

**Innovation Systems Research Network (ISRN)
11th Annual Conference
April 29-30 & May 1, 2009
Delta Halifax, Nova Scotia – Bluenose Ballroom**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2009
Day One – ISRN Policy Day Agenda**

INFRASTRUCTURE, INNOVATION & URBAN COMPETITIVENESS

(08:00-09:00) Breakfast – Empress Board Room

Session I

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome to Halifax**

Jill Grant on behalf of ISRN Management Committee
David Wolfe - Co-Director ISRN

Session II - Keynote Address

09:30 – 10:15 **The Infrastructure of Innovation: Learning from International Experience**

Kevin Morgan, Professor of Governance and Development
City and Regional Planning, Cardiff University
Member of the ISRN Research Advisory Committee

(10:15-10:30) Networking Break

Session III - ISRN Presentations of Findings

[15 minute presentation each followed by Q&A/discussion period]

10:30 – 12:00 **How does the quality of infrastructure affect the potential for innovation and development in Canadian city regions?**

1. Cultural or creative infrastructure – Toronto
Charles Davis, Ryerson University
2. Cultural creative infrastructure - Canada
Nancy Duxbury, Simon Fraser University
3. Physical infrastructure – Vancouver
Tom Hutton, University of British Columbia
4. Research Infrastructure – Saskatoon
Peter Phillips, University of Saskatchewan

(12:00 – 13:00) Lunch – Empress Boardroom

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Day One continued

Session IV – Infrastructure, Policy and Innovation

[15 minute presentation each followed by Q&A/discussion period]

13:00 – 14:30 **Focus Question: What research and information do decision-makers need to make policy decisions about the research, physical and cultural/creative infrastructure of innovation?**

David King, President and CEO, Genesis Centre, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Fred Morley, Executive Vice President and Chief Economist, Greater Halifax Partnership (GHP), Nova Scotia

Doug Robertson, Director Innovation Policy and Research Projects, Policy and Program Branch, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, New Brunswick

Questions from audience

(14:30-14:45) Networking Break

Session V - The Urban Dynamics of Talent Attraction and Retention

14:45 – 16:30 **Focus question: What role does research infrastructure in the city region play in attracting and retaining talent, or in affording local firms a competitive advantage in the respective markets?**

Martha Crago, Vice-President Research, Dalhousie University

Respondents:

Meric Gertler, University of Toronto

Hervey Gibson, Cogent Strategies International Ltd (CogentSI), Scotland

Robert MacKinnon, University of New Brunswick

Cooper Langford, University of Calgary

16:30 – 17:00 **Wrap Up: The Infrastructure of Innovation**

David Wolfe

Adjourn

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**17:15–18:30 - Cash Bar Reception
Bluenose Ballroom**

[Members please refer to ISRN Itinerary for evening plans.]

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**DAY TWO – ISRN Meeting Agenda
Thursday, April 30, 2009**

(08:00-09:00) Breakfast – Empress Board Room

Session VI - Integration Presentation

09:00 – 9:15 Meric Gertler, Co-Director, ISRN

Session VII - Theme 1

[15 minute presentation each followed by 15 minute Q&A/discussion period]

09:15 – 10:30 **Innovation and Knowledge Flows in City Regions**

The primary hypothesis for this theme of the project is that the economic and creative performance of city-regions depends on three key characteristics: the strength of local knowledge flows within individual industrial sectors, the strength of local knowledge flows across industrial sectors, and the strength of knowledge-based linkages between local and non-local economic actors. To further clarify, the working hypothesis was that: the economic performance of city-regions depends on the density and/or interaction of local networks, the relative mix of local and non-local ties, as well as the heterogeneity and diversity of economic actors belonging to these networks.

FOCUS QUESTION: Based on the research from your case studies, to what extent do the strength of knowledge flows affect the nature of the innovation process in your city, and how has knowledge circulation influenced the economic development/trajectory of the city?

Moncton: Yves Bourgeois, Université de Moncton ***"Face-to-Facebook: proximity and innovation in the Greater Moncton economy"***

Saint John: Robert MacKinnon, University of New Brunswick- Saint John
"Talent and innovation in Saint John, N.B."

Montréal: Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay & Juan-Luis Klein, Université du Québec à Montréal ***"Innovation and clustering in Montreal: between a product-based and a competence-based local system"***

Hamilton: Peter Warrian, University of Toronto ***"Biotech in lunch buckets: The curious knowledge networks in steel town"***

(10:30-10:45) Networking Break

Session VIII - Theme 1 Continued.

10:45 – 12:00 **Innovation and Knowledge Flows in City Regions**

St. John's: Rob Greenwood, Memorial University of Newfoundland ***"Innovation and knowledge flows in city regions: St. John's – metropolis on the margins?"***

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Vancouver: Adam Holbrook, Simon Fraser University ***"On the edge: Emerging technologies in Vancouver; local systems of innovation and globalization"***

Calgary: Cooper Langford, University of Calgary ***"Firms and their problems: systemic innovation in Calgary"***

Saskatoon: Peter Phillips, University of Saskatchewan ***"Innovation and knowledge flows in the Saskatoon city region"***

(12:15-13:00) Lunch – Empress Board Room)

Session IX – Theme 2

[15 minute presentation each followed by 15 minute Q&A/discussion period]

13:00 – 14:15

Talent and Creativity in City Regions

The primary hypothesis for this theme of the project is that the economic performance of city-regions depends on a set of characteristics that define quality of place, including cultural dynamism, social diversity, openness and tolerance, social inclusion and cohesion. We were especially interested in identifying those institutions, policies and practices that ensure that talented newcomers are welcomed and integrated into a city-region's social and economic networks and that enable members of disadvantaged social groups to participate fully in urban creative economies.

FOCUS QUESTION: What are the factors that most effectively attract and retain talented and creative workers to city regions? Do talented and creative workers in different industries value the same kinds of things?

London: Neil Bradford and Kadie Ward, Huron College, University of Western Ontario ***"Social foundations of talent attraction and retention in London Ontario"***

Halifax: Jill Grant, Dalhousie University ***"Smart City/Cool City: Attracting and retaining talented and creative workers in Halifax"***

Toronto: Debbie Leslie & Shauna Brail, University of Toronto ***"The case of fashion talent in Toronto: A reevaluation of amenities based theories"***

Waterloo: Tara Vinodrai, University of Waterloo ***"Battling Waterloo: Talent, quality of place and the 10-minute city"***

Breakout Refreshments - pick up and proceed to breakout room

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Session X – Breakout Sessions

14:30 – 16:45

Theme 1: Innovation and Knowledge Flows – Bluenose Ballroom

FOCUS QUESTION: How do knowledge flows affect the nature of the innovation process in particular cities? What evidence have we found to indicate that cross-sectoral knowledge flows are contributing to the innovation process in our city regions?

Theme 2: Talent and Creativity – MacDonald Room – Lobby Level

FOCUS QUESTION: What factors most effectively attract and retain talented and creative workers to city regions? Do talented and creative workers in different industries value the same kinds of things?

Theme 3: Governance – McNab Room – Lobby Level

FOCUS QUESTION: How does the nature and degree of associative governance affect the context for innovation in our city regions? How has associative governance influenced the development of economic strategies in the region?

Session XI - Breakout Session Report Back To Plenary

16:45 – 17:30

Moderators:

- 1) David Wolfe
- 2) Meric Gertler
- 3) Jill Grant

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**DAY THREE – ISRN MEETING AGENDA
Friday, May 1, 2009**

(08:00-09:00) Breakfast – Empress Board Room

Session XII - ISRN: The Next Generation [Graduate Student Papers]

[15 minute presentation/5 minute response/10 minute discussion period for each presentation]

09:00 – 09:30 Yannik Melançon, Université du Québec à Rimouski/University of Ottawa
Supporting innovation in the periphery: the role of support organizations in the maritime industry of Quebec's coastal region

Respondent Bjorn Asheim, Lund University

09:30 – 10:00 Graeme Webb, University of Saskatchewan
Creative social entrepreneurs, social capital, and collaborative governance: a Saskatoon case study

Respondent Gernot Grabher, University of Bonn

10:00 – 10:30 Mark Leger, University of New Brunswick St. John
Evolution of a 'mega-community': How the business sector in Saint John, N.B. initiated a social capital network to fight poverty

Respondent Susan Clarke, University of Colorado

(10:30-10:45) Networking Break

10:45 – 11:15 Heather Hall, Queen's University
Innovation and creativity on the periphery: Challenges and opportunities in northern Ontario

Respondent Philip Cooke, Cardiff University

11:15 – 11:45 Katherine Geddie, University of Toronto
When the world is your oyster: factors shaping international students' post-graduation plans

Respondent Peter Maskell, Copenhagen Business School

11:45 – 12:15 Amy Cervenán, University of Toronto
Cultural governance in Toronto

Respondent Kevin Morgan, Cardiff University for Susan Christopherson, Cornell University

(12:15-13:15) Lunch – Empress Board Room

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Session XIII [15 minute presentation each followed by 15 minute Q&A/discussion period]

13:15 – 14:30 **Theme 3: Governance and Economic Performance in City Regions**

The primary hypothesis for this theme is that the economic performance of city-regions depends on their ability to generate new forms of associative governance – including, but not limited to, government – and collaborative leadership. Moreover, in those cases where such forms of governance have been designed in socially inclusive ways, we are interested in documenting the impact this has on the nature of development strategies pursued by city-regions. Development strategies were defined at the Kingsbridge meeting to include economic, social and cultural development strategies.

FOCUS QUESTION: To what extent is there evidence from your case study that associative forms of governance are emerging at the urban level? How has associative governance influenced the development of economic strategies in the region?

Kingston: Betsy Donald and Melanie Bedore, Queen's University
"Pursuing fuzzy concepts while neglecting livability: the case of governing Kingston, 2004-2009"

Québec City: Réjean Landry, Université de Laval ***"What are the linkages between governance of innovation and business models? The case of intermediary organizations of the Québec City region"***

Trois-Rivières: Michel Trépanier, INRS – UCS ***"Social dynamics of innovation: What governance for the Trois-Rivières City-Region?"***

Waterloo: Jen Nelles, University of Toronto ***"The Waterloo myth? Governance in the clouds"***

Breakout Refreshments - pick up and proceed to breakout room

Session XIV - Breakout Session On Integration

14:45 – 16:45 **Action Board for Integration Themes**

Instructions are in your conference package and posted on action board in meeting room.

The key goal is to develop alternative/additional themes and identify opportunities for comparison and collaboration that will help us integrate the findings within each city and across the cities that comprise the case studies.

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Session XV - Breakout Session Presentations to Plenary

16:45 – 17:30

1. Bluenose Ballroom – **Disruptive change and rapid transitions** (Caroline Andrew)
2. MacDonald Room, 1st floor – **Infrastructure and institutions** (David Wolfe)
3. McNab Room, 1st floor – **Creative industries, people, place and migration** (Charles Davis)
4. Mayflower Room, 1st floor – **Symbiotic innovation** (Rob Greenwood)

Wrap-Up – Next Steps

David Wolfe/Meric Gertler

Adjourn

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RAC/Management Committee Members – Please refer to ISRN Itinerary for Saturday RAC Meeting Information.