The relevance of geographic proximity in modeling economic interactions has deep economic microfoundations. In the Regional Science, Economics, and Geography literature, the fact that space plays a major role in shaping most economic outcomes has been supported by strong empirical evidence. This dissertation discusses the role that non-geographic proximity plays in shaping the spatial economics of knowledge and innovation. While the role of geographic proximity in enhancing knowledge diffusion is found to be less relevant once non-geographic types of closeness are taken into account, geographic proximity still represents a crucial precondition for knowledge diffusion. The impact of both geographic as well as non-geographic proximity on knowledge diffusion is characterized by remarkable non-linearities, thus suggesting the existence of possible optimal levels of proximity between regions and, consequently, of possible knowledge lock-ins. Finally, different forms of proximity are found to complement each other: their effects display relevant synergies that have so far been relatively neglected in both the theoretical and the empirical debate.

Andrea Caragliu (Rome, 1978) obtained a BA and a MSc in Economics at Bocconi University, Milan, and a PhD in Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering obtained at Politecnico di Milano in 2010. He currently works as Assistant Professor of Regional and Urban Economics at Politecnico di Milano.

The economics of proximity:
Regional growth, beyond geographic proximity
Invitation

On Thursday, October 8th 2015, I will defend my Ph.D. thesis entitled

The economics of proximity:

Regional growth, beyond geographic proximity

You are kindly invited to attend the ceremony that will start at 15.45 in the Aula of the Vrije Universiteit, De Boelelaan 1105, Amsterdam.

The ceremony will be followed by a reception.

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