

Open Creative Labs. Curated encounters for creativity, work and resilience

Convenors:

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Final Preparations for the session

Dear Colleagues,

This email is to inform you about the final preparations for the upcoming RGS-IBG conference in London. Please find enclosed the session outline, abstracts, timing and organizational information about the session. We are very much looking forward to meeting you in London.

Our two timeslots are organized for Wednesday, 31 August between 14:40 and 18:30. Please be aware that in the two morning timeslots Janet Merkel and Vasilis Avdikos organized a session on Co-working the city: New infrastructures of creative collaboration in cities (probably in the same room as our session). I think for some of you this will be an interesting session as well.

We plan to arrange for a place to have a snack and drink in the evening. As soon as we have a location, we will let you know about time and place.

Best Wishes also on behalf of Ignasi, Suntje

Session Organization

We have two timeslots available for our session with six papers for each slot. Each timeslot runs for 1 hour 40 minutes. There is a 20 minutes break between the two timeslots.

Since we received many interesting submissions for our sessions, we decided to accept more than the usual 5 presentations per session. This has an important impact on the time allocated for each paper. The nature of the session resembles something between paper session and panel session. Please plan your presentation **for no longer than 10 minutes** so that we have a little time to discuss each paper, but also have time at each session's end to discuss all six papers together.

If you need further information for speakers, please also check the conferences website at <http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Programme/Information+for+presenters.htm>

Open Creative Labs (1): Curated encounters for creativity, work and resilience

Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Chair: Ignasi Capdevila

Calvin Taylor (University of Leeds, UK)	Placing the Weightless Economy: Labour and Place in the Creative Hub
Effie Kesidou, Emmanuella Plakoyiannaki and Janja Tardios (University of Leeds, UK)	Epistemic Communities on the Move - Redefining Localised Knowledge Creation: The Case of the Bauhaus
Venanzio Arquilla and Annalisa Barbieri (Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy)	Sustaining and enabling territorial resilience through making actions. The Make in Progress case study
Jennifer Johns and Andrew Smith (University of Liverpool, UK)	'Making' spaces of collective innovation: FabLabs in Manchester, UK and Barcelona, Spain
Michael Huth (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany)	The interplay of physical places and digital spaces using the example of fab labs
Klaus-Peter Stiefel and Stefan Rief (Fraunhofer IAO, Germany)	Is Coworking an Innovation Driver for Corporate Enterprises?

Open Creative Labs (2): Curated encounters for creativity, work and resilience

Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 3 (16:50 - 18:30)

Chair: Suntje Schmidt

Ignasi Capdevila, Valérie Mé-rindol and David Versailles (Paris School of Business, France)	Spatial innovation intermediaries. Localized knowledge dynamics in "open labs"
Constance Garnier and Valérie Fernandez (Télécom Paris Tech, France) Gilles Puel (Université de Toulouse, France)	From the collective organization in a FabLab to the transformation of business practices. The impact of the interaction forms in third-places on professional practices –Case study, Artilect FabLab Toulouse
Romain Rampa (HEC Montréal, Canada)	FabLabs, Global and Local Dynamics of Knowledge of a growing Network
Guido Anselmi and Letizia Chiappini (University of Milan Bicocca, Italy)	Physical and digital stakeholders: the governance of Open Creative Labs in the Milanese area
Markus Lahr (Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau, Germany)	Creative spaces as facilitators for knowledge creation
Oliver Ibert, Suntje Schmidt and Juliane Kuehn (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Germany)	Open Creative Labs in Germany – Typology and spatial distribution

Abstracts

Session Outline:

In recent years we have been observing the establishment of new places such as maker spaces, fab labs, coworking spaces, hacker spaces or living labs. 'Open Creative Labs' could function as an umbrella term for the variety of such places. The increasing international distribution of these hybrid spaces raises research questions that so far have rarely been addressed in economic geography. First, even though tentative typologies of such places emerge, we still know little about their governance structures and user composition. Equally little is known about the motivations of hosting and using Open Creative Labs. Second, taking the increasing number of labs as an indication for something valuable and new is emerging, we know little about value creating practices and the nature of value, because so far the

discourse seems to be dominated by being focused on the technology rather than the communities using it and their shared practices. Similarly, there is little knowledge on the role Open Creative Labs play in time-spatial innovation processes or creativity driven value creation processes. And third, even though labs are seemingly attracted by urban, diversified contexts (at least in western cultures), we need to question the link between the place and the territory. In this respect, the session addresses e.g. following questions: How are Open Creative Labs utilized for creativity-driven work?; How do Labs function as boundary spanners across societal and professional boundaries? What (temporary) functions are fulfilled by Open Creative Labs?; Which are the dynamics of collective creativity, innovation and collaboration taking place inside Labs?; How do localized communities emerge? How do Labs' members relate to each other at a local and global scale?; How can Labs contribute to the resilience of territories?; Which are the urban / territorial policy implications of the emergence of Labs?

Open Creative Labs (1): Curated encounters for creativity, work and resilience

Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Chair: Ignasi Capdevila

Placing the Weightless Economy: Labour and Place in the Creative Hub

Calvin Taylor (University of Leeds, UK)

Imaginarities of the urban weightless economy, in lieu of literal urban place relocation, have abounded in policy over the last forty years – the knowledge-based economy, the information economy, the science city, the cultural economy, the creative economy, the digital economy, being just some that have invoked a weightless, immaterial urban future. However, unlike science fiction, which may imaginatively prefigure the future (Jameson 2007) such imaginaries construct, legitimise and decide important decisions with real consequences for cities, their citizens, policy-makers and key public and private investments. Three important bodies of critical social scientific work have offered a response to this. Urban and economic geography, the sociology of work and organisation, and institutional and evolutionary economics have drawn attention to the re-structuring of both the wider (social) and narrower (legal) labour contract that has come with the re-structuring of the urban labour process envisaged in these imaginaries, in the process asking important questions about the contemporary conditions of work, equality and sustainability. Such imaginaries have also prompted Polanyian reconsideration of the socially embedded nature of economic practices, re-asking questions about the role of sociability, sociality and interactivity in the production of economic life, proximity working and agglomeration in territorial localisation, and interdiscipli-

narity, knowledge exchange and collaboration in innovation. It is highly noticeable that each wave of economic weightlessness has been accompanied by ever-intensifying necessity for territorial grounding. Consequently, each imaginary has been accompanied by its own territorialisation, progressing from the abstracted globally homogenous spaces (science parks, technology campuses) of the knowledge-based economy, through to the contemporary localised place-based creative hubs of the creative economy. Imaginaries, however, are not simply the product of policy ideation. Compelling and persistent imaginaries conjoin visualisation, materialisation and, as above, importantly, territorialisation. They visualise ideal social relationships (classes, genders, ethnicities), privileged subjectivities (who is valorised - the creative entrepreneur, for example?) and regimes of calculation (what is valorised and how?). They are materially embedded in circuits and modes of production, consumption and reproduction, as well as material environments, historic and emergent. Materialisation, however, is shaped by territorialisation that doesn't just deal with abstracted geographical matters such as scale, but acts relationally to define place. Thus what we can say is that the creative hub visualises, materialises and territorializes the creative economy through strategies of place and place-making not just as a branding exercise (visualisation), but as complementary strategies of materialisation and territorialisation. The creative hub is to the twenty-first century labour process and its relationships what the celebrated pin factory was to Adam Smith's mid-eighteenth century emergent manufacturing society (Smith 1976a, 1976b). The chapter argues that both uncritical advocacy of the creative hub and left critiques of it have over-emphasised the visualisation (branding) at the expense of more nuanced accounts of the hub that can be developed by considering its material and territorial forms. The paper draws on and makes a case for a cultural political economy (Sum and Jessop 2015) of the hub as the paradigmatic territorial materialisation of the creative economy. Against arguments that the labour process of the creative economy has been distanced from value production and accumulation, the chapter will consider the hub as the new site of surplus value production and appropriation. The paper also draws on the author's previous studies that critiqued the over-socialisation of creativity (often a simplistic rationale for the hub model) (Taylor 2011) and romanticised the transactional power of intermediation (again, often a rationale for the hub model) (Taylor 2015) at the expense of understanding its regulatory (gatekeeping) and structural powers.

Epistemic Communities on the Move - Redefining Localised Knowledge Creation: The Case of the Bauhaus

Effie Kesidou, Emmanuella Plakoyiannaki and Janja Tardios (University of Leeds, UK)

This article looks at how the interaction between epistemic communities and the local micro cluster gives rise to radical innovations, and in turn, how and why epistemic communities evolve across spatio-temporal contexts. We draw on the theoretical pillars of the cluster and networks of epistemic communities literatures and use a retrospective case study of the Bauhaus movement that captures its trajectory from Weimar, Dessau, Berlin to New York to shed light on these processes of knowledge creation in micro clusters. This research contributes to the growing literature on knowledge creation in micro clusters by stressing the key role played by individual actors in shaping local innovation and in affecting the evolution of local micro clusters.

Sustaining and enabling territorial resilience through making actions. The Make in Progress case study

Venanzio Arquilla and Annalisa Barbieri (Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy)

The recent evolution of production models within urban context shows a possible scenario characterized by new interactions between design-driven innovation, making, creativity and social innovation. The paper analyses this scenario combined with the idea of Territorial Capital as a model to study a specific territory (EU Leader Project; 1999)¹ by looking at a case study : Make in Progress, which explores new models of interaction between creative industries, makers, DIY people, artisan and SMEs within urban area and industrial district. The goal of this paper is to analyze how the phenomenon of Open Creative Lab (Ibert, 2015)² can contribute to the resilience of the territories and how unexpected localized creative communities could emerge. To answer this question the paper focuses on the relationship and the potential of social innovation and service design (Meroni-Sangiorgi,2011³; Stickdorn-Schneider,2012⁴) in the territorial enhancement processes, through the making. In this case, the making gets the role of enabler in development of the territorial capital (Arquilla-Bianchini-Maffei-Carelli,2014⁵), becoming from a purpose, as it often happens in most of the process of creation of making places such as fablab and makerspaces (Walter,2014⁶; Gershenfeld,2007⁷), to a real opportunity to be used to make the most interesting characteristics of a territory emerge: people and their capabilities. In detail, the case study of MakeinProgress (MiP) will be analyzed as an applied case of this theory. MiP is born from a real opportunity from the territory: the architectural recovery of the space of a former Filanda, totally funded by local and supralocal authorities by a process of public financing, in the beginning started as incubator and later converted by the intervention of design. We analyzed the territory, defined possible scenario, verified the applicability of this scenario by iso-

lating potential of the area, modified and adapted scenario to the real potential of territory coming to set up an experimental model of action (MiP as demo service). Thanks to this activities was demonstrate how a laboratory in the suburbs, a suburb that did not imagine a possible development in creativity, acts as empowering latent elements showing unexpected capabilities and resilience.

'Making' spaces of collective innovation: FabLabs in Manchester, UK and Barcelona, Spain

Jennifer Johns and Andrew Smith (University of Liverpool, UK)

Situated within an emerging field examining temporary collaborative and co-working spaces, this research specifically examines FabLabs in two geographical contexts. FabLabs are a type of MakerSpace that emerged from MIT in 2009 and has rapidly spread to 67 countries. They contain digital (and non digital) fabrication technologies that enable rapid prototyping and experimentation for a variety of different types of user such as entrepreneurs and artists. The FabLabs are global knowledge communities in temporary spaces (Brinks and Schmidt, 2015) in which highly localized practices and knowledge exchange interact with global innovative flows facilitated by the Fab Foundation, educational programmes and the use of shared online spaces. This paper presents initial findings from empirical research conducted in two FabLabs; Manchester, UK and Barcelona, Spain. It draws upon extensive participant observation, questionnaire and interview data collected between September 2014 and May 2016.

Our initial results show that the interaction of local 'buzz' and global pipelines (Bathelt et al. 2004) differs significantly in each of these localized spaces of collective innovation (Capdevila, 2013). We outline some of the challenges facing the establishment and evolution of grassroots digital fabrication (Smith et al. 2013) and contextualize this within broader discussion of the role that such Makerspaces are able to play in local innovation spaces and regional economic development.

The interplay of physical places and digital spaces using the example of fab labs

Michael Huth (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany)

Jeremy Rifkin predicted the eclipse of capitalism in his book "The Zero Marginal Cost Society" (2014). Traditional production processes would be replaced accordingly, which already begin to be seen in the use of 3-D printers. One basis for this is an ever rising exchange of communication content. In this context, fab labs (Gershenfeld, 2005; 2012) provide to any interest-

ed person technical equipment such as 3-D printer. Additionally they strive for a sharing of knowledge on physical and digital level. In recent years there has been a broadening of perspectives regarding the transfer of knowledge in the economic geography research: About 10 years ago, primarily the benefits of physical proximity were stressed (Bathelt, et al., 2004; Storper & Venables, 2004), but in recent years researchers refer to a virtual buzz (Bathelt & Turi, 2011) and to capabilities for distant relations (Grabher & Ibert, 2014). Thus knowledge can be shared by hybrid virtual communities - even without any physical location reference. Against the background of this area of tension between proximity and distance and physical location and digital space, I examined their running practices using the example of the Nuremberg Metropolitan Area fab lab. Using an experiment, observations, and various types of interviews (expert interviews, group interview, individual interviews), I considered which people are to be found and what they do there. Based on this, I examined, to what extent and at what level collaboration takes place and how it is translated in each case physically-digital and vice versa. According to the current data set analysis I conclude that there usually independently implement predominantly technophile people their ideas and projects. Collaboration mainly happens on site among acquaintances. The causes of non-executed transfers showed many reasons. This non-replacement has been researched yet insufficient in geographical research.

Is Coworking an Innovation Driver for Corporate Enterprises?

Klaus-Peter Stiefel and Stefan Rief (Fraunhofer IAO, Germany)

In 2014, Fraunhofer IAO published its study "The Fascination of Coworking – Potentials for Companies and their Employees (Rief et al. 2014). Within that study, we systematically worked out the reasons why Coworking is so highly attractive. We could identify that the fascination of Coworking for freelancers is caused by their pursuit of freedom and independence combined with structure in terms of basic services and the community of Coworking Spaces. Even if it's not apparent at first sight – the combination of these features is not usual at all in the customary world of knowledge workers (Stiefel;Rief 2014). This effect is strongly enhanced by two other attributes: first of all, the early formulated Coworking Core Values – Collaboration, Community, Openness, Accessibility and Sustainability (Hillman 2011) – have been properly established within the Coworking Spaces. They are at least rated to be very important by most of the Coworkers (Foertsch 2011). Secondly, Coworking Spaces have come to recognize the importance of the core issues „place" and „community" (Laarmann 2013) for the prosperity of their business. There are some consequences resulting from the

fascination of Coworking. First of all, the number of Coworking Spaces and especially of Coworkers is growing exponentially throughout the world (Foertsch 2015). Secondly, corporate enterprises become aware of the phenomenon of Coworking too as we stated in a qualitative analysis (Rief et al. 2014). This is a legitimate interest because there are good reasons to believe that a variety of people, competences and ideas is about to enhance the creativity of knowledge workers (Fuzi et al. 2014) – and that is exactly what can be found within Coworking Spaces. For this reason corporate enterprises are starting to take an interest in Coworking – however in different ways. What is missing up to now, is an empirical study on the concrete interest and motivation of corporate enterprises in Coworking and their response on the question which of the most important Coworking models enterprises actually prefer. In our current empirical study, we are asking for nine different models such as amongst other; Coworking instead of home office; Partly sabbaticals or innovation camps; Think Tanks – own Coworking Spaces, opened for freelancers too; Coworking together with other enterprises; Fraunhofer IAO is currently undertaking this survey. The paper to be worked out will present the main results of the survey.

Open Creative Labs (2): Curated encounters for creativity, work and resilience

Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 3 (16:50 - 18:30)

Chair: Suntje Schmidt

Spatial innovation intermediaries. Localized knowledge dynamics in "open labs"

Ignasi Capdevila, Valérie Mérindol and David Versailles (Paris School of Business, France)

In the context of this chapter, we define "open lab" as a place and a process driven by various actors to renew the innovation and creativity processes through collaboration, iteration, openness and the materialization of ideas. In France, some of the open labs have been labelled as "fab labs", others as "living labs". For instance, 85 structures have been labeled as the "fab labs" in France, two of them in the city of Paris. Furthermore, nearly 300 open labs were labeled under the term "living lab" in Europe by the European Network ENoLL, including 38 in France. Several French universities have created open labs and some research organizations such as the CEA have set up their own "idea lab". French companies in very different sectors have also developed or plan to develop in-house open labs. For instance, this is the case of SEB, Airbus, Alcatel Lucent, SAFRAN or Renault. In France, these initiatives seem to progress with the emergence of a wide variety of open labs. This article summarizes a research project lead by the Chair New Practices for Innovation and Creativity (newPIC) at Paris School of Business. The research questions that the research aimed where: Which different types of open labs can be identified? Which are the drivers and innovation approach-

es?; What place these new organizations occupy in the strategy of public and private organizations in France?; Which organizational innovation models are favored?; What economic model is associated with the development of open labs?; To which extent do these open labs represent a transformation vector of the innovation and creativity practices in our societies?

From the collective organization in a FabLab to the transformation of business practices. The impact of the interaction forms in third-places on professional practices –Case study, Artilect FabLab Toulouse

Constance Garnier and Valérie Fernandez (Télécom Paris Tech, France), Gilles Puel (Université de Toulouse, France)

FabLabs, as rapidly growing 'third places,' raises questions about open innovation (Chesbrough, 2003) because of the new models for collaborative organization, production and sharing that they offer (Lallemand, 2015 ; Bosqué, 2016). Those third places (Oldenbourg, 1989) who hosts specific interaction and working forms, are not impermeable to the corporate world. They are an organizational configuration that leads to the creation and structuring of communities of practices (Cohendet et al. 2003, 2010), outside of the market and touching the boundaries of the business environment. How do those communities structure themselves? What is their evolving dynamics over time? What about them when they cross the boundaries of the "un commercial" to completely enter the corporate world. Our communication explores this issues from a longitudinal study initiated since 2014 through an ethnographical approach (participatory research, interviews, survey). As a first step, it presents and analyses of the collective organizational forms inside a FabLab – based on the case study of Artilect (first French fablab). The exponential growth of the community questions the resilience of the founding values and practices, and the appropriation of the place by the communities, while facing this rapid growth and à changes of scales. We identify various 'social worlds' (Strauss, 1959) – real and virtual – which co-exists and are differentiated by their specific uses and collaborations and cooperation forms. As a second step, we try to identify what is transmitted out of those collective and individual practices through the porous boundaries between FabLabs and firms. We especially present the "FabLab pro" as a synaptic space between large corporations and the communities of the Fablab environment.

FabLabs, Global and Local Dynamics of Knowledge of a growing Network

Romain Rampa (HEC Montréal, Canada)

For about fifteen years, we see the strong growth of localized spaces of collaborative innovation, which can also be called "Open Creative Labs". These places have the features to potentially attract and build communities, to be learning spaces, and to participate to urban and regional development. However the dynamics of knowledge and the role that these places play within territories still require investigation. Our research examines for this purpose a growing network of open creative labs", FabLabs, which have the triple characteristics of being both specific places, a global network and to be integrated into a global movement. This article aims to contribute to the literature in economic geography, and on collaboration between different communities, by analyzing the dynamics of knowledge that pass between and within FabLabs. It will attempt to answer, at least partially, the following questions: How can the local roots of FabLabs energize the global network? And reciprocally, how does the global anchoring nurture and stimulate localized communities? This article is based on a multiple case study in three FabLabs (in Montreal, Lisbon and Grenoble) and on observations and interviews conducted within the framework of a large unifying event: the annual Symposium of the United States FabLab Network. Analysis of the results highlights the common structures that bind this global network, showing that the movement has been able to build a cognitive proximity within these distributed spaces, and that it plays a stronger role than geographic proximity to promote knowledge transfer. It also shows that the effects of the networks differ from one FabLab to another. They largely depend on the efforts being implemented by the members, and especially by managers of these places that act as Knowledge brokers.

Physical and digital stakeholders: the governance of Open Creative Labs in the Milanese area

Guido Anselmi and Letizia Chiappini (University of Milan Bicocca, Italy)

Notwithstanding the popularity of the Open Creative Labs scholars are still pretty much in the dark about the governance structures of such Labs. There seems to be rough consensus on their hybrid nature, of actors interfacing with the market as well as with grassroots activism and the State; however we can hardly trace a map of critical stakeholders influencing the decision making process within Open Creative Labs. The issue is further complicated by the fact that Open Labs, hacker/maker spaces are a by-product of Internet culture, so are perceived to rely upon digital connections in order to function. As a consequence of these ambiguities it has become somewhat problematic to understand what kind of value they produce: whether it is pure market value, public goods or a combination of the two and, fur-

thermore at what scale the governance arrangements producing said value unfold. What we are proposing in this paper is to look at the governance structure of selected Open Creative Labs in the Milanese area, in an effort to unravel the hybrid nature of these entities: to achieve this we use a multiplicity of techniques, drawing from digital ethnography – the quali-quantitative study of social media production- as well as from traditional case study inquiry. We have traced social media connections of all Milanese Open Labs in order to recognize the kind – market, State, or grassroots – and the scale at which digital stakeholders of each lab operate. Out of these results we have crafted a taxonomy to sample cases, one market aligned one State aligned and one grassroots aligned. These cases we will survey with in-depth case study. For each case we study a significant workflow: what kind of actors have shaped decision-making, what kind of goods has it produced and whether or not physical stakeholder correspond to digital ones. Our contribution is humble but nonetheless needed, as we aim to develop an analytic grid disambiguating the role of Open Labs as a function of their stakeholders.

Creative spaces as facilitators for knowledge creation

Markus Lahr (Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau, Germany)

Research on creativity has developed many different terms such as productive thinking, 'divergent thinking', 'originality', 'imagination', 'heureka' or 'lateral thinking' to describe the process of creating something novel and appropriate (Ackoff et al. 1981; Sternberg and Lubart, 1999) and might be result to an academic uncertainty of what the concept of creativity really means. Research on the idea of spaces that conceptualize creativity as an enabling key component to trigger or promote creative behavior seems to share the same uncertainty. This relatively new area of research has already developed numerous definitions. They all have in common the general notion of places being a space or a lab that provides a physical working environment (Kresin, 2012; Schmidt et al. 2014) and supports its interdisciplinary users by also providing methods and technological means (Lahr, 2013) to translate knowledge and individual competencies into physical goods or concepts. These definitions do not differ very much from the traditional concepts of Innovation Labs (e.g. Moultrie, 2005; Gryszkiewicz et. al, 2015) and provide therefore only minor indication of possible new underlying economic or social phenomena such as open innovation, bottom up economy or maker movement, which might drive the development of Creative Labs. A key aspect and therefore the aim of this paper is to better understand the role Creative Labs play in the process of fostering knowledge creation and transfer. Being a place that promotes innovation a

Creative Lab can be considered as a knowledge intermediary, following the concept of 'knowledge brokering' (Feller et al., 2010). In this regard, Labs facilitate the exchange of knowledge between seekers and solvers and support the process by recombining existing knowledge to create innovative solutions (Hargadon, 2002). The paper will build on preliminary categorizations of Creative Labs (Lahr, 2012; Schmidt; 2013) to apply the theoretical concept of knowledge brokering. Empirical data from expert and user interviews, desk research and documentation from topic related conferences will be used to further develop the understanding of how labs are utilized for creativity driven work.

Open Creative Labs in Germany – Typology and spatial distribution

Oliver Ibert, Suntje Schmidt and Juliane Kuehn (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Germany)

In the proposed paper we present first findings of a research project on open creative labs in Germany. We define open creative labs in a broad sense as places in which the following features interact: (1) Work spaces are easily accessible (no or low formal entry barriers), yet there are mechanisms of social curation at place that foster interesting and meaningful encounters. (2) The material workaroud is deliberately designed to afford interaction and personal encounters. Social media amends these opportunities for face-to-face encounters. (3) Access can be granted in a highly flexible way (from short term rents to entry ticketing) (4) Participants are expected to share their knowledge, to help each other, to be "open" and to behave cooperatively. (5) Creative processes are often user-driven and strongly problem-oriented. This novel form of workspace has gained worldwide importance during the past decade, yet little is known about the systematic differences within this broad field. The aims of the presentation are first, to provide an overview about the total number of these new spaces across Germany and to suggest a systematic typology how to structure this emergent field of organizing creative work. Second, the presentation will show how different types of labs are distributed across 11 metropolitan regions and to offer an interpretation of the patterns of spatial distribution. The presentation bases on original and most recent data collected in an intensive desk-top research in 2015/16.