

The role of regional innovation policy in the knowledge-based bio-economy
Convenor: Innogen

This session aims at discussing the role of regional policies in promoting growth and competitiveness through investing in Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy. The so called Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy is based on processes that intersect with the use of cellular and molecular processes to develop new technologies and products, with the potential to disrupt the organisation of various sectors/industries and raise expectations for economic growth in many locations. This is especially true at a regional level. Indeed, the region is increasingly considered to be the focus of innovation policy because of the system-dynamics and intense externalities that can materialise at a local level. The focus is on the following questions:

- . What models does regional policy rely on?
- . What kind of narratives shape policy plans and strategies at a regional level?
- . What results have so far been achieved?

Speakers:

Dr Alessandro Rosiello: Alessandro's current research at Innogen, on innovation processes in genomics-related industry sectors, is employing an interdisciplinary approach to improve understanding of the complex and dynamic ways in which public policy can directly and indirectly.

Dr. Theo Papaioannou: Theo's work is in the areas of public policy and political theory with a specific focus on governance of innovation and development. His current research interests include: democratic governance of life sciences innovation, genomics and social justice, theories of politics and international development; the relationship between the public and the private in new technologies; innovation systems and development; intellectual property rights; policy benchmarking.

Dr Joe (Yossi) Leibovitz: The Scottish Government - Innovation & Industries Division Joe works for the Scottish Government's Innovation and Industries Division, where he is supporting the development of policy for the life sciences in Scotland. Previous to his job as a civil servant Joe was an academic at the universities of Toronto, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Trained as a geographer, Joe's research focus was on the spatial manifestations of innovation networks and their governance, and on urban economic development.

Stuart Parris: Stuart is a PhD student at the Open University researching relationships between R&D institutions, genomics/biotech companies and the supporting activities of other businesses and individuals, such as venture capitalists in the UK genomics industry.