

## Economic Geography and Regional Economics

Spring 2017

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**Class Time** Thursday, 10:15 – 12:00  
**Location:** U105, Alsion 2, DK-6400 Sønderborg  
**Teaching language:** English  
**ECTS / weighting:** 10 ECTS

### Introduction

The course in Economic Geography and Regional Economics aims to give the students a basic understanding of the regional approach and regional working methods. It deals with the question of localisation of economic activities such as production, exchange and consumption. Original and early theories as well as subsequent theoretical contributions will be presented. The themes will mainly be illustrated by European examples. With this, the course equips the student for the courses in Collaborative Strategies of Regions and Regional Economics and Development.

### Goal description

The students are expected to be able to demonstrate knowledge about: - Regions and regional working methods - The central concepts, processes, models and theories presented in the course. Based on this knowledge, the students are expected to demonstrate skills in - Working with regional data and applying them to analyse and compare regions - Applying the presented concepts, processes, models and theories on different regional problems - Integrating data, concepts and models in reflections of spatial patterns.

### Form of instruction

2 hours per week

The course includes lectures, class-room discussions, workshops, and case studies.

## Spring 2017

N°	Date	Topic and readings	Instructor
1	2 February	Introduction: Regional disparities <i>Aoyama et al. 2011: 93-110, ESPON 2010: 11-30</i>	OW
2	9 February	Workshop on regional disparities	OW
3	16 February 12:30-14:00	Guest lecture on US-Mexico border region	OW
4	23 February	Global production networks and value chains <i>Aoyama et al. 2011: 122-128, 137-144; World Economic Forum, The shifting geography of global value chains,</i>	HM
5	2 March	Foreign direct investments <i>Serbanel 2014; Pavlínek 2004; Pavlínek et al. 2009</i>	HM
6	9 March	Transition economies <i>Gross and Steinherr 2004,</i>	HM
7	16 March	Transition economies <i>Pistor 2013; Sonin 2013</i>	HM
8	23 March	Emerging themes – Sustainable development <i>Aoyama et al. 2011: 129-136 and 217-223; Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2013</i>	HM
9	30 March	Networks and economics <i>tbc</i>	OW
10	6 April	Knowledge-intensive activities <i>Aoyama et al. 2011: 191-198</i>	OW
11	20 April	Geography of finance <i>Aoyama et al. 2011: 199-207; Walther et al. 2011</i>	OW
12	27 April	Cities <i>Krätke 2007; Glaeser 2011: 1-15</i>	OW
13	4 May	Border regions <i>Decoville et al. 2013</i>	OW
14	11 May	Tourism <i>Hall and Page. 2014: 1-41</i>	OW
15	18 May	Course overview, questions and answers	OW

## Literature

Mandatory textbook: Aoyama Y, Murphy JT, Hanson S. 2011. *Key concepts in economic geography*. London, Sage.

Mandatory readings:

Decoville A, Durand F, Sohn C, Walther O. 2013. Comparing cross-border metropolitan integration in Europe: Towards a functional typology. *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 28(2): 221-237.

- Ellen MacArthur Foundation 2013. *Wales and the circular economy* - Favourable system conditions and economic opportunities. Ellen MacArthur Foundation for the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Welsh Government.
- ESPON 2010. *New Evidence on Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Territories*. Luxembourg, European Spatial Planning Observatory Network.
- Glaeser E. 2011. *Triumph of the City. How our Greatest Invention Makes us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier*. New York, Penguin.
- Gross, Daniel, Steinherr, Alfred, 2004, *Economic transition in Central and Eastern Europe*, Cambridge
- Hall MC, Page SJ. 2014. *The Geography of Tourism and Recreation*. London, Routledge.
- Keating M, Wilson A. 2014. Regions with regionalism? The rescaling of interest groups in six European states. *European Journal of Political Research* 53(4): 840-857.
- Krätke S. 2007. Metropolisation of the European economic territory as a consequence of increasing specialisation of urban agglomerations in the knowledge economy. *European Planning Studies* 15(1): 1-27.
- Pavlínek B. 2004. Regional development implications of Foreign Direct Investment in Central Europe. *European Urban and Regional Studies* 11(1), pp. 47-70.
- Pavlínek B, Domanski K & Guzik R. 2009. Industrial upgrading through foreign direct investment in Central European automotive manufacturing. *European Urban and Regional Studies* 16(1), pp. 43-63.
- Pistor K. 2013. Towards a new transition economics – comments on Konstantin Sonin’s ‘The End of Economic Transition’. *Economics of Transition*, 21:1, pp 11-16.
- Serbanel, Christiana Ioana, Romanian Textile industry and its competitive advantage, *SEA, Practical application of Science, Vol II, Issue 2 (4) /2014 pp 395 -404*
- Skytt CB, Winther L. 2011. Trust and local knowledge production: Interorganisational collaborations in the Sønderborg Region, *Danish Journal of Geography*, vol 111(1)
- Sonin K. 2013. The end of economic transition – Lessons for future reformers and students of reform. *Economics of Transition*, 21:1, pp 1-10.
- Walther O, Schulz C, Dörry S. 2011. Specialized international financial centres and their crisis resilience: the case of Luxembourg. *Geographische Zeitschrift* 99(2-3): 123-142.
- World Economic Forum, 2012, *The shifting geography of global value chains: Implications for developing countries and trade policy*

## **Methods of evaluation**

The examination consists of two parts:

- 1) A 10-page paper to be handed in the autumn semester, in which students will use several statistical sources to study the economic evolution of a region; internal evaluation, passed/not passed.
- 2) A 15-page paper during the spring semester in which students will apply some of the key concepts developed over the semester to a specific region; external evaluation according to the Danish 7-point scale.

## **Ethics**

Research papers will be dealt according to the University of Southern Denmark integrity policy available here: [http://www.sdu.dk/en/information\\_til/studerende\\_ved\\_sdu/eksamen/snyd](http://www.sdu.dk/en/information_til/studerende_ved_sdu/eksamen/snyd) and the tool SafeAssign will be used to detect plagiarism ([http://www.sdu.dk/en/om\\_sdu/faellesomraadet/it-service/services/antiplagiat](http://www.sdu.dk/en/om_sdu/faellesomraadet/it-service/services/antiplagiat)).

## **Other information**

The official course description is available here:

[http://fagbesk.sam.sdu.dk/study/fagbasen/admin/fagbesk\\_admin.shtml?fag\\_id=34086](http://fagbesk.sam.sdu.dk/study/fagbasen/admin/fagbesk_admin.shtml?fag_id=34086)

Books and articles can be accessed using SDU Library: <http://www.sdu.dk/en/bibliotek> or the national portal Bibliotek.dk <https://bibliotek.dk/eng>

Students must bring their own computer to all classes.