



Advanced Introduction to Regional Innovation Systems

Elgar Advanced Introductions series

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Over the past 25 years, the regional innovation system (RIS) approach has become a powerful framework for explaining the uneven geographical distribution of innovation in space as well as for developing policies geared towards boosting the innovation capability of regional economies. This Advanced Introduction provides a critical review and discussion of research on RIS to answer a set of core questions covering the origins of the concept and its theoretical underpinnings to the challenges for future scholarly work on RIS.

'This important new book by three of the leading authorities in the field offers a penetrating analysis of the contributions made by the regional innovation systems approach to the geography of innovation and to the formation of policies aimed at supporting innovation in regional economies. The volume offers important insights into how the approach helps us understand the complex process of innovation across different spatial settings. In particular, it sheds light on how the economic and institutional context of the RIS influences the process of path development in different regions and the potential for the emergence of new industries or the lock in of maturing ones. In so doing, it draws out the policy lessons to be learned from the RIS approach and the future challenges that lie ahead.'

– David Wolfe, University of Toronto, Canada

'The concept of regional innovation systems has become increasingly influential over the past 25 years. Now, for the first time, we have a comprehensive synthesis of the conceptual underpinnings, empirical cases and policy applications of this key construct. International and interdisciplinary in scope, this volume is the definitive reference for both scholars and policymakers alike.'

– Meric Gertler, University of Toronto, Canada

'This excellent book provides a deep understanding of the conceptual, theoretical and empirical advancement of the RIS approach. It brings fresh and important additions to the literature on RIS and should have a meaningful impact on the field. This book should be an essential reference for scholars and policymakers interested in the regional aspects of innovation.'

– David Doloreux, HEC Montréal, Canada

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