Duke University – Venice International University (VIU)
Announcement of a Joint Initiative

- Duke-VIU workshop website
- Duke Website

Overview

Duke University's Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness (CGGC), together with Venice International University's Center for Studies on Technologies in Distributed Intelligence Systems (TeDIS) have expanded their ongoing collaboration by developing a new International Summer Research Workshop. Building on more than 10 years of international teaching in which Duke and other VIU consortium members have offered students and faculty a unique academic experience in a global setting, this workshop series is held annually since 2008, alternately in Venice and in Durham, NC.
The series will tap the partner institutions' complementary research foci: CGGC's global value chain approach and the TeDIS empirical research of Italian industrial districts.

The purpose of these international workshops is

1. To develop an international set of serious, early-stage researchers—Ph.D. students, post-docs, junior faculty, and selected other researchers with country-level experience—who are capable of doing global value chain (GVC) analysis and using it to better understand the links between local systems and the global economy
2. To connect these scholars into an active international network with a common research agenda focused on critical emerging topics in coming years
3. To develop knowledge on cutting edge themes, such as competitiveness in global value chains, environmental upgrading and innovation, and the links between the social, environmental and economical dimensions of upgrading.

Goals

The workshop will emphasize individual learning for the participants, expanding the capability of Ph.D. students and other promising young researchers to apply global value chains analysis to critical topics. The four-year framework will offer opportunities to researchers to tap synergies and develop common research agendas that will go far beyond the workshops, creating a network of highly capable researchers that will build on the knowledge base in subsequent years.

Workshop Themes

The workshops will offer training related to key theories such as global value chains, industrial districts, and local clusters, focusing on participants' existing research as well as new projects that will emerge.

The 2010 Workshop: Environmental Upgrading in Global Value Chains

The 2010 edition will build on the well-proven research network between VIU and CGGC, and include the expertise of a new partner, the Capturing the Gains (CtG) network. Capturing the Gains is an international research network established over the last three years, comprising 14 research institutions in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States, including CGGC and VIU. The main goal of this research network has been to understand if global production networks (GPNs) are beneficial for developing country economies in terms of income and jobs, and the conditions that may enable the joint achievement of economic and social upgrading (for more information see www.capturingthegains.org).

Establishing an international team of researchers from the North and the South, the 2010 workshop aims to develop a common research agenda and improve research concerning environmental upgrading and innovations and the compatibility between the economic, social and environmental dimension in the framework of Global Value Chains. The outcomes of the workshop will support actions and programmes of interventions of policy makers and firms in their strategies concerning innovation and internationalization.

Workshop Format

The workshop will take place during one week in July each summer. In 2010, it will be the week of July 12-16 in Venice, and alternating with Durham each year thereafter:

- 2008 Workshop I Venice (July 13-18, 2008)
- 2009 Workshop II Durham (July 5-10, 2009)
- 2010 Workshop III Venice (July 12-16, 2010)
- 2011 Workshop IV Durham

Participations in the 2010 workshop edition will be by invitation.

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