

Historical Roots of Regional Performance

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Research has shown that regional activities that are conducive for regional performance such as entrepreneurship and innovation can have rather deep historical roots. These results clearly suggest that the development of regions follows trajectories where the past is an important determinant of the present stage and of the future. Such historical roots include historic industrial specialization and the knowledge stock, regional cultures, formal institutions and political regimes, as well as a region's 'first nature' (e.g., its location fundamentals, the quality of the soil, natural resources, etc.). Such historical roots can severely impede the possibilities and the effectiveness of policy. Hence, understanding such historical roots is highly important for any policy that aims at improving regional performance. We invite papers that analyze the role of historical factors in regional structures, regional performance, and for policy.

Main questions are:

- What are the historical factors that determine a region's structure and performance today?
- What is the role of natural conditions and location fundamentals (a region's 'first nature') for regional development trajectories?
- How pronounced is the effect of different types of historical roots?
- To what extent do what kinds of historical factors pre-determine current structures? To what extent do historical shocks affect regional growth trajectories?
- What is the role of policy in the presence of historical roots? What are appropriate policy strategies?
- How to overcome deeply rooted regional cultures and mentalities that work as impediments for regional prosperity?