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EU-SPRI Early Career Researcher Conferences (ECC)
“CROSSING BOUNDARIES IN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE CREATION AND TRANSMISSION: TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS”

Rome 14-15-16 October 2015

IRCRES CNR - Rome Italy

Venue: via dei Taurini 19 00185 Rome

Studies on boundaries crossing represent a new and increasing strand of literature in different disciplines (social and political sciences, economics, educational studies, psychology, etc..) (Kaufmann and Tödtling, 2001; Ravinet, 2008). The term boundary crossing refers to the "negotiation and combination of ingredients from different contexts to achieve hybrid situations" and it might concern, among the other, the work of scientists, policy makers' activities and institutions' collaborations patterns (Engeström, 1995). Scientific knowledge creation and transmission have been studied mostly focusing on institutions, people and domains of expertise, thus circumscribing them within geographical, institutional, disciplinary and cultural boundaries (Akkerman and Bakker, 2011). Instead, increasing interest toward boundaries crossing in knowledge creation and transmission emerges because of the complexity and heterogeneity which characterize scientific knowledge today. The conference aims at fostering wide and in depth discussion on the learning and transformative potential stemming from disciplinary, geographical and cultural boundaries crossing as well as on the highly diversified mechanisms of actions which can take place at boundaries (i.e. coordination and networking activities and policies). Different developments of the concept and of properties of boundaries in knowledge creation and transmission will be investigated. Policies implications of boundaries crossing and its effects on governance arrangements at the national and EU level will also be discussed. The conference includes plenary and parallel sessions, and a poster session. A call for abstracts submission was launched at the end of January 2015.

Themes and tracks

Four main themes are addressed:

- 1) Crossing boundaries in Education and Research: patterns and geography of change;
- 2) New concept, role and practice of academic institutions: merging old mission with new challenges;
- 3) Changing patterns of collaboration in research and innovation;
- 4) Beyond standardization in knowledge transmission: changing environments and emerging instruments.

Conference contributions streams (although not limited to this list):

Universities facing complexity: crossing institutional, geographic and disciplinary boundaries

Crossing boundaries in a context of knowledge transfer and innovation: main actors and bargaining processes

Participation and collaboration in education and research against specialization and fragmentation

Rethinking PhD beyond disciplinary and research practice boundaries

Crossing boundaries within systems of innovation: what interactions between science and industry?

Collaborative work and learning environments transformations: from networking to knotworking

Tackling grand challenges through networking: European and international dimensions in scientific research

New instruments and environments for knowledge transmission

Opening and widening the access to scientific knowledge: modifying the concept of knowledge?

Audience targeted

The conference aims at involving approximately 30 presenters from different disciplinary areas in order to facilitate contributions from several research backgrounds. The conference aims at involving primarily early career researchers and PhD students working in the fields of Higher Education and Innovation studies but participants from other fields (e.g. Natural Sciences) are also welcome. Also few PhD students at early stages of their program will present a poster.

Invited Speakers

Yrjö Engeström, Professor of Adult Education and Director of the Center for Activity Theory and Developmental Work Research at University of Helsinki

Antoaneta Dimitrova, Associate professor at the Institute of Public Administration and coordinator of the Master's Programme in Public Administration, Leiden University

Celia Whitchurch, Senior Lecturer in Higher Education at the Institute of Education, University of London

Jeroen Huisman, Professor at Centre for Higher Education Governance Ghent (CHEGG) Department of Sociology Faculty of Political and Social Sciences Ghent University

Andreas Pyka, Professor of innovation economics at the University of Hohenheim and Research professor at the Halle Institute for Economic Research

Venue

The EU-SPRI Early Career Researcher Conferences (ECC) "Crossing boundaries in scientific knowledge creation and transmission: trends, challenges and policy implications" takes place in Rome, 14-15-16 October 2015, and is organized by the IRCRES CNR- Institute of Research on Economic Sustainable Growth (former CERIS-CNR).

About Eu-SPRI

The Conference is supported by the "European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation" (Eu-SPRI Forum) aims to strengthen the vibrant but dispersed interdisciplinary community of researchers focusing on interdisciplinary dimensions related to policy and governance in the field of knowledge creation and innovation. The Eu-SPRI Forum was founded in Paris in June 2010 and has presently 15 member institutions. http://www.euspri-forum.eu/about_us/