

**North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International
San Antonio, TX, November 7-11**

Call for Papers: Special Session on The University and Regional Development

Session Description: The University and Regional Development

Organizers: Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen and Elizabeth Mack

The impact of universities on local-regional development (e.g., restructuring, reduction of uneven access to innovation) and the actual capacity to create “public value” is strictly related to the capacity for knowledge transfer and exploitation, which is facilitated through networks of stakeholders. There is still much that needs to be understood about the processes responsible for mobilizing innovation-led development by university stakeholders in collaboration with external partners. Research on university’s role in innovation and related societal development is still in an embryonic stage and there are data problems in explaining the relationship among universities, innovation, and development. Empirical findings are often applicable to premier research universities only, whereas the landscape of higher education is highly diverse. In the absence of longitudinal data, case studies are the mainstay but findings from case studies are not generalizable for broader policymaking. Patent, licensing, and spin off data provide some standardization across units, however, the lack of information about processes, internal and external to the university, limits understanding the relationship between input (e.g., R&D expenditure) and innovative output as well as output and the achievement of developmental goals. Longitudinal analysis of data (e.g. teams, initial funding processes, technology) are useful but again data remain a major impeding factor in quantifying the relative impact of a specific innovation. The challenges for academics, whether in the US or in other countries, trying to quantify the university’s impact at the local and regional level are further complicated by the complex context within which the university brings innovation to action (e.g., development practice). Given these ongoing challenges, papers in this session will deal with a diverse array of topics related to university impacts on regional development.

If you are interested in participating in this special session please contact Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen (geosbs@buffalo.edu) or Elizabeth Mack (emack@msu.edu)