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Seven Samurai Opening Up the Ivory Tower? The Construction of Newcastle as an Entrepreneurial University

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Abstract

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understanding to solve the problems involved in exploiting intellectual property in the impoverished regional innovation system (RIS) of the north-east of England.

Acknowledgements

This project reports findings produced within the ESRC-funded project “Bringing Cambridge to Consett: university spin-off companies in the periphery” (RES-000-22-0659). Additional work was supported through the OECD IMHE project “the regional contribution of higher education”, a Research Councils UK Academic Fellowship in Territorial Governance, and supported by the Institute of Governance Studies at Twente University, and the Institute of Policy and Practise at Newcastle University. An earlier version of this paper was presented to the “Meaning and Role of Proximity” session at the Regional Studies Association International Conference “Regional Growth Agendas”, University of Aalborg, Denmark, 28–31 May 2005. Many thanks to Anne Lorentzen and Arnoud Lagendijk for their detailed comments on three earlier drafts of the paper. Any errors or omissions remain the responsibility of the author.

Notes

1. There is a growing literature on the role of universities in regional development, which was developed in the context of the European Union's Regional Economic Development Policy (ERDF) and the European Union's Regional Development Policy (ERDF). The literature on the role of universities in regional development is growing, and the role of universities in regional development is becoming increasingly important. The role of universities in regional development is becoming increasingly important, and the role of universities in regional development is becoming increasingly important. The role of universities in regional development is becoming increasingly important, and the role of universities in regional development is becoming increasingly important.
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spin-off companies in RISs in LFRs, which was funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as grant RES-000-22-0659.

4. A full list of the documents reviewed can be seen in Benneworth and Charles ([2005](#)). This is available on-line at <http://www.staff.ncl.ac.uk/p.s.benneworth/newcastle.pdf>

5. The original idea for the analysis was to try and map knowledge flows between partners in a functional way e.g. a company approaching a university department for help solving a particular problem, which led to a consultancy project, which led to a spin-off company being formed. However, it emerged in the course of the research that these transactions were framed within the three stories presented in the research. This paper is motivated by an attempt to understand this framing process and whether such narratives are important to understanding RISs.

6. When the research began, it was envisaged that the research would be uncontroversial, and would be a set of simple bilateral and trilateral relationships between academics, R&D managers and spin-off companies (cf. Benneworth & Charles, [2005](#)). What emerged in the research was that commercialization was intensely political, and so significant confidentiality had to be offered in order to get interviewees to explain why they chose particular courses of action. Part of this involved allowing all interviewees to check and redact their quotations. Most responses asked that the quotations be rearticulated, and so they are frequently not a word for word transcription of the original interview.

7. MARI was a north-east based spin-off in the north-east of England. It was funded, both science and commercial, by the MARI act. It was a spin-off and became a spin-off. It was a spin-off path.



8. The goal of the Reach Out programme was to ensure that every university department was involved in the activity. The programme was designed to identify and support spin-off companies. It was perceived as a permanent change of a cultural change within the university which will "establish processes that will change the culture

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