



CALL FOR PAPERS: WORKSHOP ON MULTIPOLAR LEARNING

Copenhagen, August 22-23 2013

Organizers: Leonard Seabrooke, Peer Hull Kristensen and Maja Lotz
Department of Business and Politics, Copenhagen Business School,
Steen Blichers Vej 22, 2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark.

Frame: Over the last few decades, the demands for complex knowledge based production and innovation in the modern capitalist economy have stimulated progress towards recursive mutual learning relations inside and across teams, units, firms and networks as an increasingly central driver of innovation and growth. These multipolar learning relationships of various stakeholders promote synergies and processes of learning-by-sharing across diverse knowledge domains and organizational settings hereby enabling effective know-how sharing and cross-fertilization of practices in an open and interdisciplinary way.

Recent research suggests that, today the competitive advantage of multinational firms (MNCs) increasingly derives from their potential to co-create and innovate through joint learning activities by moving from one- to multi-directional ways of transferring, sharing and re-combining practices and knowledge. Likewise, both intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (IO and NGOs) faced with an increasing pressure to continuously recombine expertise and coordinate their activities across different but highly interdependent contexts. The significance of such multipolar learning communities has grown tremendously in the course of the globalization of the economy and the growing cross-border integration of the worldwide activities of global and local players. Yet, little is known about how these new multipolar learning orders are organized and managed in practice. How are they organized on the ground? What work organizing practices and coordination principles facilitate/hinder recursive learning dynamics? What are the organizational and political elements of multipolar learning? What new experimental governance architectures do multipolar learning systems entail – at the micro, meso and macro level? And how do they (re-)order current organizational, institutional and economic strategies for innovation and growth?

Objective: The workshop will focus on how national, economic, institutional and organizational arrangements shape multipolar learning communities and networks. The aim is to bring together scholars interested in these issues and to initiate a discussion about the dynamics of and barriers to multipolar learning based on research experiences from different empirical fields. We welcome both conceptual and empirical papers that examine aspects of multipolar learning in organizations from multiple perspectives and multiple methodologies.

Logistics and support: The workshop is supported by the Global Reordering: Evolution through European Networks (GREEN) project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme. Travel and hotel costs will be covered and organized by the Department of Business and Politics at the Copenhagen Business School.

Submission guidelines: Please submit an abstract and title to Maja Lotz (ml.dbp@cbs.dk) and Leonard Seabrooke (ls.dbp@cbs.dk) by May 1 2013.