

Development Dynamics of a Startup Innovation Cluster Ten Years Later: An Analysis of the New Brunswick ICT Industry

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Economic geographers have long been interested in the processes that shape industrial districts and specialized geographic concentrations of economic activity. However, little scholarly attention has been given to case studies located in smaller cities and peripheral regions, resulting in a lack of nuanced theoretical understanding concerning development dynamics at play in industrial districts outside of the core. This thesis aims to help fill this gap by investigating the growth and trajectory of the New Brunswick information and communications technology (ICT) industry over the past 20 years. Quantitative and qualitative methods are employed to provide an updated statistical and geospatial snapshot of the sector, and to take an in-depth look at the emerging ICT startup community in the region. The theoretical framework developed herein, which focuses on ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ factors, grounded in path dependency, that enable and/or challenge local firms, holds great promise for future studies of place-based economic development.

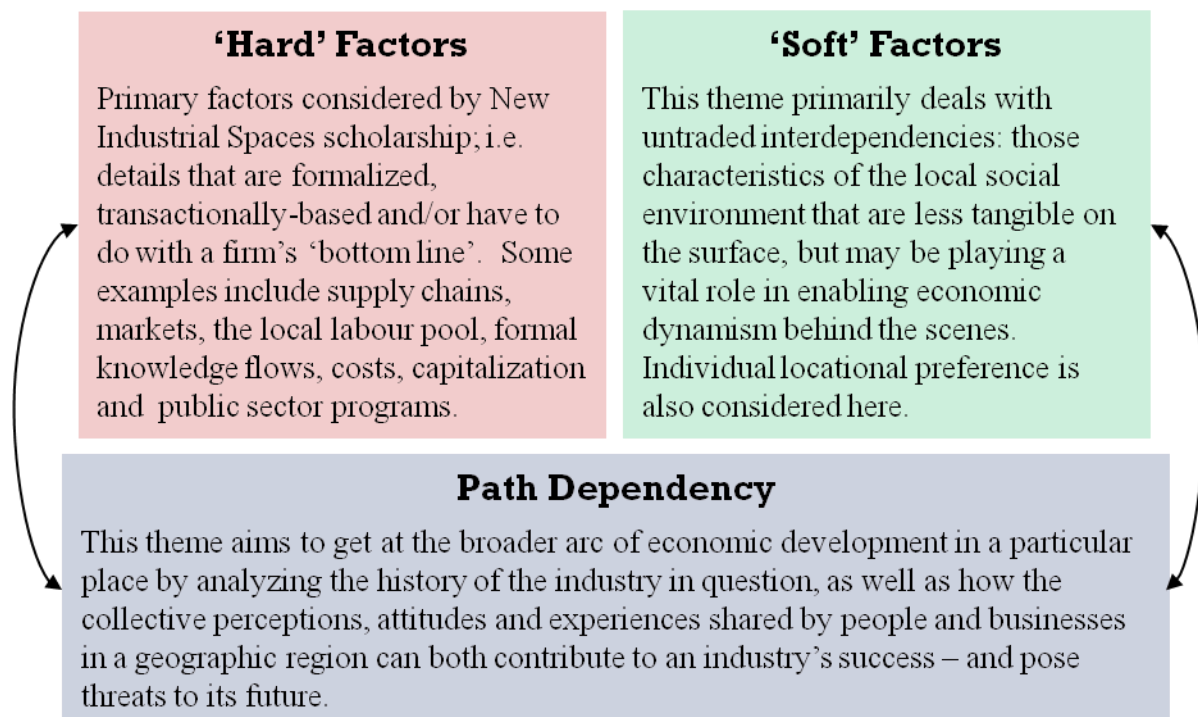


Figure 2.4: Synthesized conceptual framework for this study.