

Regional Studies Annual Lecture
AAG 2009 Las Vegas

Regional Studies annual lecture by professor **Maryann Feldman**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, on the **Geography of Emerging Industries**.
Reception immediately after the lecture.

Sponsored by the **Regional Studies Association**

Sunday, 3/22/09, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM in Royale Pavilion 7, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Chair:

Ron Boschma - Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Speaker:

Maryann Feldman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Discussant:

Edward Malecki - Ohio State University

Abstract: Geography of Emerging Industries

The gales of innovation and technological change are due, in large part, to the emergence of new technology and the evolution of industrial activities. New industries, which combine knowledge in new and novel ways, are associated with innovation and entrepreneurial activities. Most importantly, emerging industries provide the platform for future economic growth. Most notably, emerging industries tend to cluster spatially as advantages accrue to those at the locus of creative activity and opportunity. As a result, there is great academic and policy interest in identifying and tracking emerging technologies and industries. However, emerging industries by their very nature do not fit neatly into existing classification schemes. As a result, we are constantly looking at categories that described past activity while we try to predict and anticipate the future. With existing data, there is simply no good way to identify emerging industries. Our ideas of emerging industries amount to the usual suspects favoured with extensive media coverage: biotechnology, nanotechnology and dot-com firms. Although consequential, these industries likely are atypical, and our understanding of technological change -specifically how new industries emerge and their relationship to existing activity - would be greatly enhanced if we were to have a systematic quantitative method of identifying groups of firms engaged in similar new businesses or emerging industries. Moreover, there is little theory to assist places as they attempt to anchor new industries and harness their

economic potential. This paper explores recent work examining the geographic and industrial anatomy of emerging industries.

For more information, please go to:

http://communicate.aag.org/eseries/aag_org/program/SessionDetail.cfm?SessionID=7455&cal=true