

Dr. Gregory Spencer is the Manager of Local IDEAs (Indicator Database for Economic Analysis) at the Munk School for Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. He has worked with the Innovation Systems Research Network (ISRN) and the Program on Globalization and Regional Innovation Systems (PROGRIS) since 2003. His research broadly deals with the economies of cities in a global context. His dissertation entitled "The creative advantage of diverse city-regions: local context and social networks" (Geography, University of Toronto) examined how the creative process is influenced by differences in local context and how this impacts the economic geography of Canada. Recently, Greg has consulted on rural creative economic development strategies in both Ontario and Newfoundland. Greg has taught undergraduate courses in Social Research Methods and Regional Dynamics in the Department of Geography as well as (quantitative) Planning Methods in the Master's Program in Planning at the University of Toronto. Previous to undertaking his doctorate Greg worked for four years at the Local Futures Group, an economic development consultancy based in London, UK. During his tenure with LFG Greg produced numerous knowledge economy strategies for local authorities and regional development agencies. He also contributed to several European Commission research projects including Benchmarking the Information Society in European Regions (BISER). Greg holds a Ph.D. (Geography) and M.Sc.Pl. (Planning) from the University of Toronto and a B.A. in Geography from Bishop's University.