

TEM Conference on tourism and local development of mountain regions -  
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Eric Brunat  
Université Savoie Mont Blanc -F  
eric.brunat@univ-smb.fr

**Topic proposed:**

**Economy of proximity, cross-border effect and entrepreneurship: *condition of innovation and investment in mountain territory, a theoretical and applied approach***

**Abstract:**

In spatial economics, the territory is more than a natural fact, an administrative organization or a sociological and cultural-based economic reality. It is also a place of 'memory', a 'subjective living space' that involves the economic approach of 'long time' including market and non-market relationships and specific institutional articulations -as based of a social construction or a social reconstruction according to a bottom-up stream. Territories are also influenced by the top-down public policy and the strategy of firms (including large and globalized companies). The economic theory hardly tries to mix the two dimensions. Innovation, for example in mountain territories, is the result of complementary and opposing forces arising from natural realities (tourism is a source of profit and constraints) from human activities and realizations and from public policy as well as firms' decisions of investment. The whole generates particularly strong and complex constraints for the development of territories in an open and competitive economy.

The main hypothesis tested in this presentation, is that the "local economic space" is an emergence of complexity, partly a given development regardless of socio-economic system. It is understood that the regional question is a trans-systemic field of study, the methodological point of passage for the comparative analysis of advanced and complex economic systems. It is therefore appropriate to think about the question of economic territory, define the concept of 'region of proximity', integrate historical patterns of socio-economic and institutional relations in a territory of mountain, including the condition of innovation in mountain areas, the process of metropolisation, the positive and negative externalities, the specific constraints in the rural areas, the cross-border effects - borders understood as 'a cut or a seam'... What are the theoretical and conceptual frameworks able to help the decision makers and facilitate a better understanding of complexities?

The research may assess the role of public authorities and the private sector in the evolutionary process of creation of activities and entrepreneurship. This refers to paradigms ultimately inherited of theoretical currents of regional economy, including the most modern and advanced theories of local development and creation of values.