



Public Administration Research Colloquium

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À la carte Regionalism: Local Development Agendas and Metropolitan Networks

By Dr. Chris Hawkins

Thursday, January 28, 2010

4:00-5:30 p.m.

HPA II – 247

Please RSVP by January 27, Wednesday to Fatih Demiroz at fdemiroz@mail.ucf.edu.

The first part of this research uses methods of network analysis to explain local economic development policy adoption. Development policy adoption is hypothesized to be a function of diffusion that results from a city government's structural embeddedness within a metropolitan network of organizations and local governments. The number and diversity of institutions and their interactions are sometimes referred to as "institutional thickness" (Amin and Thrift 1995, pg. 102), in which a thicker institutional fabric leads to more common knowledge and innovative capacity that can support economic growth. This idea is tested using survey data generated from twelve metropolitan areas. Methods of network analysis are used to construct independent variables that indicate a city's structural network position. The results of a zero inflated poisson regression indicate that a city's position within a larger network of local governments and metropolitan network actors increases local policy adoption. The second part of this research tests the idea that depending on the obstacles to cooperation for economic development, local governments seek out network actors to reduce the transaction costs of forming an agreement. This implies a non-additive relationship. A series of regression models with interaction terms is used to test this hypothesis.

Dr. Chris Hawkins is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Public Administration at UCF. His research interests include local economic development, growth management and land use policy and metropolitan governance. He is currently working on projects that utilize methods of network analysis and survey data collection of local-state relationships for the governance of environmental sustainability.

