Research

Economic Geography

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Feedback mechanisms and firms' innovation processes: a focus on prototyping in product design and development

Building on the routine literature this lecture discusses how particular configurations of the firm can support the emergence of organizational routines. It will be argued that a focus on feedback mechanisms that connect different routineusing and routine-generating functionalities within firms is needed to address this particular issue and thus ask the following question: how can different types of feedback explain how routines enable creativity? The analysis is framed in the empirical context of the design activity. Preliminary findings indicate that the successful combination of aesthetic and efficiency that stand at heart of design relies on the creation of dedicated routines aimed at aligning different, and at times incompatible, forms of know-how that are stored in different places within the organization.



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