JOURNAL ARTICLE

Gone but not forgotten: knowledge flows, labor mobility, and enduring social relationships

Get access >

Ajay Agrawal, Iain Cockburn, John McHale

Journal of Economic Geography, Volume 6, Issue 5, November 2006, Pages 571– 591, https://doi.org/10.1093/jeg/lbl016

Published: 28 September 2006 Article history ▼

Abstract

We examine the role of social relationships in facilitating knowledge flows by estimating the flow premium captured by a mobile inventor's previous location. Once an inventor has moved, they are gone—but are they forgotten? We find that knowledge flows to an inventor's prior location are approximately 50% greater than if they had never lived there, suggesting that social relationships, not just physical proximity, are important for determining flow patterns. Furthermore, we find that a large portion of this social effect is mediated by institutional links; however, this is not the result of corporate knowledge management systems but rather of personal relationships formed through co-location within an institutional context that endure over time, space, and organizational boundaries. Moreover, we find the effect is nearly twice as large for knowledge flows across as compared to within fields, suggesting that co-location may substitute for communities of practice in determining flow patterns.

© The Author (2006). Published by Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. For Permissions, please email: journals.permissions@oxfordjournals.org

Issue Section: Articles

You do not currently have access to this article.



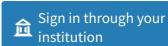
Personal account

- Sign in with email/username & password
- Get email alerts
- Save searches
- Purchase content
- Activate your purchase/trial code
- Add your ORCID iD



Register

Institutional access



Sign in through your institution

Sign in with a library card

Sign in with username/password

Recommend to your librarian

Institutional account management

Sign in as administrator

Purchase

Subscription prices and ordering for this journal

Purchasing options for books and journals across Oxford Academic

Short-term Access

To purchase short-term access, please sign in to your personal account above.

Don't already have a personal account? Register

Gone but not forgotten: knowledge flows, labor mobility, and enduring social relationships - 24 Hours access

EUR €53.00 GBP £44.00 USD \$58.00

Rental



This article is also available for rental through DeepDyve.