

OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

# OECD Spatial Productivity Lab in collaboration with the Regional Studies Association

The new reality of teleworking:  
People, firms, places

*Spatial productivity for regional and  
local development – 9<sup>th</sup> meeting*

3 September 2020 | DIGITAL EVENT

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## AGENDA



## ■ The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies. [www.oecd.org/cfe](http://www.oecd.org/cfe)



## ■ The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab

The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab (SPL) is a dedicated research laboratory that works with local and global partners to improve our understanding of the spatial dimension of productivity growth, the relevance of links between different types of areas and how regional policy can facilitate productivity growth, creation of better jobs and increased well-being.

## ■ The Regional Studies Association

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) is a learned society and membership organisation bringing together academics and policymakers working in regional research, development and policy. The RSA publishes academic journals, book series, an online magazine and blog, funds research and awards excellence in the field, delivers knowledge exchange and provides networking opportunities and trainings for its global community.

The Regional Studies Association's monthly Regions Cities Industry Webinar Series presents experts in the field of regional studies, science and policy and includes time for discussion and questions.

## ■ Venue & Registration

### Virtual meeting over ZOOM.

To participate, please register [here](https://www.oecd.org/cfe). Link with log-in details sent to all registered participants.

## ■ Language

The meeting will be held in English.

## ■ Website

OECD Trento Centre: [www.trento.oecd.org](http://www.trento.oecd.org)

OECD Spatial Productivity Lab: [oe.cd/SPL](http://oe.cd/SPL)

Regional Studies Association: [www.regionalstudies.org](http://www.regionalstudies.org)

## ■ Contact

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## OECD SPL Partners



Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaften  
Facoltà di Economia  
Faculty of Economics and Management



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BRESCIA



Venue: Virtual meeting over ZOOM – CEST || Moderator: *John Harrison*, Reader in Human Geography, Loughborough University, UK

## 15.30-15.40 Welcome and overview/logistics

*Daniela Carl*, Deputy Chief Executive, RSA

*Alexandra Tsvetkova*, Economist/Policy Analyst, OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

## 15.40-15.50 Teleworkability and the COVID-19 crisis: A new digital divide?

*Matteo Sostero*, Researcher, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

In 2019, only about 5% of workers in the EU-27 usually worked from home – a share that remained constant since 2009. The confinement measures prompted a rapid introduction of teleworking. Although this created challenges, it also contributed to lowering barriers to telework related to organisation of work and organisational hierarchy. Looking forward, we estimate that 37% of EU employees can technically telework but there is a risk that the divide between those who can telework and those who cannot will exacerbate existing inequalities along a number of dimensions.

## 15.50-16.00 Homeworking and its effects on productivity and well-being

*Darja Reuschke*, Associate Professor in Human Geography, University of Southampton, UK

A traditional fear of employers is that without physical oversight, workers will shirk and productivity will fall. This proposition is examined using a large Covid-19 Survey in the United Kingdom. The findings suggest that allowing employees to work at home, if they want to, may increase not reduce productivity, hence supporting the business case for the continuation of homeworking. A massive return to pre-Covid-19 patterns of working is therefore unlikely to happen.

## 16.00-16.10 Teleworking and mobility: What do we (think we) know and not know?

*Patricia Mokhtarian*, Susan G. and Christopher D. Pappas Professor, Georgia Tech, USA

The transportation-related impacts of teleworking have been studied for several decades, but there is still much to learn, especially as the nature and extent of teleworking continue to evolve with new technologies and social trends. This intervention will briefly review our state of knowledge, including its gaps, in this realm of inquiry.

## 16.10-16.20 Exploring policy options on teleworking

*Mattia Corbetta*, Policy Analyst, OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

A shift towards large-scale teleworking will have profound implications for workers, employers and the geography of local economic and employment development. Public policy can help turn teleworking into an opportunity for all, ensuring that it does not aggravate pre-existing disparities between people, places and firms. The presentation will discuss common policy options adopted by governments during or before the Covid-19 pandemic to enable and make the most of teleworking, as well as to attract and retain digital and remote workers and entrepreneurs.

## 16.20-16.35 Roundtable discussion

Questions to all panellists

## 16.35-16.55 Q&A

Questions from the audience

## 16.55-17.00 Concluding remarks

*John Harrison*, Reader in Human Geography, Loughborough University, UK

## Chair



**John Harrison** works at Loughborough University in the UK. He is a regional geographer interested in the planning and governance of cities and regions in globalisation. John has been an Editor of *Regional Studies* since 2013, first as its inaugural Early Career Editor and then section editor for 'Urban and Regional Horizons'. His recent publications include the *Handbook on the Geographies of Regions and Territories* (with Anssi Paasi and Martin Jones), *Doing Global Urban Research* (with Michael Hoyler) and *Metropolitan Regions, Planning and Governance* (with Karsten Zimmermann and Daniel Galland), and he is currently co-editing a forthcoming special issue of *Regional Studies* on *Planning Regional Futures* (with Mark Tewdwr-Jones and Daniel Galland).

## Speakers (in speaking order)



**Matteo Sostero** is a researcher at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission in Seville. He holds a Ph.D in Economics from the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa, Italy. His research interests are in labour economics, especially the impact of technology on jobs and working conditions, as well as data science and data visualisation.



**Darja Reuschke** is Associate Professor in Human Geography at the University of Southampton. Her research focuses on homeworking, home-based businesses and self-employment. She is currently leading a project on social, economic, technological and urban aspects of homeworking of the self-employed and business owners funded by the European Research Council (Horizon 2020). She is also leading a Covid-19 research project that investigates the impact of the pandemic on the self-employed in the UK funded by UK Research and Innovation and the Economic and Social Research Council with a special focus on inclusivity and spatial disparities.



**Patricia Mokhtarian** is the Susan G. and Christopher D. Pappas Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She joined Georgia Tech in 2013, after 23 years at the University of California, Davis. Before that, she spent nine years in regional planning and consulting in Southern California, after completing her PhD at Northwestern University. Dr. Mokhtarian has specialized in the application of rigorous quantitative methods to the study of travel behavior for more than 40 years, and a key research interest has been the impact of telecommunications technology on travel behavior. She has authored or co-authored more than 200 refereed journal articles, technical reports, and other publications, including more than 40 peer-reviewed articles relating to teleworking. She is a recent Past Chair of the International Association for Travel Behaviour Research, and serves on the editorial boards of nine transportation journals.



**Mattia Corbetta** is a Policy Analyst at the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development. Between 2012 and 2019 he worked as a Policy Adviser at the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, where he contributed to designing the Italian Startup Act, the National Plan on Industry 4.0 and other policies on digital and inclusive entrepreneurship. In the past, he worked at the Italian Chambers of Commerce in Switzerland and Morocco, at the Italian Embassy in Syria and at the UN Volunteers program in Germany. He graduated in International Relations at LUISS Guido Carli, Rome, gained a MA in Business & Trade in MENA at the University of Perugia and a MA in Contemporary History at the University of Bologna.

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## Regional Studies Association

Regions, Cities, Industries – webinar series

3 September 2020 | DIGITAL EVENT

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### VENUE

Virtual meeting over ZOOM

### INFORMATION

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@OECD\_local @Regstud #spatialproductivity #RSAWebinar

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### OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

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This event is part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities activities.

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