

Networks, Social capital and Territorial Development

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The concepts of *networks* and *social capital* have been widely used in the last three decades to understand (local) territorial development, both by academics and practitioners. As many authors suggest, it is not by chance that these two concepts have become relevant in this period: changes in the organization of production and globalization processes (among which increasing geographical mobility) are key factors in explaining this success, as well as in explaining the resurgence of the importance of territory (being it the region, district, local socio-economic productive system, metropolitan area, city). Within this framework, social networks and social capital have been considered as strategic resources for competitiveness and social cohesion of territories, though they can also hamper them. The conditions under which social networks and social capital can be “productive” have been analyzed for several years and by many authors. They mainly refer to the structure of the networks, and the interaction with among territorial actors (political, economic and social actors) and the resulting different forms of governance.

Lectures will deal focus on the concept of social capital, local competitive good, and territorial socio-economic development.

Lectures will be structured in two parts. The first part will be a theoretical discussion, on the role of networks, the concept of social capital and its theoretical approaches, and the link with territorial development. In the second part lectures will present and discuss the results of their research works. Students will be asked to present and discuss a specific theoretical approach.

Bibliographic references will be hand out to students one month before the lecture.

Lectures will be in English

Date	Title	Presenter
17 March 10.30-13.00	Social networks: from the anthropological roots to the structural school	Alberta Andreotti
24 March 10.30-13.00	Social networks and social capital: two different but intertwined concepts: the three approaches with reference to the territorial development.	Alberta Andreotti
7 April 10.30-13.00	Discussion with the students on the different approaches	Alberta Andreotti
16 April 10.30-13.30	Local collective competition goods	Valentina Pacetti
23 April 10.30-13.30	The resilience of the informal economy between backwardness and local development processes	Diego Coletto
6 May 10.30-13.30	Regional economies in crisis: lessons from the Brianza industrial district	Simone Ghezzi
13 May 10.30-13.30	Governing large metropolitan cities and networks of actors	Patrick Le Galès
20 May 10.30-12.30	Conclusions	Alberta Andreotti
TO BE ARRANGED	Social network and the city	Talja Blockland