

## Il Dipartimento di Economia Organizza il Seminario

### ***THE EVOLUTION OF THE ITALIAN MOTORCYCLE INDUSTRY (1874-1980): A REAPPRAISAL OF STEVEN KLEPPER'S HERITAGE THEORY***

**Coautori:** Ron Boschma

**ANDREA MORRISON**

URU-Utrecht University, Crios-Bocconi University

**Abstract:**

Since the seminal work of Marshall, the concentration of economic activities in space has been explained essentially in terms of agglomeration economies. The work of Klepper has challenged this view suggesting that externalities play no role in the agglomeration process (Klepper 2007). Based on the empirical investigation of a disparate set of industries which are strongly concentrated in space (e.g. automobiles in Detroit; tires in Akron), they argued that the spin-off process is the main driver of the formation of clusters. However, there are a number of questions left open in the heritage theory (Boschma, 2015; Cusmano et al. 2015). In our study we aim at reconciling the heritage theory of Klepper with the cluster approaches, by including in the heritage theory framework additional explananda of cluster emergence and evolution, such as social capital, competition and related variety. We test our framework in the case of the Italian motorcycle industry, which is an interesting case as it owns features that are similar to those of other industries (eg automobile) investigated in the literature. The empirical analysis is based on an original dataset of 739 motorcycle companies operating in Italy in the period 1874- 1980. In line with the literature, we estimate a survival model. Our findings show that the spatial concentration of the industry is driven by different mechanisms, which can be ascribed to both the heritage theory and the traditional agglomeration theories.

**Mercoledì 27 Maggio 2015  
ore 14.30 – Aula 18**

**Dipartimento di Economia  
Università degli Studi Roma Tre  
Via Silvio D'Amico 77, 00145 Roma**

**La partecipazione è aperta a tutti gli interessati**