

RESEARCH STUDENT SEMINAR

Friday 20 November 2020

12:00-13:00

ONLINE

“Implementing Circular Economy practices: a regional perspective”

By

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ABSTRACT

Regions are the kernel of the ongoing circular economy transition. Their controllable scale; proximity to environmental, social, and economic issues; and their knowledge and understanding of their local territories enables them to effectively mobilise regional stakeholders and develop suitable framework conditions. Nevertheless, their full potential has yet to be unlocked. Synchronised efforts are required, not only in the technical direction, but also to ensure supportive governance frameworks that can create incentives, encourage innovation, and generate information. Nonetheless, the existing academic knowledge base regarding the role of regions in the shift towards a circular economy is meagre (OECD, 2020).

The main aim of this study is to explore the drivers that can promote the adoption of circular economy practices at the regional level and investigate the resulting effect on regional performance. For this purpose, a systematic literature review was conducted, revealing a number of research gaps, pointing to a dearth of relevant research. To address these identified gaps, the research methodology was devised. Through the institutional isomorphism theoretical lens, the adoption of the regional circular economy practices will be studied as an outcome of institutional pressures (coercive, normative, and memetic).

This study adopts an inductive, qualitative approach. Publicly available secondary data will be used as a main source. Adopted or planned regional circular economy practices, institutional drivers stimulating regional efforts, and measurement systems to assess the level of circularity will be extracted and gathered into a comprehensive, large-scale database. The results will be analysed and used to organise and conduct focus groups with regional stakeholders, which will provide further insights. Following the integration of the findings from the primary and secondary data, a conceptual framework will be developed that will outline the different regional circular economy practices, the institutional drivers supporting these practices, and a measurement system able to assess the impact of those adopted practices. This study is intended to inform future regional policymakers on the proper combination of institutional pressures needed to unlock the full potential of the region for the circular economy journey.

The seminar series is open to all members of *staff and students* of CITY and to any *externals* that wish to attend.