

Call for Papers for the Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography (GCEG)
Oxford August 19-23, 2015

Exploring (hybrid) financial / development geographies: Financial services in developing, emerging and transition economies

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The global financial crisis has highlighted the importance of a stable and transparent financial system as a precondition of economic development. A well-developed and functional financial system allows people at all levels of society to access the financial services they need. In particular poorer people in developing, emerging and transition countries often have very restricted access to basic financial services. This financial exclusion makes it difficult for them to engage in entrepreneurial activity and work their way out of poverty. While there is a rather well established strand of research addressing this connection (also referred to as finance-growth nexus) in development economics, with studies usually conducted on the country-level covering all parts of the world, economic geographers have approached these aspects of “low finance” only in limited manner outside of the heartlands of financialised capitalism and first-tier global financial centres. At the same time, development geography has not paid much attention to finance.

This session aims to overcome the division of labour between development geographies, development economics and economic geography by bringing together papers from all fields and exploring to what extent our different approaches may fertilize each other and thus enrich our knowledge on the connection of financial services and socio-economic development in developing, emerging and transition economies. Against this background, we invite both conceptual and empirical contributions that might address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- The international financial system and the Global South; (Visualising) Capital flows between / within North and South
- Financing the Poor in Global Finance
- Capital market integrity and financial market stability in low income economies
- Financial institutions and regional development in developing, emerging and transition economies
- Agriculture and rural finance in developing, emerging and transition economies
- Alternative / diverse economies and spaces of finance
- Emerging / low income countries in the investment strategies of institutional investors and sovereign wealth funds

Please contact Martin Sokol (sokolm@tcd.ie) and/or Hans-Martin Zademach (zademach@ku.de) if you have any questions about this call for papers, or would like to submit an abstract. Abstracts (maximum 250 words) should be submitted by May 1, 2015.