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# Inclusive Eco-innovations in Hierarchical Regional Innovation Systems: Insights for Advancing Sustainable Territorial Development

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The critical challenges for contemporary society related to environmental issues require a new integration between human development and ecological systems. In this context, the knowledge field of economic geography (EG) has been playing a significant role in understanding both the socioeconomic and technological dimensions of these challenges. This text, framed within the perspective of EG, seeks to introduce two novel concepts designed to elucidate environmental changes within the context of multi-dimensional territorial development, especially in economic settings characterized by high inequality and stratification based on differentiated hierarchies that govern social and economic life. Firstly, we proposed the original notion of a hierarchical regional innovation system (HRIS) that emphasises the pervasive role of hierarchies (powers) in regional innovation systems. It surges from a specific variety of capitalism. Secondly, we unite eco-innovation and inclusive innovation to elaborate the inclusive eco-innovation (IEI) frame for facing the former challenges in the sense of more inclusive and green growth. Both concepts shed light on the geography of sustainability transitions perspective (GOST), which opened new avenues for understanding how sustainability transitions are deeply rooted in territorial innovation dynamics. The HRIS shows how the relationalities and place-specific powers foster or impede sustainability transitions. Thus, power relations, political legitimacy, and equity determine the possibilities for effective regional governance towards transitions. Incumbent regimes oppose innovative niches through different barriers, such as institutional exclusion or political and economic control. Besides incumbent regimes hindering transitions from niches, a new regime may not be inclusive. Therefore, the HRIS perspective works as a conceptual and methodological



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of HRIS and IEI presents a robust framework for comprehensively addressing these intricate challenges.

## Related Sessions

Friday, June 14, 2024, 10:50 AM – 12:20 PM CEST

**SS51. Examining the Geography of Inclusive Green Transitions in Peripheral Regions** (</Sessions/Details/2243415>)

Building D6, Room 013

Session Type: Special Session

## Related Speakers



**Iván Tartaruga**

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(</Speakers/Details/2247359>)