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Dr. Mariagrazia Squicciarini is currently Senior Research Scientist at VTT, the Technical Research Centre of Finland. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Essex (UK) and had previous appointments at the National Research Centre for the Development of Advanced Materials (PaSTIS-CNRSM, Brindisi, Italy), the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (IPTS, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, Seville, Spain), and the University of Essex (Colchester, UK). Her research interests span the fields of industrial organisation, applied microeconomics and applied econometrics. She specialises in the economics of innovation, Intellectual Property Rights and micro-econometrics, and has been recently working on innovation policy tools, particularly Science Parks.

February 14th, 2:15 pm
Max Plank Institute of Economics
Entrepreneurship, Growth and Public Policy Group
Seminar Room V14

DO SCIENCE PARKS ENCOURAGE INNOVATION?
EVIDENCE FROM THE TENANTS’ PATENTING ACTIVITY
- A DURATION MODEL -

Science Parks (SPs) should act as traits d’union between research and industry, promoting competitiveness and the culture of innovation. Whether they accomplish this in practice remains an open question. Trying to provide an answer, we gather first-hand data about the Finnish Parks and 236 tenants, over 33 years (1970 – 2002), and carry out a ‘Before VS After’ survival analysis, based on PWP (1981) conditional risk-set model. We check if and to what extent the status of tenants that companies acquire once moving inside the SPs influences their innovative performance, measured in terms of patent applications. Among other results, we find some support for the existence of spillover mechanisms, with the overall number of tenants and presence of big companies positively influencing the performance of the tenant firms. Incubators also seem to enhance the propensity to patent of those companies joining SPs when very young, whereas Universities generally slow down the rate at which companies patent. As for the Science Parks themselves, first mover disadvantages emerge. Clearly, though, non-negligible matching phenomena exist, by which the tenants’ patenting performance is shaped by particular combinations of the companies’ own characteristics and the Parks’ features.