



UWS UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND



Regional Studies Association Research Network

Seminar series

Regional Development and the Changing Geography of
Outsourcing Business Services in an Enlarged Europe

CALL FOR PAPERS

First seminar

Outsourcing and Offshoring Business Services: Theoretical Perspectives and Global Trends

4th and 5th September 2008

University of the West of Scotland in Paisley

While much attention has been paid to the trends, patterns and impacts of foreign direct investment in manufacturing, there has been less focus on the outsourcing of services, which now constitutes a considerable proportion of foreign investment, contributing to an emerging global and European shift in the distribution of business services provision. This type of investment is of growing importance in the post-communist EU countries. Thus the prime objective of the Seminar is to explore empirical and theoretical works explaining the emerging geographies of outsourcing and offshoring business services in the new Europe.

Researchers and practitioners are invited to contribute to the seminar. We encourage contributions in the form of both research-in-progress and completed studies originating from various disciplines such as economic geography, regional studies, international business and management. We welcome a variety of methodological approaches.

The papers can explore, but should not be limited to the following issues:

- global trends in business services movements
- location and relocation of business services
- FDI and business service sectors
- theoretical explanations
- business services and the knowledge economy context
- business services and public policy interactions
- outsourcing services: research methods and methodologies



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The event will comprise presentations by two keynote speakers including Ross Brown of Scottish Enterprise, and up to eight other papers by the participants. The interactive nature of the Seminar will be aimed at encouraging the exchange of ideas and practices and enable networking opportunities for practitioners in the public and private sectors, and academics. The participation of early career researchers, PhD students and post-doctoral fellows is encouraged.

There is no charge for attendance at the seminar and thanks to the RSA support the organisers will be able to offer a number of grants for travel and accommodation, although we would encourage participants to search for additional sources of finance. A small additional fee may be charged for dinner on Thursday evening.

NB to allow for international travel the seminar will start midday on Thursday 4th of September.

Deadline for abstract submission: 9 June 2008.

Abstracts of up to 500 words should be submitted to Paweł Capik at: pawel.capik@uws.ac.uk (and pcapik@gmail.com) by 9th of June 2008.

Abstract should include names of all the authors, affiliation and full contact details. Please indicate if you require financial support to participate in the seminar.

The successful contributors will be informed by the 13th of June and will be asked to provide a full (or working) version of the paper by the end of August (in exceptional circumstances by the mid September). The papers will then be published in UWS Business School Working Papers series.

As the spaces at the Seminar are limited all interested participants and contributors are advised to apply early.