

The principle of relatedness

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structure of lecture

- 1. relatedness and regional diversification
- 2. agents of (structural) change
- 3. smart specialisation policy



regional diversification

- regions need to diversify into new activities to secure long-term economic development
- but their capacity to do so differs
- how do regions create new activities?: new activities do not start from scratch
- local capabilities (knowledge, skills, networks, institutions) condition which new activities will be feasible to develop in a region
- local capabilities provide opportunities but also set limits to the diversification process in a region



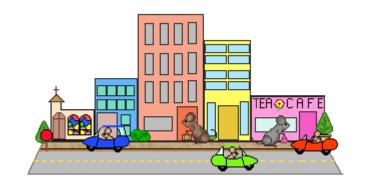
related diversification

unrelated diversification

region A





















studies: **related diversification is rule**, unrelated diversification the exception (Hidalgo et al 2018)



regional diversification

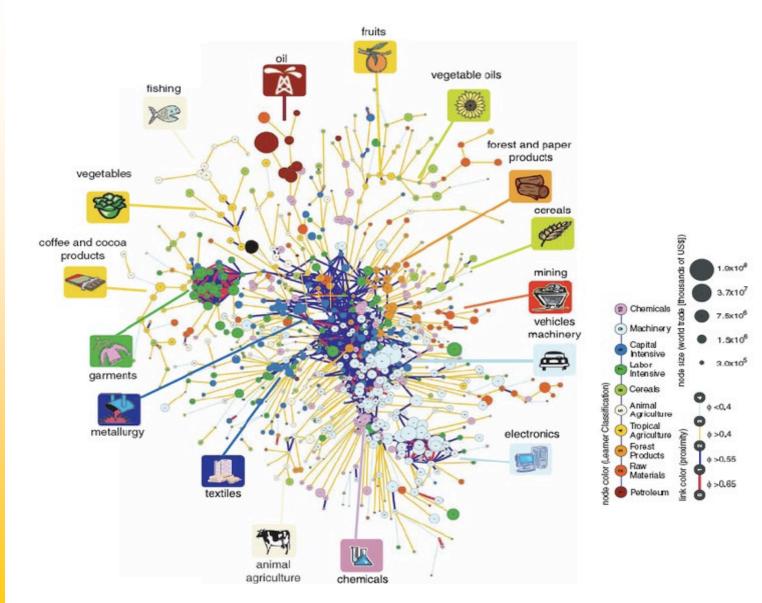
- Hidalgo, Klinger, Barabasi and Hausmann (2007)
- how countries build CA in new export products
- national capabilities condition which new export products will be feasible to develop
- product space: relatedness between products based on co-occurrence of products in countries' export portfolios



- countries develop new export products that are closely related to existing export products
- countries with related variety have more opportunities to diversify and sustain higher economic growth rates



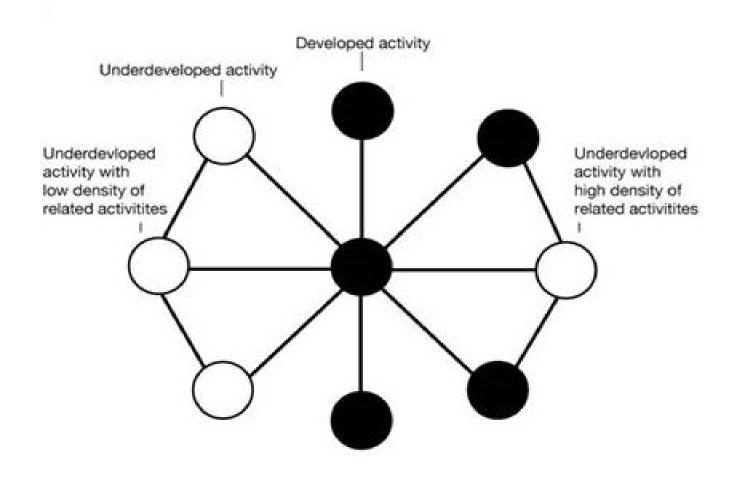
product space







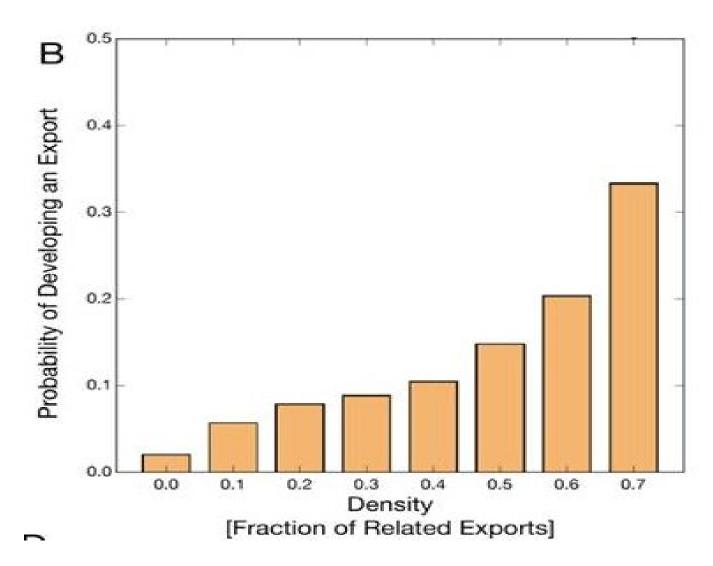
related diversification in regions







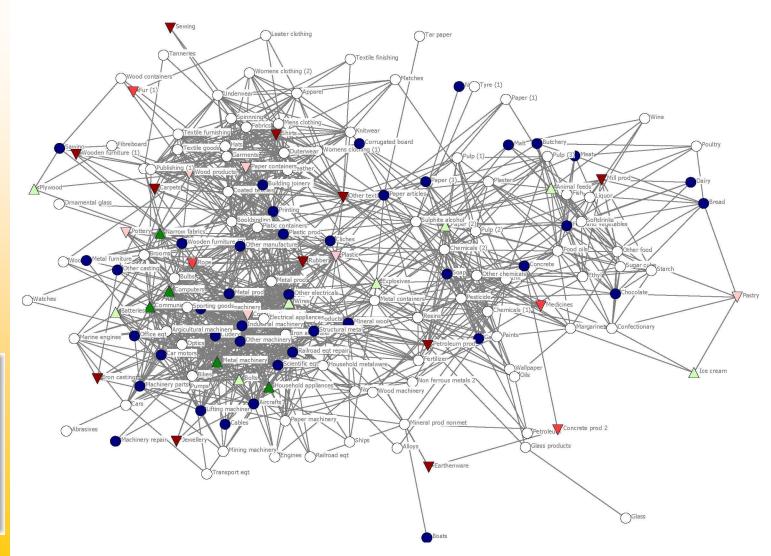
related diversification in regions







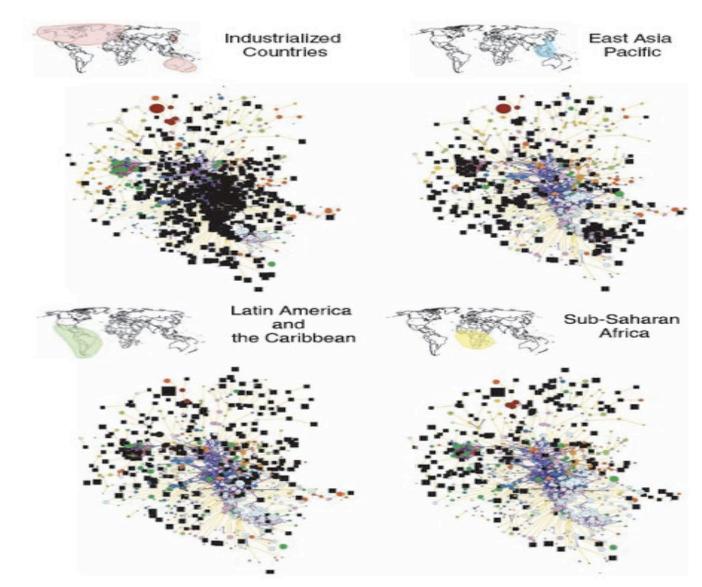
diversification in Linkoping region (Neffke et al. 2011)







(Hidalgo et al)







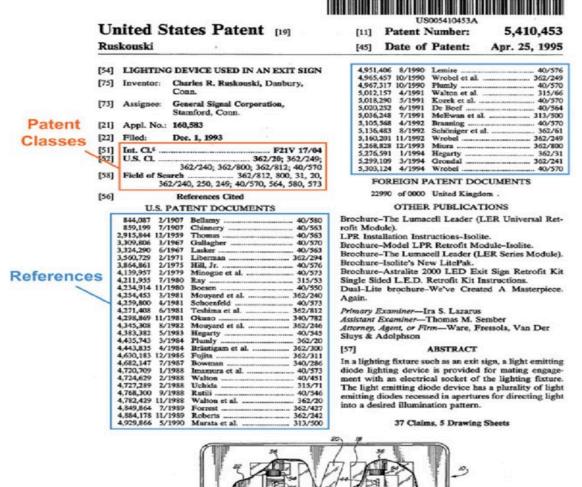
regional diversification

- other relatedness measures (Boschma 2017), e.g.:
- technology space: relatedness between technologies: co-occurrence of technology classes on patent documents
- solar technology space: relatedness between solar technologies and with other technologies
- industry space: relatedness between industries: based on similarities of skills requirements: intensity of labor flows





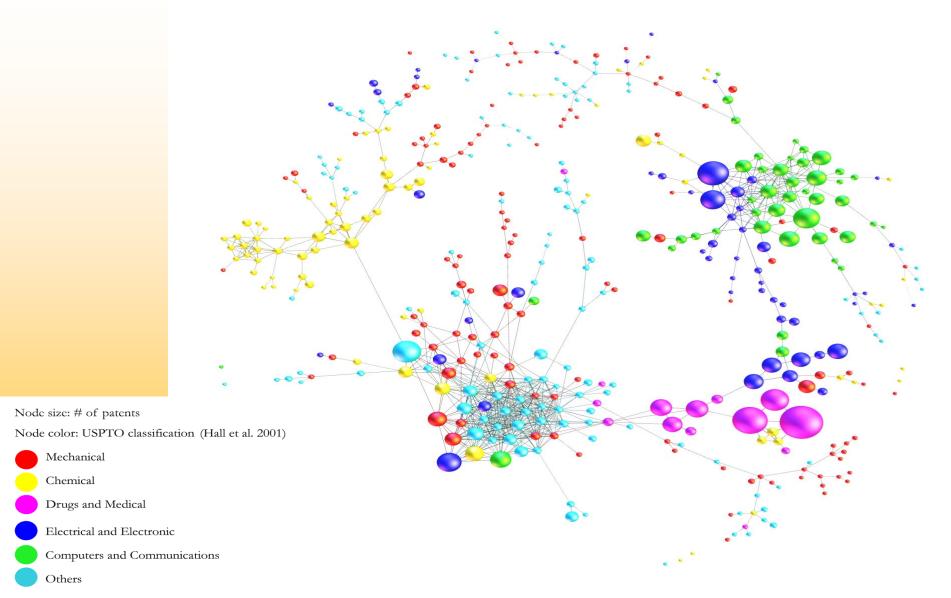
example of a patent document





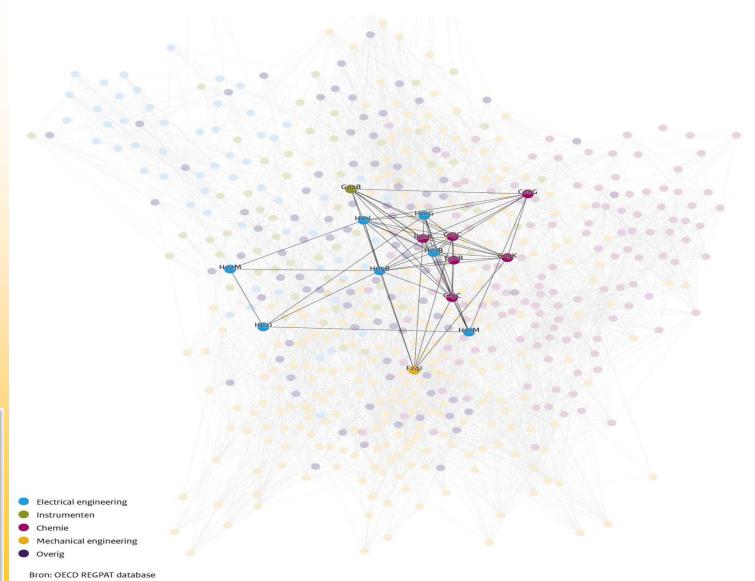


technology space (Boschma et al. 2015)





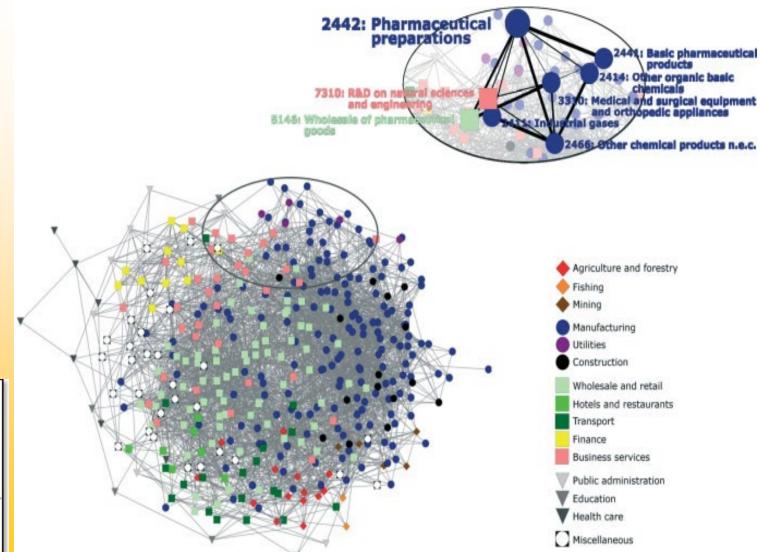
solar technology space







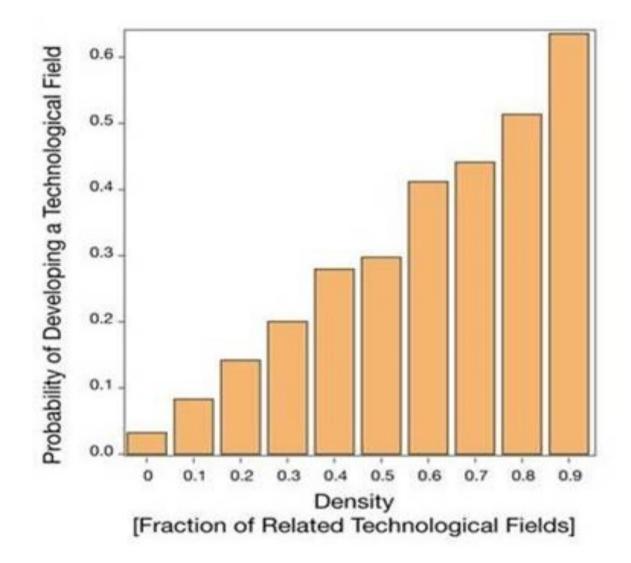
skill space





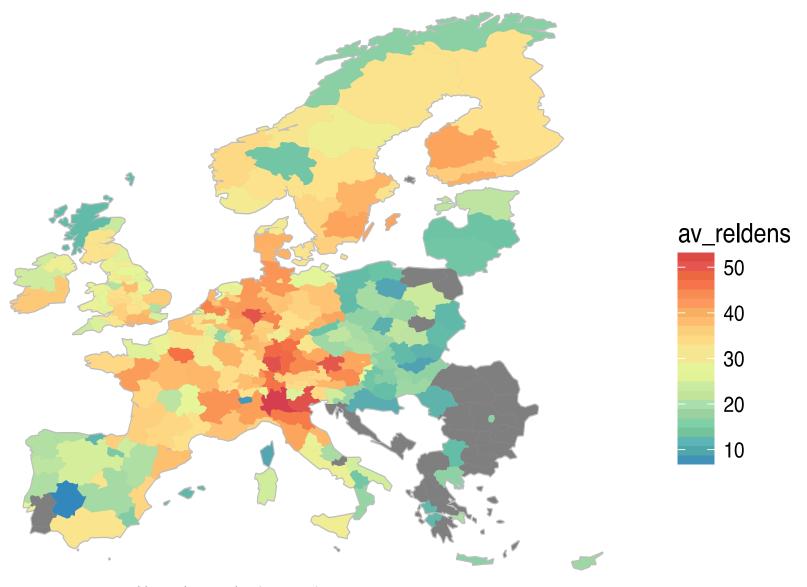


regional diversification



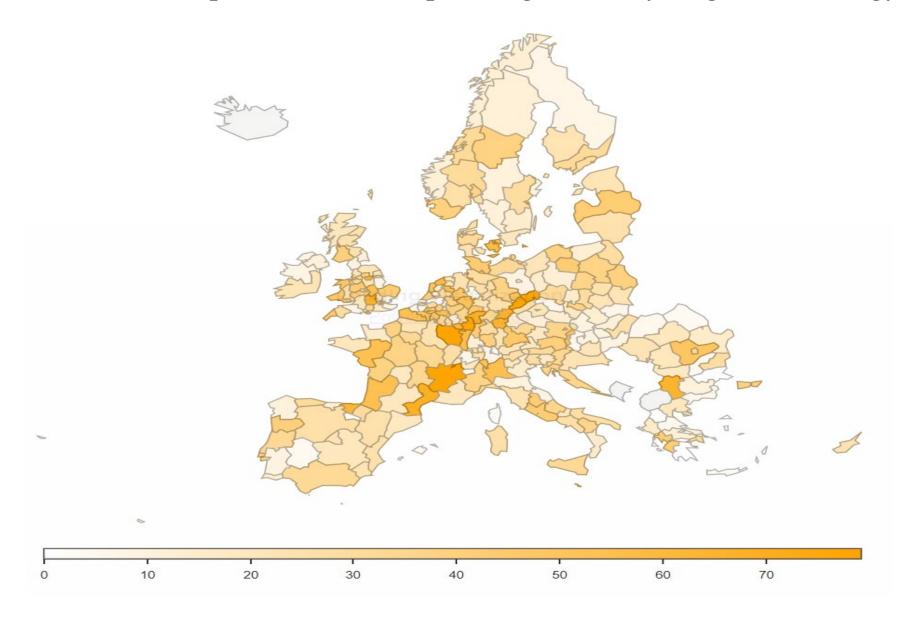


diversification opportunities of European regions



Source: Balland et al. (2019)

diversification potential of European regions in hydrogen technology





agents of change

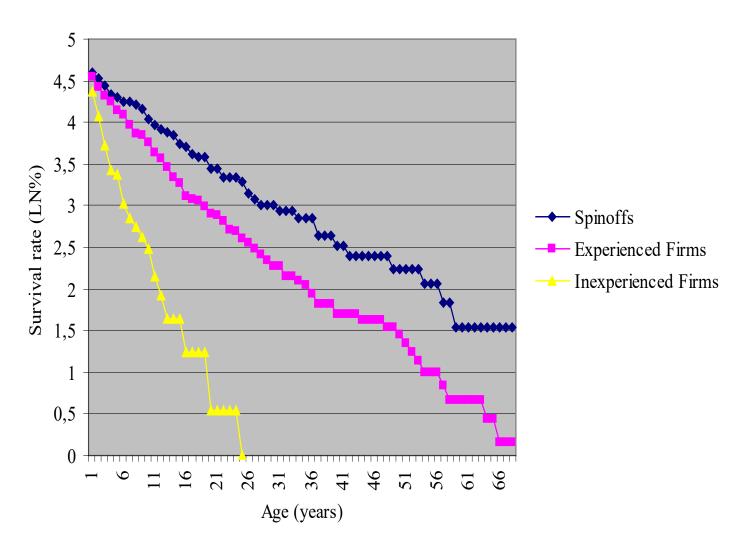
- so regional capabilities matter, but who are the agents of change?
- what kind of entrepreneurs drive this process of regional branching?
- experienced entrepreneurs with relevant knowledge from related industries are crucial in the formative stage of a new industry in a region (Klepper 2007): higher survival rate



- regions with related industries have a higher probability to develop the industry: positive effect of related-industry externalities on survival (Boschma and Wenting 2007)



agents of change







Boschma and Wenting (2007) on rise of British car industry

Table 1. Estimation results of the Cox regressions					
(standard errors in parentheses)					
LOCREL	-0.202**	-0.266**	-0.241**	-0.215**	-0.346*
	0.069	0.073	0.075	0.076	0.139
URBECON	0.041	0.048	0.061	0.052	0.166
	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.094
LOCECON	0.025**	0.030**	0.029**	0.028**	0.026
	0.007	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.016
ENTR1		-0.370**	-0.313*	-0.292*	
		0.143	0.144	0.145	
ENTR2		-0,193	-0,158	-0,148	
		0.149	0.148	0.149	
EXPEF			-0.853**	-0.864**	-0.978**
			0.154	0.154	0.310
SPINOF			-1.293**	-0.300	-0,607
I			0.197	0.483	1.023
PARENTS				-0.356*	-0.280
				0.165	0.344
Chi-square	13.121**	20.191**	72.390**	75.390**	24.442**
-2 Log Likelihood	3626,713	3606,509	3565,284	3560,668	1027,602
	N=380	N=380	N=380	N=380	N=133
** significant at the 0.01 level					
* significant at the 0.05 level					





agents of change

- entrepreneurs from related local industries induce new industry formation in a region
- entrepreneurs create structural change in short run, but less in long run due to high failure in region with unrelated activities (Neffke et al. 2012)
- new subsidiaries are key agents of structural change in long run: to survive, they depend less on related employment in region (see Elekes et al. 2019, EG: effect of MNE's)
- structural change has to be brought in primarily by actors from outside the region (Neffke et al. 2018)



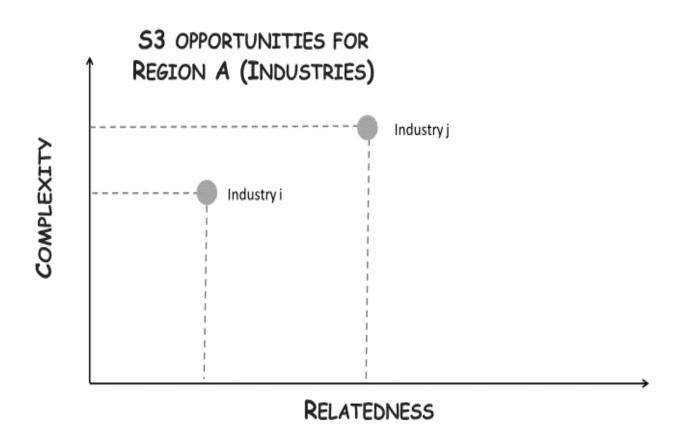


- EEG has been influential in the EU: smart specialization policy
- focus on identifying possible diversification strategies for regions, based on their capabilities
- **relatedness**: to assess **potential risks** of alternative diversification strategies for regions
- complexity: to assess potential benefits of policy



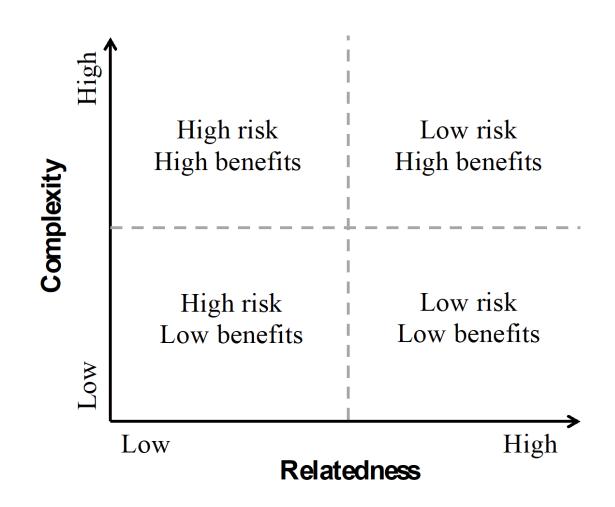


toward a new S3 framework









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Source: Balland et al. (2018)



- debate: which diversification strategy?
- critique on related diversification policy:
- it happens any how, so why bother?
- there is a risk of lock-in: related diversification makes regions more coherent over time



- unrelated diversification requires new capabilities (knowledge, skills, institutions): therefore, need for strong policy intervention



- critique on unrelated diversification policy (and what Smart Specialization was supposed to avoid):
- high risk policy failure (also because more experimentation is required)
- cathedrals in the desert: not sustainable in long run
- risk of duplication, especially when policy on 'grand challenges' is promoted (all regions go for the same)



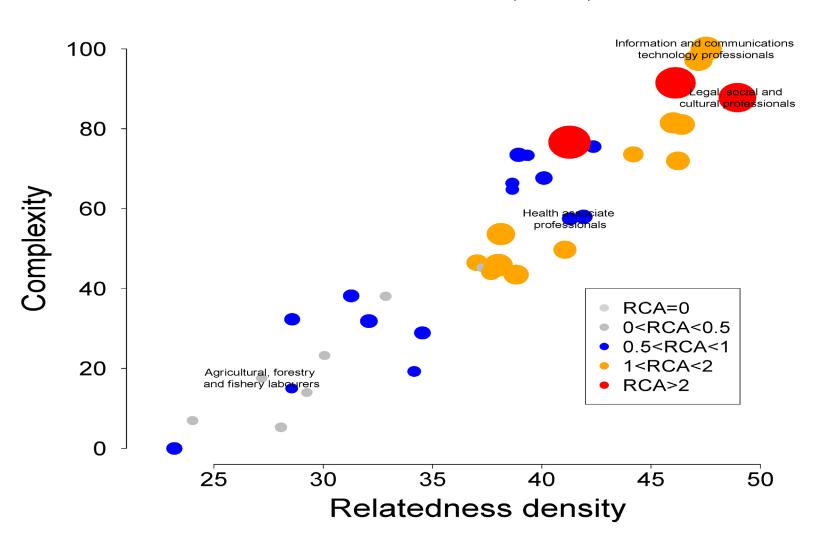


- policy focus on related or unrelated diversification depends on region-specific context
- major urban regions: related diversification provides many opportunities to move in more complex activities, but they also have favorable conditions for unrelated diversification
- specialized old industrial regions: unrelated diversification is needed to overcome trap of related diversification in low complex activities (Detroit)
- peripheral regions: related diversification provides some opportunities, but they might become trapped in a low complexity economy after some time



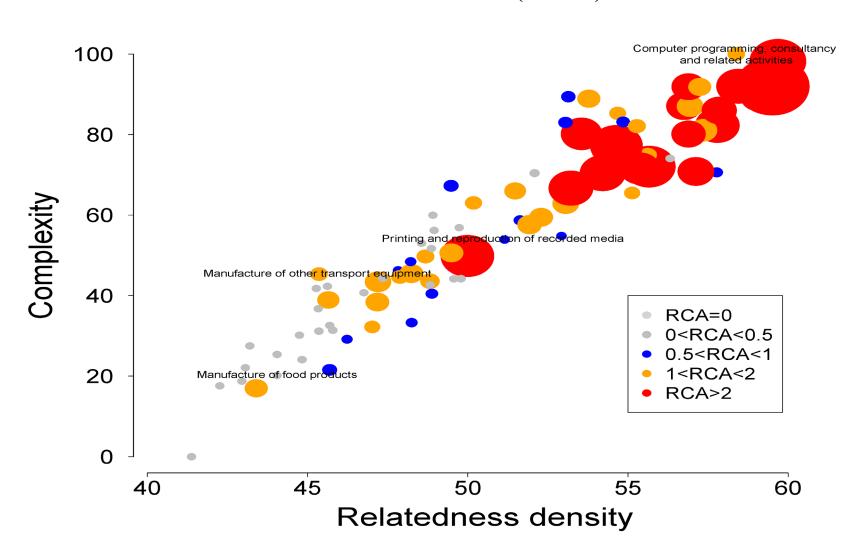
diversification opportunities in occupations

Île-de-France (FR10)

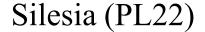


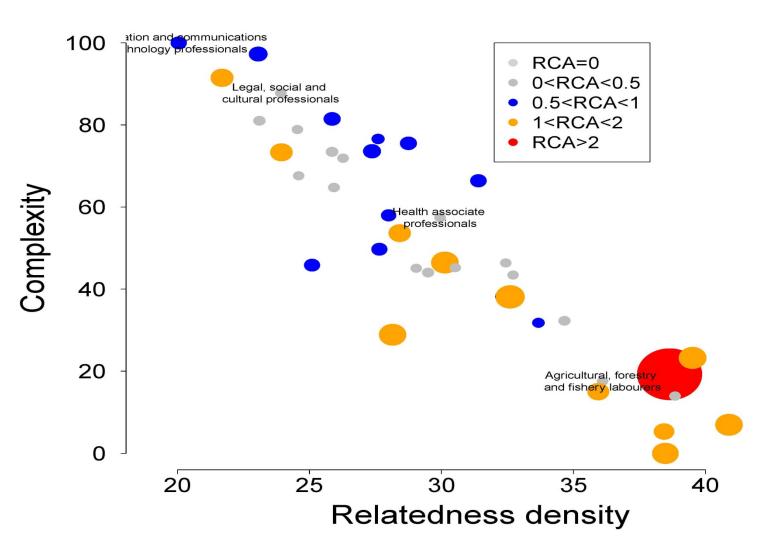
diversification opportunities in sectors

Île-de-France (FR10)



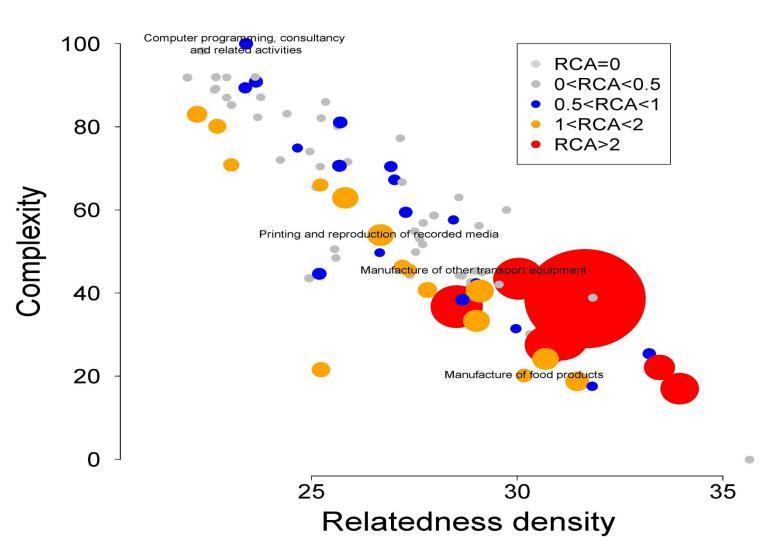
diversification opportunities in occupations



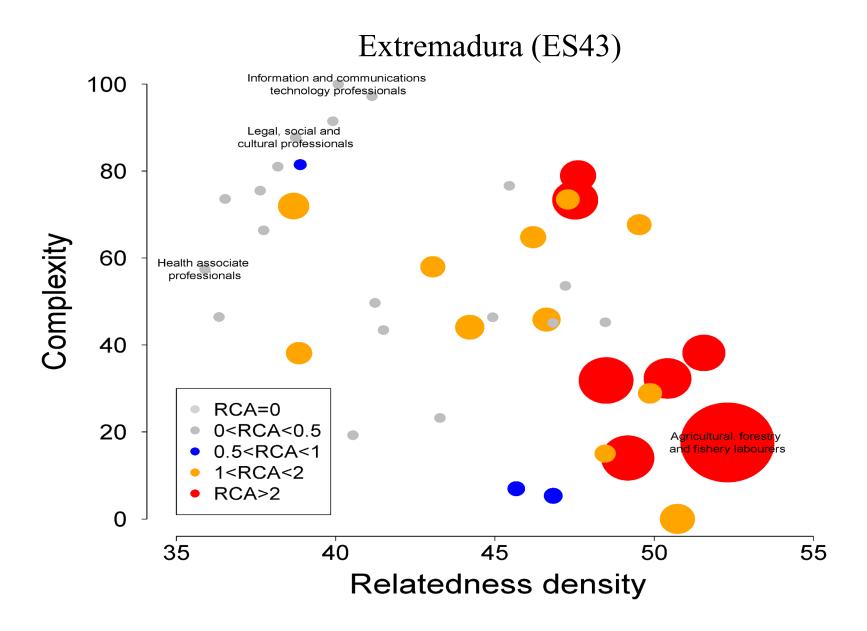


diversification opportunities in sectors

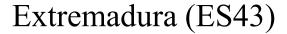
Silesia (PL22)

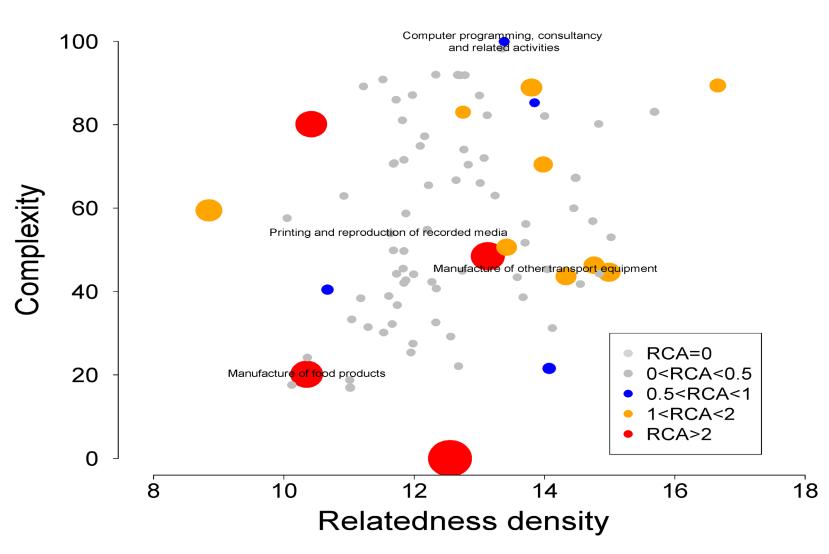


diversification opportunities in occupations



diversification opportunities in sectors





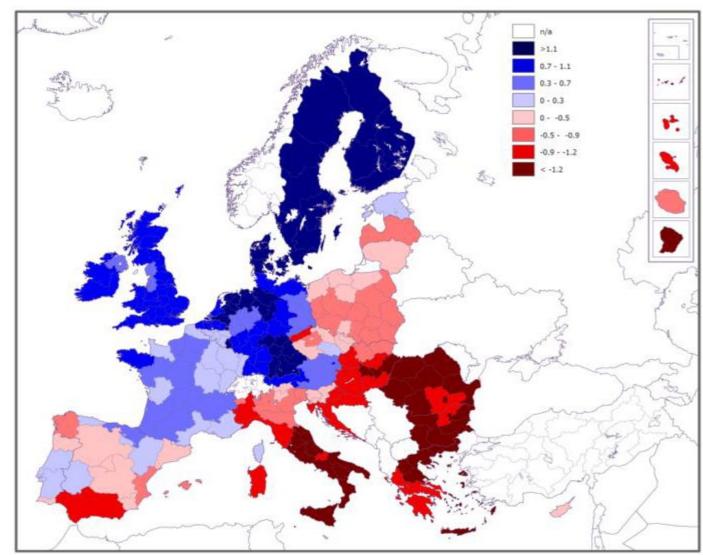


- effectiveness of policy also depends on institutional context
- institutional context differs across European regions
- national institutions (Boschma and Capone 2015)
- degree of political autonomy (Pike and Rodriguez Pose 2011)
- entrepreneurial culture (Andersson and Koster 2011)
- bridging and bonding social capital (Cortinovis et al 2017)
- quality of government (Charron et al. 2014)
- challenge for EEG: how to design and implement policy and governance: need to connect to transition studies and political sciences





Quality of government 2017



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Source: Charron and Lapuente 2018



thank you for your attention!

