

Webinar

Shiri Breznitz (Munk School of Global Affairs)

“Improving or Impairing? Following Technology Transfer Changes at the University of Cambridge”

Tuesday 21 November 2017

16:00 Athens time

Abstract: At academic and policy levels, universities are finding themselves in heated debate about their role in fostering entrepreneurship and local economic growth. Theories that encourage university involvement in the region perceive a straightforward positive correlation between the level of the university contribution and industrial growth in the region. Accordingly, the adaptation of a successful model will have positive results on local economic growth. Utilizing a case study of the University of Cambridge, this paper contends that the impact on regional economies depends on universities’ resources, policies, and organization, as well as on industry’s response to the knowledge and innovation generated.

Bio: Shiri M. Breznitz is an associate professor at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. An economic geographer, she specializes in innovation, technology, and regional economic development. Dr. Breznitz’s research focuses on economic development policies with a particular interest in location theory and university technology transfer on regional, national, and international levels. Professor Breznitz’s work has informed policymaking at the local, national, and international levels. She has advised on the role of universities in the larger story of innovation, on the economic impact of biotechnology, and on the role of clusters in driving innovation. Professor Breznitz’s latest book, “The Fountain of Knowledge” with Stanford University Press (July 2014), analyzes universities’ relationships with government and industry, focusing on the biotechnology sector. Her second book, September 2015, “University Technology Transfer: The Globalization of Academic Innovation” (co-edited with Henry Etzkowitz), analyzes models of university commercialization on national and international levels. Dr. Breznitz received her doctorate from Cambridge University in 2008.