

## **Networked regions and cities in times of fragmentation: Developing smart, sustainable and inclusive places**

**Sunday 13th – Wednesday 16th May 2012:  
Delft University Technology, Delft, Netherlands**  
(Excursion, walking tour and evening drinks reception Sunday 13th May)

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### **Academic researchers driving Innovation Systems K3**

**Session Organiser:**

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Academic researchers have been substantially contributing to the technological and economic development of our modern industrialized societies. Their contributions have emerged from long years of training and experience as well as from creating and maintaining research networks. As a result of numerous former studies we know a lot about the various channels academic researchers employed. Academic researchers use, create and disseminate knowledge and innovation via patenting, publishing, training of students, spin-offs, consultancy work and contract research. However, little is known about how human and social capital of academic researchers affect and are affected by the use, creation and dissemination of knowledge and innovation. We suggest that more in-depth understanding of these factors would improve our overall understanding of knowledge and innovation. Such detailed understanding of the co-evolution of academics researchers' human and social capital on the one side and knowledge and innovation on the other hand side would help in two ways. First, it would give university management more information on how to run universities successfully by stimulating researchers adequately. Second, policy makers would have much better starting points to design effective and efficient measures to stimulate the use, creation and dissemination of knowledge and innovation.

As academic researchers form a crucial part of innovation systems we suggest to investigate the following three questions in more detail:

1. How does social capital of academic researchers co-evolve with the use, creation and dissemination of human capital, knowledge and innovation?
2. How do academic researchers' innovation systems function at the regional, national and global level?
3. In which respects are the research activities and goals, the knowledge accumulation and the networks of academic scholars characterized by their technical disciplines?

We welcome contributions from different disciplines active in this kind of analysis, e.g. economic geographers, (regional) economists and sociologists. We are particularly interested in conceptual and modelling work as well as theory-driven empirical approaches using quantitative, e.g. econometric analysis, social network analysis and bibliometric analysis, or qualitative research methods.”

Anyone interested in participating in the session should register for the conference before 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012 by visiting <http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/2012/May-Delft/> and follow the link.