



RESEARCH

LECTURES IN

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

5 December | 4-6 pm

Berliner Straße 48 | room 211



ROEL RUTTEN

Roel Rutten is an assistant professor at the Tilburg School of Social and Behavioural Sciences. His research focuses on the organization and geography of knowledge creation, which is a process of social interaction between individuals. Organizing it requires a balance between tight control (for direction and coordination) and loose control (for creativity and problem-solving). Rutten is also an expert in Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA). Previously he has worked as a consultant of regional innovation policy for ERAC (European Regional Affairs Consultants).

**Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) in economic geography:**  
The example of openness values and regional development

This talk introduces the method of QCA, a comparative case-study method that has become increasingly popular in the social sciences. QCA connects different conditions to outcomes in statements of necessity and sufficiency, and is specifically designed to detect various configurations of conditions that are each sufficient for the outcome. Rutten discusses an example of openness values' (i.e. tolerance), knowledge creation and economic development in European regions and shows that openness values are part of all configurations that are sufficient for knowledge-based economic development. This corroborates the notion that openness values are critical to knowledge-based economic development because they ensure a continuous inflow of new ideas.



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