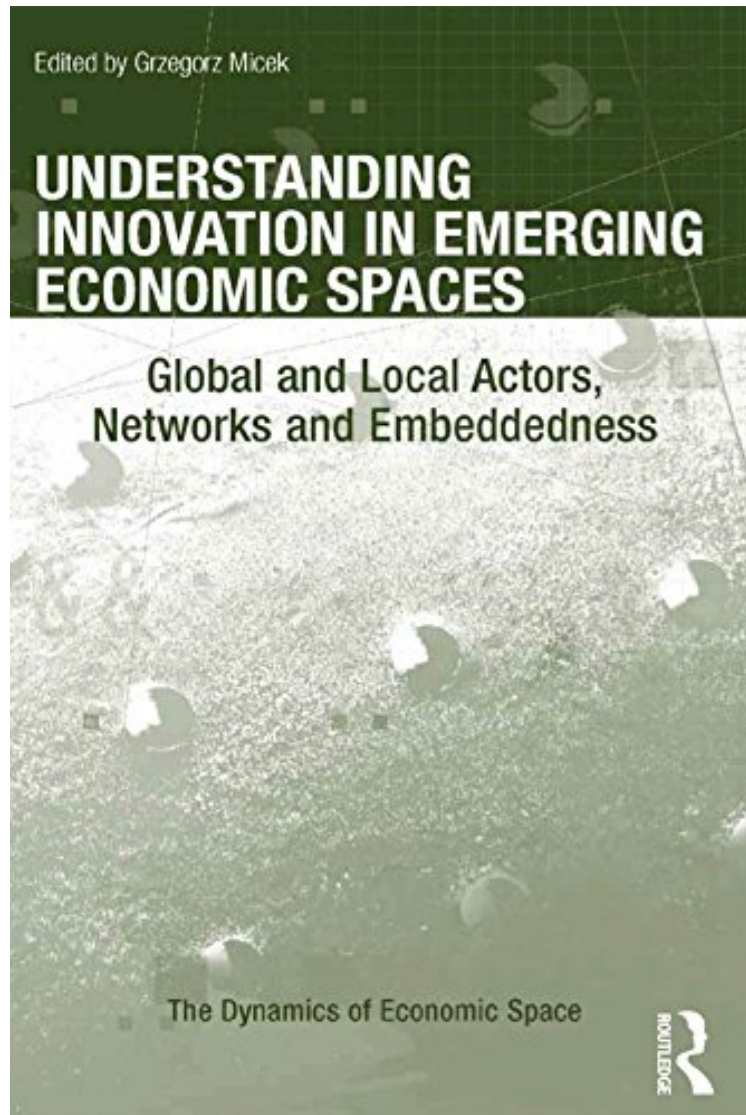


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Understanding Innovation in Emerging Economic Spaces: Global and Local Actors, Networks and Embeddedness (The Dynamics of Economic Space)

Grzegorz Micek

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Local Actors, Networks and Embeddedness (The Dynamics of Economic Space):

A small number of countries, regions, cities, and localities are powerful gatekeepers and generate the bulk of creative and innovative ideas, while the majority is largely excluded. This book looks at neglected, but emerging innovation centres analysed from various spatial and organizational perspectives; ranging from entire countries and regions to individual firms and small neighbourhoods. Bringing together leading scholars from various disciplines, it examines a variety of economic sectors including biotechnology, agrotourism, and the food retail industry. The authors employ various, often contradictory, concepts, ranging from local buzz and the global pipeline, through an analysis of collective learning processes to geographical embeddedness, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The purpose of the book is twofold: investigating changes occurring in the regions and cities under transformation and attempting to find common and unique mechanisms behind these changes. Consequently, the authors shed light on the scale and scope of the innovativeness of selected economic and social processes.

'Recent decades have seen an exciting but somewhat perplexing proliferation of concepts describing innovation processes in space. This volume does an impressive job of evaluating this panoply of concepts and applying them to sectors rarely covered and places rarely visited by existing studies. As a diverse set of methodologically rigorous and richly illustrated studies, it will make an engaging read for students and scholars of innovation.' Dariusz Wojcik, Oxford University, UK 'While research interest in certain emerging economies is still enormous, scholars' attention with respect to several Central and Eastern European countries has waned considerably. That is one reason why this book, an exception to the trend, is worth reading. The second reason is its topic: an analysis of innovation from various angles in a part of the world which was expected to become highly successful on the basis of the quality of its human capital at the beginning of the transformation in 1989. The third reason is its admitted heterogeneity in terms of its methodological approaches, ranging from pure quantitative analysis to case studies, a mix which can be considered a rare species in today's literature.' Magdolna Sass, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary
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