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Cluster Genesis

Pontus Braunerhjelm and Maryann P. Feldman (eds)

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Item type: book

This book examines the origins and emergence of technology-based industrial clusters — regional concentrations of related firms and organizations — in order to understand the forces that promoted economic development. Many places attempt to emulate the world's most famous industrial cluster Silicon Valley, with its rich institutional landscape of engaged and leveraged research universities, high-flying local venture capitalists, world class supporting business and legal consultants, and rich collaborative networks. While mature clusters may look similar, what really matters is the process by which clusters come into existence. But there is little understanding of such processes, and little guidance provided on the role of policies in promoting cluster emergence. The book attempts to bridge this gap in the literature by focusing on the early origins of high-technology cluster in Europe, the United States, and China, and the ensuing policy implications. The book is organized around three main themes: Creation Myths Revisited, Considering the Development Cluster Context, and Crafting Cluster and Economic Development Policy. The empirical analyses suggest that clusters that grow rapidly as compared to the less successful ones are distinguished by vigorous entrepreneurial activity and the active building of institutions aided by the forces of agglomeration economies.

Why the Valley Went First

Lee Fleming, Lyra Colfer, Alexandra Marin, and Jonathan McPhie

in *The Emergence of Organizations and Markets*

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: October 2017
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DOI: 10.23943/
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Item type: chapter

This chapter shows the early emergence of Silicon Valley and Boston. Much has been made of the cultural differences between Silicon Valley in the Bay Area and Boston's Route 128. The chapter digs beneath this surface portrait, discerning which organizations are most generative. It looks at the structural differences between two leading technology hubs. Using patent data that capture inventor networks, the chapter highlights the importance of careers. It also reveals much greater information flow and career mobility across organizations and industries in the Valley than in Boston. This movement of people and ideas was spurred by the critical intermediary roles of certain institutions which functioned like the anchor tenants that were the pollinators in the biotechnology clusters in Chapter 14. The chapter thus argues that this anchoring of diversity is central to the formation of technology clusters.

Myths of the Market

Neil Fligstein

in *The Institutions of the Market: Organizations, Social Systems, and Governance*

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: September 2008
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DOI: 10.1093/
ISBN: 9780199231423 eISBN: 9780191710865 acprof:oso/9780199231423.003.0007
Item type: chapter

This chapter aims to supplement the understanding of entrepreneurship and competition by demonstrating that they cannot occur without governments and stable social structures to support them. It considers two major developments in the American economy that have been typically hailed as emblematic of the working out of free markets: the emergence of the 'shareholder value' conception of the firm and the rise and growth of Silicon Valley. It is shown that these phenomena were not just caused by entrepreneurial activity, but were embedded in pre-existing social relations. In both cases, the government played a pivotal role in pushing forward the conditions for 'entrepreneurial activity'. The chapter discusses why governments sometimes do not figure in either economic or some economic sociological arguments about markets and economic growth, and suggests how an economic sociology with a view of embeddedness that includes governments, law, and supporting institutions offers a more complete picture of market evolution.

The International Mobility of Entrepreneurs and Regional Upgrading in India and China

AnnaLee Saxenian

in *The International Mobility of Talent: Types, Causes, and Development Impact*

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: May 2008 Publisher: Oxford University Press
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ISBN: 9780199532605 eISBN: 9780191714627 acprof:oso/9780199532605.003.0005
Item type: chapter

By 2000, over one-third of Silicon Valley's high-skilled workers were foreign-born, and overwhelmingly from Asia. These US-educated engineers are transforming developmental opportunities for formerly peripheral regions as they build professional and business connections to their home countries. In a process more akin to 'brain circulation' than 'brain drain', these engineers and entrepreneurs, aided by the lowered transaction costs associated with digitization, are transferring technical and institutional know-how between distant regional economies faster and more flexibly than most large corporations. This chapter examines how Chinese and Indian-born engineers are contributing to highly localized processes of entrepreneurial experimentation in their home countries, while maintaining close ties to the technology and markets in Silicon Valley.

Varieties of capitalism and innovation: the Silicon Valley model

Steven Casper

in *Creating Silicon Valley in Europe: Public Policy Towards New Technology Industries*

Published in print: 2007 Published Online: September 2007 Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/
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Item type: chapter

What is the relationship between institutional frameworks, public policy, and the governance of innovative competencies by firms? This chapter extends the varieties of capitalism theory to examine how different types of economy impede the governance of new technology firms. It argues that most new technologies attempt to create radical innovations by developing competencies along a widely diffused "Silicon Valley Model" surrounding the financing, staffing, and creation of employee incentives within firms. Liberal market economies, such as those found in the US and UK, provide strong institutional supports for the Silicon Valley Model, while coordinated market economies, such as Germany or Sweden, provide a series of constraints. A theoretical framework is developed to

explore this argument. How public policy might impact competitiveness within new technology industries across the two types of economies is discussed.

“Every Youth a Start-up”

Elsa Davidson

in *The Burdens of Aspiration: Schools, Youth, and Success in the Divided Social Worlds of Silicon Valley*

Published in print: 2011 Published Online:
March 2016
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Item type: chapter

Publisher: NYU Press
DOI: 10.18574/nyu/9780814720875.003.0004

This chapter examines the education and training of Latino youth within the local and national context, with particular emphasis on the emergent civic agenda around the digital divide in Silicon Valley. It considers the political implications and historical context of this regional “civilizing process” and its relation to a neoliberal politics of educational reform on the national scale by focusing on the production of two kinds of disciplined “subjects” in need of saving: at-risk youth and public educational and nonprofit social-service institutions. It also explores how the realities of the tech-bust era have turned disenfranchised young people, and many who provide services to them, into skeptics of neoliberal reform.

Silicon Valley and the Resurgence of Route 128: Systems Integration and Regional Innovation

Michael H. Best

in *Regions, Globalization, and the Knowledge-Based Economy*

Published in print: 2002 Published Online:
November 2003
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Item type: chapter

Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/0199250014.003.0019

Seeks to address an explanation for the decline and subsequent resurgence of Route 28, the first high-technology manufacturing region of the USA, in Massachusetts. The decline was combined with the emergence of Silicon Valley (California), which was based on a completely different business model. It is suggested that both the decline and resurgence of Route 28 can be explained in terms of the emergence of a new competitive advantage. This advantage is based on the principle of systems integration in which the old vertical integration

model has been transcended by an open system of specialist firms. This thesis is discussed.

Renewal

Leslie Berlin

in *The Man behind the Microchip: Robert Noyce and the Invention of Silicon Valley*

Published in print: 2005 Published Online: September 2007
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Item type: chapter

This chapter describes Robert Noyce's second marriage to Intel's head of personnel Anne Bowers and the failed efforts to unionize semiconductor industry employees in the 1970s and early 1980s. The media spotlight on Noyce and the rise of Silicon Valley are also discussed.

Reel to Real

Shalini Shankar

in *Beyond Yellow English: Toward a Linguistic Anthropology of Asian Pacific America*

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DOI: 10.1093/
ISBN: 9780195327359 eISBN: 9780199870639 acprof:oso/9780195327359.003.0018
Item type: chapter

This chapter identifies “Bollywood” films—feature-length movies produced in Bombay (Mumbai), India—as a source of linguistic and cultural production in the South Asian diaspora. South Asian Americans (Desis), especially youth, engage with these Hindi language films with English subtitles on a number of levels. The chapter focuses on the circulation and consumption of Bollywood films in two locations in the South Asian diaspora: Silicon Valley, CA and Queens, NY. Ethnographic and sociolinguistic data of conversational exchanges, commentary during viewing, and personal narratives are presented to illustrate Bollywood's role in shaping linguistic processes of indexicality, bivalency, and identity. In these ways, the chapter analyzes how media and language use together shape style and identity in this Asian American community, as well as how this process varies between different locations of the South Asian diaspora.

The Geography of Systems Integration

Michael H. Best

in The Business of Systems Integration

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Item type: chapter

This chapter presents a new model of technology management and regional innovation based on the principle of systems integration. The principle of systems integration is manifested in the organizational capability of firms — individually and networked — to foster rapid technological change. The effect is a network or cluster of entrepreneurial firms in which design is decentralized within the enterprise and diffused amongst networked enterprises. The combination of entrepreneurial firms and inter-firm networks fosters a range of dynamic cluster processes that, in turn, underlie the growth of Silicon Valley and the unexpected resurgence of Boston's Route 128.