

8th International Conference on

Rethinking Clusters

In New Geopolitical and Sustainability
Dynamics: Exploring Emerging Markets

November 23rd-26th, 2025
University of Vale do Itajaí, SC, Brazil

Local Organizer



Co-organizers



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DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE
ECONOMICHE E AZIENDALI
"MARCO FANNO"

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About Univali

The milestone marking the beginning of higher education in Itajaí is officially September 22, 1964, when the Sociedade Itajaiense de Ensino Superior (SIES) was transformed into a public institution by Municipal Law No. 599/64. A few days earlier, on September 16, SIES had already registered its bylaws with a notary office, but as a private institution. Its transformation into a public entity was considered the most appropriate solution to make the educational initiative viable — an initiative that initially aimed to establish the Faculdade de Ciências Jurídicas e Sociais do Vale do Itajaí (School of Legal and Social Sciences of the Itajaí Valley) and the Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras do Vale do Itajaí (School of Philosophy, Sciences, and Humanities of the Itajaí Valley).

This story was built from the needs of the local community, with the purpose of providing access to higher education away from the state capital. Over time, the institution became one of the most recognized higher education establishments in Brazil, offering education from early childhood to postgraduate studies. An example of this is the top score (5) in the recognition evaluation conducted by the Ministry of Education. Additionally, the General Course Index (IGC) from the Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas Educacionais Anísio Teixeira (Inep/MEC) places Univali among the best non-public universities in the state. Univali is also ranked among the best universities in Latin America according to the Times Higher Education (THE), QS Latin America University Rankings, Webometrics, and GreenMetrics.

Currently, the Universidade do Vale do Itajaí (Univali) encompasses a universe of more than 25,000 students, two schools, 100 undergraduate programs (both on-campus and distance learning), around 80 ongoing specialization programs, twelve master's and six doctoral programs — all recommended by Capes/MEC. It maintains libraries across all campuses with more than 200,000 books, journals, and database access; over 500 classrooms and 250 laboratories; a faculty of 1,113 professors (83.46% holding master's or doctoral degrees); 1,065 administrative staff members; and its own radio and TV station.

In the research field, more than 100 research groups are permanently active, generating scientific output and innovative products that position the University prominently in international rankings. In extension activities, there are currently 13 institutional programs and 65 projects that positively impact surrounding communities.

Thus, Univali operates in teaching, research, extension, innovation, and internationalization across major fields of knowledge: the School of Health Sciences, the School of Business, Education and Communication, the Polytechnic School, and the School of Legal and Social Sciences. The university is present throughout the Central-North coast of Santa Catarina, in the municipalities of Balneário Piçarras, Itajaí, Balneário Camboriú, Tijucas, Biguaçu, São José, and Florianópolis.



Program **November**

23
November

Preliminary Program

5:00pm – Welcome Reception

Caprezii Restaurante

📍 Rua dep. Fransisco Evaristo Canziani, 463 – Fazenda, Itajaí

Free pre-registration



24
November

Pre-event day (Young Scholars)

8:30 am – Registration: *Google Room – Building B3*



9:00 am – PDW for Young Scholars (hybrid format): *Google Room – Building B3 (in-person participation)*
*Virtual Room Link (online participation): **Click here***

Ronaldo Parente – *Florida International University / Associate editor for Long Range Planning*



Prof. Ram Mudambi – *Speakman Professor of Strategy at the Fox School of Business, Temple University. He previously served on the faculties of the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Reading (UK).*



2:00 pm – Workshop – Interviewing for Impact: *Google Room – Building B3 (in-person participation)*
*Virtual Room Link (online participation): **Click here***

Shauna Brail – *University of Toronto*

9:30 am à 16:30 pm – PDW European Management Review: *Room 101 – Building B3 (in-person participation)*
*Virtual Room Link (online participation): **Click here***

Guest-editors: Chairs Cristina Boari, Francesco Capone, Luciana Castro Gonçalves, Luis Martínez-Cháfer and Liliana Mitkova

24
November

Residential Real Estate Ventures: Is Trust the Key to Innovation?

Ana Paula Travisani

From Proximities to Location Capabilities: How Innovation Ecosystems Foster Firms' Internationalization

Beatrice Maria Zanellato Fonseca Mayer

From Intentions to Outcomes: Assessing the ESG–SDG Alignment in Brazilian Credit Cooperatives

Camile Rebeca Bruns, Anete Alberton e Danielle Denes dos Santos

Smart Cities and the Quintuple Helix of Innovation: Interorganizational Knowledge Collaboration for Urban Sustainability

Eduardo Guilherme Nuncio, Anete Alberton

Diffusion of frugal innovation in the health sector: the barrier of institutional pressures

Evertom Waltrick da Silva and André Moraes dos Santos

Digital Networking: How LinkedIn Reconfigures Personal Networks into an High Tech Accelerator in Brazil

Guilherme Olímpio Fagundes, Elisa Klüger

Knowledge transfer and innovation: A case study of jalisco medical industry cluster

Juan Manuel Becerril Del Toro

Mapping and analyzing the tirana start-up ecosystem: Social networks, organizational interactions and growth pathways

Klevisa Kapo

Sociotechnical Imaginaries and Foresight in Brazilian Airports: Anticipating Futures in Complex Contexts

Neuza Wagner

The methodological state of causal research in corporate activism

Roberto Carlos Imme Júnior

Collaboration strategies for digitalization in the uruguayan forestry industry: a social network analysis

Sofía Maio, Carlos Bianchi, Pablo Galaso, Sergio Palomeque

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in a Religious Tourist Destination

Paulo Sérgio Reinert, Fernando Cesar Lenzi

24/Nov
9:30–11:00

Innovation in video game industry: exploring open innovation mechanism on soft and hidden dimensions of innovation

Hedyeh Khan Babakhani, María Luisa Flora, Teresa Vallet Bellmunta

Configurational analysis of proximity dimensions and their effects on performance; a qualitative comparative analysis approach

Sara Galehbakhtiari

Unpacking the role of digital clusters in smes internationalization: a prospector approach

Magali Pino, Augusto Bargoni, Alberto Ferraris, Caroline Hussler

24/Nov
11:30–13:00

Between cooperation and opportunism: managing responsible innovation in innovation ecosystems

Louisa Schmeiduch, Marion Neukam, Sophie Bollinger

Forces and tensions shaping creative cluster evolution: a longitudinal study of the lyon video game ecosystem

Chahira Mehouchi, Thomas Paris, Camille Toussaint

The specificities of openness paradoxes in the context of open social innovation

Alexandre Chloé, Ayerbe Cécile, Mignon Sophie, Toillier Aurélie

24/Nov
14:30–16:30

Entrepreneurial abilities in ecosystem support organizations and the openness–closure dynamics of clusters: evidence from intermediate cities in emerging economies

Andres Guerrero Alvarado

What to do when the shoes start to tighten along the journey? opportunity spaces, innovation, and cluster resilience.

Valmir Emil Hoffmann, Luiz Fernando Câmara Viana, Hugo Emanuel dos Reis Sales da Cruz Pinto

Selection, influence and spatial heterogeneity in a regional organizational community

Francesca Pallotti, Viviana Amati and Alessandro Lomi

25/Nov
10:30–13:00

From proximities to location capabilities: how innovation ecosystems foster firms' internationalization

Beatrice Maria Zanellato Fonseca Mayer

Integrating diversity: emergence of a social innovation ecosystem in the disability sector

Anaïs Garin, Mathias Béjean, and Stefan Meisiek

Institutional and individual actors' interplay in shaping a healthcare innovation network: nurse robot, a virtual hospital solution in quebec

Goglio Karine, Crespin-Mazet Florence and Simona D'Antone

Governance mechanisms to develop interorganizational communities of innovation: the role of open labs

Valerie Merindol, David W. Versailles, Nicolas Aubouin

25
November

Main Conference

8:30 am – Opening Ceremony: Auditorium IV – Building E1

Valdir Cechinel Filho

Rector of the University of Vale do Itajaí (Univali)

Robison Coelho

Mayor of Itajaí

Fátima de Campos Buzzi

Pro-Rector for Research, Postgraduate, Extension, and Innovation – University of Vale do Itajaí (Univali)

Níkolás Reis

President Director of Invest Itajaí

Emerson Pereira

Deputy Secretary for International Relations and Strategic Projects

Gustavo Behling

*Coordinator of the Professional Master's in Administration – Management, Internationalization, and Logistics (PMPGIL) ;
University of Vale do Itajaí (Univali), Local Organizer*

Dinorá Floriani

*Postgraduate Programme in Business and Management (PPGA) and Master Programme in Business,
Internationalization, and Logistics (PMPGIL); University of Vale do Itajaí (Univali), Local Organizer*

Camila Monteiro

Internationalization Manager – University of Vale do Itajaí (Univali)

9:00 am – Opening Keynote by Prof. Shauna Brail: Auditorium IV – Building E1

University of Toronto (Canadá) From clusters to clouds: Urban economies in the platform age

Chair and Discussant: Dinorá Floriani and Francesco Capone

10:30 am – Parallel Sessions

2:00 pm – Special Session (plenary) – What's behind the Ecological Transition?: Auditorium IV – Building E1

Chairs: Silvia Rita Sedita and Amir Maghssudipour

4:30 pm – Parallel Sessions



26
November

Main Conference



9:00 am – Keynote by Prof. Miguel Córdova: *Auditorium IV – Building E1*
Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico

How Business Aristocracies Form and Wield Power in the Global

Chair and Discussant: Silvio Luís de Vanconcellos e Ronaldo Parente

10:30 am – Parallel Sessions

2:00 pm – Parallel Sessions



**4:00 pm – Closing Keynote by Prof. Ram Mudambi – Rethinking Clusters in Academia:
New Perspectives and Future Research – Auditorium IV – Building E1**

6:00 pm – Closing Remarks: *Auditorium IV – Building E1*

27
November

Tours

9:00 am – Guided Visit to the Univali Oceanographic Museum

2:00 pm – *Guided Visit to The Itajaí Portonave Port Terminal*

Free pre-registration



Parallel **Sessions**

25
November

10:30

Session 1: Room 101 (Portonave) – Building B3
Tourism, Culture, and Inclusion
(Sustainable Places)

Chair: Pablo Limberger **Discussant:** Márcia Sarubbi Lippmann

Restorative tourist destinations in emerging markets: A conceptual framework integrating technological innovation, relational justice, and regenerative governance
Márcia Sarubbi Lippmann, Ana Paula Lisboa Sohn, Luciano Torres Tricarico

Reframing diversity through hybrid careers
Philipe Cerqueira de Melo, Tânia Maria Diederichs Fischer

Creative economy and luxury tourism on the Brazilian coast: Local inter-organizational networks
Diana Costa de Castro, Juliana Niehues Gonçalves de Lima

Innovation Ecosystems and Network Dynamics: A Comparative Study between Tel Aviv and Campinas
Renata Giacomini Menezes, Silvio Luis de Vasconcellos

Session 2: Room 112 (ABIVA) – Building B7
Ports, Logistics, and Strategic Partnerships

Chair: Luiz Eduardo Simão **Discussant:** Miguel Cordova

The international JV between the Port of Rotterdam and the Port of Pecém (Brazil): An assessment of the impact to cargo throughput
Isabelle Louise Pimenta Blight, Bruno Duarte, Fernando Seabra, Carlos Magno L S Filho

The rise of regionalism in supply chains: Sovereign logistics clusters and economic integration in Latin America
Luiz Eduardo Simao, Andreia Luciana da Rosa Scharmach

Mapping logistics startups in Santa Catarina
Ivana Lopes dos Santos, Andreia Luciana da Rosa Scharmach, Luiz Eduardo Simao

Logistics performance across geographical, economic, and innovation clusters: A global comparative analysis of 2023 and directions for longitudinal research
Miguel Cordova, Ivanete Schneider Hahn

Session 3: Room 109 (Asia Shipping) – Building B6
Organizational Performance and Digital Transformation

Chair: Ronaldo Parente **Discussant:** Valmir Emil

Does change make one survive? The relationship between business model innovation and organisational resilience in organisational performance
Valmir Emil Hoffmann, Crisiane Teixeira da Silva Gretter, Luiz Fernando Câmara Viana

The role of artificial intelligence in the digital transformation of agribusiness: A bibliometric analysis
Ana Maria Henao Ramirez, Yuri Fukuoka de Oliveira, Pedro Ivo Silva da Nóbrega, Aurora Carneiro Zen

Artificial intelligence literacy in management: Bibliometric evidence and first impressions
Karen Domingos Barrionuevo e André Moraes dos Santos

From sensemaking to sensebreaking: LATAM Airlines and the paradoxes of the 2030 Agenda
Bárbara Ivy Crema de Vasconcelos, Anete Alberton

Special session: Auditorium IV – Building E1

What's behind the Ecological Transition? *Investigating Individual and Community Engagement in Firms, Clusters, and Regional Ecosystems*

Chair: Amir Maghssudipour **Discussant:** Amir Maghssudipour, Anna Lis, Giuseppe Danese, Maurizio Pioletti, Anna Lis, Giuseppe Danese, Maurizio Pioletti

The role of municipalities in the decarbonization process: Evidence from Poland – *Anna Lis, Weronika Radziszewska, Jörg Verstraete, Anna Wendt*

Adaptation strategies of Italian SMEs to climate change – *Giuseppe Danese, Marco Bettiol, Marco Buso*

The case of the community of environmental service providers in southern São Paulo: Implications for regional ecosystem development in the ecological transition – *Maurizio Pioletti*

Between Aspiration and Reproduction: Rethinking Energy Communities in the Energy Transition – *Amir Maghssudipour, Silvia Rita Sedita, Giuseppe Danese*

14:00

Session 4: Room 101 (Portonave) – *Building B3*
**Universities, Common Good,
and Territorial Governance**

Chair: Barbara Ivy C. de Vasconcellos

Discussant: Anna Lis

**Universities in transformation ecosystems: The common good,
co-governance, and responsibility**

Anna Lis, Adrian Lis

**Decoding perceptions: Unveiling the interplay of identity, image,
and reputation through sensemaking framework in a Global
Compact signatory airline**

Bárbara Ivy Crema de Vasconcelos, Anete Alberton

**Flying towards net-zero: How Embraer leverages global
partnerships to transform the aerospace industry for
sustainability**

*Arthur Barbosa da Silva, Júlia Nara da Silva Padoan, Hemili Bordin da Silva,
Eduardo Amaro Pilau*

**Navigating change: Institutions, resources, and adaptations – The
case of Porto Itapoá (1993–2025)**

Rafaela Teodoro Roberts, Rosilene Marcon

Session 5: Room 112 (ABIVA) – *Building B7*
**Networks, Proximities, and
Innovative Performance**

Chair: Francesco Capone

Discussant: Janaina Ruffoni

**How digital age does not erase localities: A proximity-based analysis
of on-line and off-line innovation networks**

Francesco Capone, Niccolò Innocenti

**Support networks for local SMEs and innovation performance:
Evidence from a region in Latin America**

Sergio Palomeque, Adrián Rodríguez Miranda, Pablo Galaso

**University extension governance: Reflections on the practices of the
Federal Institute of Tocantins in interaction with society**

Januário Sarmiento, Janaina Ruffoni, Gisele Spricigo

Orchestration of regenerative innovation practices in ecosystems

Diogo Barbosa Leite, Silvina Maria dos Anjos, Silvio Luis de Vasconcellos

**Digital borders and porosity: The challenge of geopolitical shifts for
innovation ecosystems**

Roberto Rodolfo Georg Uebel, Silvio Luis de Vasconcellos

Session 6: Room 109 (Asia Shipping) – *Building B6*
**Smart Cities, Mobility,
and Inclusion**

Chair: Shauna Brail

Discussant: Aurora Carneiro Zen

Citizens' perspective on smart mobility: A medium city analysis

*Pedro Ivo Silva da Nóbrega, Alisson da Silva Lima, Daiane Lippert Tavares,
Aurora Carneiro Zen*

**Smart cities and urban living labs: Challenging techno-optimist
logics in the Global South**

Diego Hernando Florez Ayala, Laryssa Tarachucky

**Reframing tradition: Digital transformation strategies in Liaoning
museums and the role in urban revitalization**

Xinyao Queena Wang

**How do lead firms incept new technology in industrial districts?
Unfolding the discontinuous stage**

Jose Hervas Oliver, Carles Boronat-moll

**From proximities to location capabilities: How innovation ecosystems
foster firms' internationalization**

Beatrice Maria Zanellato Fonseca Mayer, Dinorá Eliete Floriani

Session 7: Room 101 (Portonave) – *Building B3*
Governance, Risk, and Competitiveness in Clusters

Chair: Niccolò Innocenti

Discussant: Niccolò Innocenti

Governing dual–use technologies in industrial clusters: Leadership, regulation and the fine line between growth and risk
Marta Mackiewicz, Dominika Kuberska

The open source software – patents nexus in firms’ strategies: Emerging forms of coopetition?
Niccolò Innocenti, Leonardo Mazzoni, Francesco Capone, Sergio Petralia

The impact of ESG strategies on startup valuation
Roberto Carlos Imme Júnior

Session 8: Room 112 (ABIVA) – *Building B7*
Sustainability and Networks in the Beverage Sector

Chair: Miguel Córdova

Discussant: Federica Sacco

Sustainability perceptions and actor–networks: A cross–country study in the wine sector
Marcelo Kratz Mendes, Olga Cam, Juliana Meira, André Carlos Cau dos Santos, Aurora Carneiro Zen

Sustainability transitions in Brazil: The outcomes of organizational learning in Santa Catarina’s high–altitude wine industry
Gabriella Pinheiro Servi, Anete Alberton, Diego Hernando Florez Ayala, Dinorá Eliete Floriani

Challenges in global value chains: A multiple case study to foster local sustainability of national drinks in Latin America
Karla Maria Nava–aguirre, Miguel Cordova, Dinorá Eliete Floriani, Fabiola Monje–Cueto

Session 9: Room 109 (Asia Shipping) – *Building B6*
Governance and Contexts for Knowledge Creation

Chair: Fabio Nazhar

Discussant: André Moraes dos Santos

Governance in innovation habitats: How to promote a strategic context required for knowledge creation
Eduardo Guilherme Nuncio, Cláudio Reis Gonçalo, Anete Alberton, Rafael Pereira Ocampo Moré, Andre Moraes dos Santos

Innovation ecosystems and geographical indications: Theoretical reflections based on the Vale dos Vinhedos cluster
Fábio Nazhar, Felipe Mendes Borini, Eduardo Eugênio Spers, José Afonso Mazzon

Creative hubs in perspective: A systematic review of international academic studies
Eduardo Guilherme Nuncio, Rodrigo Boeing Althof, Deoclécio Junior Cardoso da Silva, Clarissa Stefani Teixeira, Danisson Luiz dos Santos Reis

The role of open innovation in the resilience of innovation ecosystems in emerging countries: A case study on Brazil and Colombia
Aurora Carneiro Zen, Matheus dos Santos Pereira

Session 10: Room 101 (Portonave) – *Building B3*
Global Value Chains and Sustainability

Chair: Amir Maghssudipour

Discussant: Cristina Boari and Adrián Rodríguez Miranda

Understanding the Brazilian energy transition: History and outlook
Gabriela Almeida Marcon Nora, Anete Alberton, Diego Hernando Florez Ayala

Resilient and sustainable global value chains in an era of economic decoupling: An exploratory study of the semiconductor–automotive nexus
Federica Sacco, Giovanna Magnani, Pervez N. Ghauri

Navigating the storms: Extreme events, business model adaptation, and resilience in Brazil’s wine industry
Aurora Carneiro Zen, Pedro Ivo Silva da Nóbrega, Anderson Raphael Padilha de Oliveira, Pamela Priscila Correia, Cristina Boari

Collaborative responses to environmental challenges in local agri–food systems: Insights from the dairy cluster in Colonia, Uruguay
Adrián Rodríguez Miranda, Pablo Galaso, Sofia Maio Rezk

Understanding the process of technology change in clusters and industrial districts: How does the discontinuous stage work?
Jose Hervas Oliver

Session 11: Room 112 (ABIVA) – *Building B7*
International Entrepreneurship and Territorial Embeddedness

Chair: Gabriela G. Silveira Fiates

Discussant: Alexandre Prim

Sweet responsibility: How Luzz Cacau blends origin, inclusion, and sustainability
Mayara Pellenz, Angélica Patel, Camile Bruns

Policies for entrepreneurship incentive: A study of the distribution of subsidy resources in the state of Santa Catarina
Gabriela G. Silveira Fiates, Frederick Augusto Maciel Vilamil

Collaboration strategies for digitalisation in the Uruguayan forestry industry: a social network analysis
Sofia Maio, Carlos Bianchi, Pablo Galaso, Sergio Palomeque

Session 12: Room 109 (Asia Shipping) – *Building B6*
Resilience and Sustainability in Business Models

Chair: Liliana Mitkova

Discussant: Marta Mackiewicz

Business trust and sustainable business models: The role of business ecosystems and artificial intelligence in overcoming barriers and innovation performance
Paulo Vinicius Petriz Monteiro, Fabio de Oliveira Paula, David Nunes Resende, Murilo de Alencar Souza Oliveira

What to do when the shoes start to tighten along the journey? Opportunity spaces, innovation, and cluster resilience
Luiz Fernando Câmara Viana, Valmir Emil Hoffmann

Sustainability on board: How stakeholder discursive interactions shape an airline business model?
Bárbara Ivy Crema de Vasconcelos, Anete Alberton

From planned obsolescence to designed progressivity
Evaldo de Souza, Andre Moraes dos Santos, Charles Silva de Souza

Organizers

The conference is organized by the Postgraduate Programme in Business and Management
University of Vale do Itajaí – UNIVALI,SC, Brazil.



Anete Alberton

Full Professor at the Postgraduate Programme in Business and Management (PPGA/UNIVALI) and the Master Programme in Business, Internationalization, and Logistics (PMPGIL/UNIVALI). Her research focuses on Stakeholder Theory, Corporate Sustainability, Social and Environmental Responsibility, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ESG and performance indicators, Active Learning, Learning Styles, Teaching Cases, and Business Games.

Email: anete@univali.br



Dinorá Eliete Floriani

Full Professor at the Postgraduate Programme in Business and Management (PPGA/UNIVALI) and the Master Programme in Business, Internationalization, and Logistics (PMPGIL/UNIVALI). Her research focuses on International Business, Internationalization Strategies, and the Internationalization of SMEs.

Email: dinora@univali.br



Gustavo Behling

Professor at the Postgraduate Programme in Business and Management (PPGA/UNIVALI) and the Master Programme in Business, Internationalization, and Logistics (PMPGIL/UNIVALI). His research focuses on entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial cognition, and entrepreneurial internationalization.

Email: behling@univali.br



Mohamed Amal

Professor at the Regional University of Blumenau (FURB), in the Department of Economics and the Postgraduate Programme in Business and Management (PPGA/FURB). He also teaches at the University of Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI) in the Master Programme in Business, Internationalization, and Logistics (PMPGIL/UNIVALI). He lectures on International Economics and International Business. He serves as Associate Editor of the European Business Review and was elected Program Chair of the Academy of International Business – Latin America Chapter (2024–2026). His research has been published in national and international journals, with an emphasis on the following topics: foreign direct investment and multinational enterprise strategies, institutions, and geopolitical risk.

Email: amal@univali.br



Rosilene Marcon

Coordinator of the Postgraduate Programme in Business and Management (PPGA/UNIVALI) and Full Professor at the University of Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI). She leads the Research Group on Strategy and Performance (GEEP) at the institution. Her expertise lies in the field of Business Administration, with an emphasis on Financial Management, Capital Markets, and Business Strategy. Her main research topics include Strategy and Performance, Stock Markets, Agency Theory, Institutional Theory, the Resource-Based View (RBV), Corporate Governance, and Non-Market Strategies. She currently serves as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administration and Accounting Sciences at CNPq (the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development).

Email: rmarcon@univali.br

Co-organizers



Annalisa Caloffi

Associate Professor at the Department of Economics and Management, University of Florence. She held a PhD in Economics and management of firms and local systems at the University of Florence. Her research interests focus on industrial and innovation policy, clusters and districts and innovation networks. She is member of the Centre for Applied Economics, Industrial Policy, Local Development and Internationalization – c.MET05, and of the Centre for the Analysis of Public Policies – CAPP, of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

Email: annalisa.caloffi@unifi.it



Francesco Capone

PhD, Associate Professor in Management at the Dept. of Economics and Management, University of Florence. He is member of the Doctorate Programme ‘Developing Economics and Local Systems’ (DELoS), University of Florence. His recent research interests deal with innovation, creativity and inter-organisational collaborations in open contexts, such as industrial districts and clusters. He published several articles in national and international journals, among others: Industry and Innovation, Journal of Business Research, European Planning Studies, European Urban and Regional Studies, Annals of Regional Science, etc. He recently edited with Routledge (2021) ‘Rethinking Clusters. Towards a New Research Agenda for Cluster Research’.

Email: francesco.capone@unifi.it



José Luis Hervás-Oliver

PhD, Full Professor at Universitat Politècnica de València (Valencia, Spain). Dr. Hervás-Oliver has been granted by several Spanish Ministries (Industry, Economics, etc.) in order to fulfill research on innovation. He has three Top Class (A+ honors) distinctions in the BSc, MSc and PhD. Dr. Hervás-Oliver is devoted to the study of firms in clusters: focusing on the intersection of firm-strategy and economic geography in SMEs. Main publications include those in Journal of Economic Geography, Research Policy, Technovation, Regional Studies, Papers in Regional Science, Journal of Technology Transfer, Small Business Economics, Journal of Small Business Management, Journal of Business Research, European Planning Studies, Policy Studies, Entrepreneurship and Regional Development, etc., among many collaborations and works in contributed volumes (Routledge, Springer, Edward Elgar, etc.). At the present time, Dr. Hervás-Oliver leads a R&D Project on Industry 4.0 and clusters in Spain InnoRadical4.0 (RTI2018-095739-B-100).

Email: jose.hervas@omp.upv.es



Luciana Lazzeretti

Full Professor in Economics and Management and founding director of the Post-graduate course in Economics and Management of Cultural Goods and Museums, University of Florence. She is member of the comitee of the Phd Program in ‘Sustainable Development and Climate Change’, University Institute of Higher Studies of Pavia (IUSS). She was the coordinator of the Doctorate Program ‘Development Economics and Local Systems’ (DELoS) and the founder director of the ‘Doctoral School of Social Science’, University of Florence. Her current research interests deal with industrial districts, cultural clusters, cities of art, creative and cultural industries, innovation and creativity, and artificial intelligence. She recently edited ‘Clusters in Time of Uncertainty’ with Edward Elgar (2024), ‘Rethinking Culture and Creativity in the Digital Transformation’ with Routledge (2023), ‘The Rise of Algorithmic Society and the Strategic Role of Arts and Culture’ with Edward Elgar (2023), ‘Rethinking Clusters. Towards a New Research Agenda for Cluster Research’ with Routledge (2021) and ‘Creative Industries and Entrepreneurship: Paradigms in Transition from a Global Perspective’ with Edward Elgar (2018).

Email: luciana.lazzeretti@unifi.it



Rafael Boix

PhD, Full Professor at the Department of Economic Structure, University of Valencia. His current research interests include creative industries, industrial districts and clusters, and networks of cities. He has participated in applied research for the OECD, the Barcelona City and Province, and the Spanish Ministry of Industry. He is the author of book chapters published in Springer, Edward Elgar, Routledge and IGI, and articles in specialized journals such as Land Use Policy, Papers in Regional Science, European Planning Studies, Regional Studies, The Annals of Regional Science, The Journal of Regional Research, Industry and Innovation, and European Urban and Regional Studies, among others.

Email: rafael.boix@uv.es



Silvia Rita Sedita

Full Professor of Management at the Department of Economics and Management, University of Padova. Her research agenda includes issues within the field of management of creativity and innovation in inter-organizational networks. The theoretical focus is on agglomerations (clusters and industrial districts), project based organizations in creative industries and university-industry collaborations in high-tech industries. The main research settings are creative industries (design, music industry), high-tech industries (life science, advanced materials), Italian industrial districts and clusters. She published articles and book chapters in national and international outlets in the field of inter-organizational networks for innovation in clusters and industrial districts.

Email: silvia.sedita@unipd.it

Contact Us
info@rethinkingclusters.org

Local Organizer



Co-organizers



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