

EGRG ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM, QMUL 2009

1. ECON GEOGS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE
2. ECON GEOGS OF POST-SOCIALIST TRANSITION
3. ECON GEOGS OF WORK & FINANCE

AIMS:

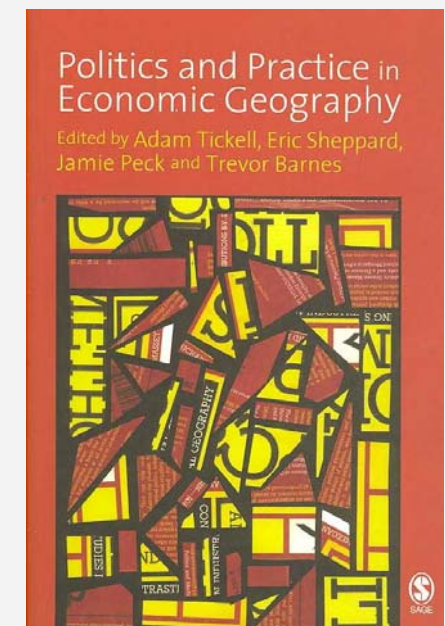
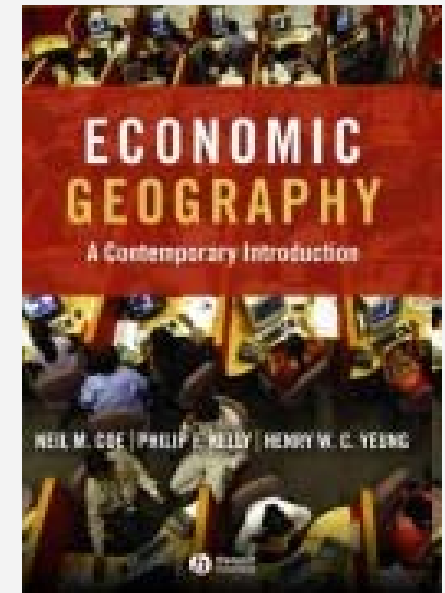
- To present research in supportive envt
- To receive constructive critique
- To meet graduates in other depts

Empirically diverse set of papers...
...but methodologically united!



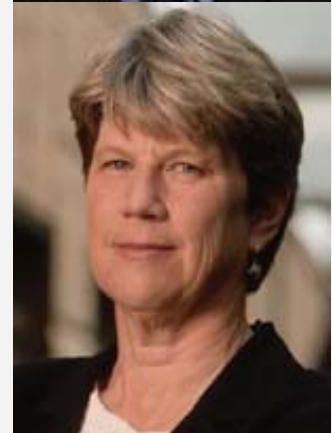
Contemporary Economic Geography & its Funny Turns

- Last decade or so: devt of more fluid & hybrid conceptions of 'the economic'; as socially, culturally, institutionally, relationally constituted
- Series of 'turns' have: brought forward new ideas, widened and enriched theoretical and conceptual debates, contributed to the development of new methods, and broadened the empirical scope of economic geography
- Revitalization & broadening out of economic geography that helps retain its viability as an exciting, policy-relevant academic discipline (as well as one that attracts, inspires, and retains undergraduate and graduate students) (Amin and Thrift 2000)



However: (ongoing) critiques of new modes of Economic Geography

- Martin and Sunley (2001): retreat from big policy questions, drift towards vague theory, partial stories, & thin empirics
- Markusen (1999): slippage in quality of empirical work, scanty evidence; policy distance
- Rodriguez-Posé (2001): too busy deconstructing discourses at expense of building empirical & analytical body of work
- Sunley (2008): core concepts of relational econ geog difficult to identify empirically; lack of dialogue between theory and data
- Graduate voices within these debates largely unheard



Repositioning the Debate: Doing Economic Geography & (Overcoming) the Challenges of Youth

1. Critiques of new economic geographies have tended to come from **SENIOR ACADEMICS**, often with large research budgets, door-opening titles, reputations, accumulated experience, research assistants, institutional support
 - So what barriers do those of us lower down the academic ranks face in *doing* good quality econ geog research in practice?
2. Problematic clean, linear, retrospective method statements that dominate journal write-ups - quite different from the messy realities of research
 - What research strategies do **NOT** work and why? (challenges of doing econ geog graduate research in a recession?)
 - What strategies are useful for overcoming commonly experienced constraints in practice?

