplings within the Global Production Networks (GPNs) approach. These ideas have been developed through the analysis of the rapidly growing offshore wind renewable energy sector.