Joint Seminar – Emergence of a Knowledge-driven Ecosystem: NYC's Tech Economy

Speaker: Professor Victor Nee
Frank and Rosa Rhodes Professor, and Director, Center for the Study of Economy and Society
Cornell University

Date: 24 August 2015, Monday
Time: 12.30 pm – 2.00 pm
Chairperson: Dr Kim Heeyon
Venue: Mochtar Riady Building
Biz 1 Research Seminar Room 6-1

Abstract

Modern economies rely increasingly on specialized knowledge held by individuals rather than points in an assembly line. How can we measure core economic processes such as specialization and division of labor when they are so seemingly messy, non-discrete, and divorced from the division of physical labor within firms? We collected 79,878 public email messages spanning seven years from participants in a large-membership tech startup community on Meetup.com. Using automated text classification of the email content, network analysis of the interactions between members, and longitudinal statistical models to measure change over time, we demonstrate evidence for two foundational yet previously untested propositions: specialization of knowledge (a) increases with the size of the market and (b) leads to a greater abundance of total available knowledge. Specialization also decreases interaction between individuals with differing interests, reinforcing segmentation in the market for information.

About the Speaker

Victor Nee is the Frank and Rosa Rhodes Professor of Economic Sociology at Cornell University. His papers have been published in the *American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, American Economic Review, Social Forces, Administrative Science Quarterly, Management Science, Theory and Society, Social Science Research, The Journal*

His CV can be found at: [http://www.soc.cornell.edu/faculty/nee/](http://www.soc.cornell.edu/faculty/nee/)

**Enquiries**

For enquiries on our department seminars, please email [Woo Kim](mailto: Woo Kim) at 6516-4660.

For a full listing of seminars, please click [here](#).

Please note that attendance is compulsory for **ALL S & P Dept PhD students**.

**Lunch will be served at 12.00 noon at Staff Lounge.**

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