

PROGRAM

The 8th Research Area [X] ‘Knowledge, Networks and Regions’ Workshop

Workshop theme 2026

From Creative Destruction to Successful Transformation

11. June 2026, BildungsCampus Herford, Germany

Organizing team:

Kudic, Muhamed* (TH OWL),
Pyka, Andreas (University of Hohenheim),
Pusch, Toralf (Institute of Economic and Social Research),
Wisniewski, Lukasz* (TH OWL),
Vermeulen, Ben (University of Hohenheim)

Keynote speaker:

MICHAEL FRITSCH

“Long-term Dynamics of
Regional Self-employment”

UWE CANTNER

“Activating
Transformation”

Scientific committee:

Buchmann, T., Cantner, U., da Silva-Wagner, I., Dornbusch, F., Ebersberger, B., Fritsch, M., Graf, H., Klement, B., Kudic, M., Mueller, M., Ponta, L., Pusch, T., Pyka, A., Rothgang, M., Schlaile, M., Von Horn, R., Wisniewski, L., Wolf, P.

With the friendly support of:



EAEPE RA[X] Workshop 2026

„From Creative Destruction to Successful Transformation“

BildungsCampus, Herford, Germany, 11. June, 2026

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

08:40 – 09:05 **Registration** (Building: DCC / room: foyer)

09:10 – 09:20 **Opening address** (Building: F / room: start-up lounge)

09:20 – 11:20 **PARALLEL SESSION – A –**

Building: F / room: start-up lounge

Innovation policy for successful transformation (Chairs: Cantner, U., Graf, H., Rothgang, M.)

A-1 Fornahl, D., Grashof, N.: “When Transformation Breeds Anxiety: Regional Pressures, Future Expectations and Fringe Voting in Germany”.

A-2 Rothgang, M., Lageman, B.: “Transformative Mission-Oriented Innovation Policies: What can be Learned from Past Experiences in Germany?”

A-3 Ebersberger, B., Herstad, S.J., Görner, C.: “Where is the Future?”

A-4 Eckhart, M.: “Regulatory sandboxes for AI – a useful tool for fostering the coevolution of law and technology?”

Building: DCC / room: co-working space

Digital Innovation in practice (Chairs: Heymann, N., Moldehn, A., Wisniewski, L.)

A.5 Practitioner workshop: Digital transformation of SMEs – in practical measures (together with companies from the region. Further details, tba.)

11:20 – 11:25 **Short break / room change**

11:25 – 12:20 **Keynote: MICHAEL FRITSCH**
“Long-term Dynamics of Regional Self-employment”,
Building: F/ room: start-up lounge

12:20 – 13:10 **Lunch break**
BildungsCampus: Mensa/Dining hall, Former officers’ club

13:10 – 14:40 **PARALLEL SESSION – B –**

Building: F / room: start-up lounge

Data-driven tool and simulation in innovation research (Chairs: Dornbusch, F., Klement, B., Buchmann, T., Wolf, P.)

B-1 Dornbusch, F., Klement, B.: “From Creative Destruction to Successful Transformation – Data-driven Approaches for Regional Structural Change”

B-2 Wolf, P., Buchmann, T.: “From data to infrastructure: Enabling hydrogen logistics corridors in Europe”

B-3 VanDoren, D., Voge, M., Droste-Franke, B.: “Mapping the Green Gap – The integration of Spatial Knowledge Diffusion into SLICK”

Building: DCC / room: foyer

Digital transformation, industrial relations and labour (Chairs: Pusch, T., Kudic, M.)

B-4 Kettl, J.: “Studying GenAI Adoption across European Workplaces: A Framework beyond Technological Determinism”

B-5 Piasna, A., Potocka-Sionek, N.: “Working time de-standardisation and re-regulation in the digital age: Legal and sociological perspectives on the implications for policy and industrial relations”

B-6 Pusch, T., Kudic, M.: “Digital Transformation and Labour Market Adaptation: empirical insights from rural-industrialized regions”

14:40 – 15:10**Coffee break****15:10 – 17:10****PARALLEL SESSION – C –****Building: F/ room: start-up lounge**

Coping with complexity in innovation & entrepreneurship (Chairs: Pyka, A., Ponta, L., Mueller, M., Schlaile, M.)

C-1 Ponta, L., Urbinati, A., Manzini, R., Cincotti, S.: “Hybrid Circular Strategies and Economic Performance: An Agent-Based Modeling Approach”

C-2 Mueller, M., Schlaile, M., Lang, S., Janssen, M.J., Wanzenböck, I., Bogner, K., Zscheischler, J., Schramm, M., Pyka, A.: “Making sense of wickedness: Directionality heuristics for challenge-led innovation policy”

C-3 Laperche, B.: “Club Techno-Nationalism, friend-shoring and the Emergence of Semiconductor Clusters”

C-4 – tbc. – Wulf, V. – tbc. –

Building: DCC / room: foyer

New perspectives and methodological advancements (Chairs: da Silva-Wagner, I., Ebersberger, B., Schlaile, M.)

C-5 Da Silva-Wagner, I., Ebersberger, B.: “Empirical Analysis of Sufficiency-oriented Innovation Adoption Across Firms”

C-6 Schlaile, M.: “Making sense of transformation: Unveiling change agents’ narratives and worldviews”

C-7 Anda, S.K.: “Heterogeneous effects of institutions on newly founded companies according to the degree of innovation of the newly founded companies”

C-8 Von Andrian, N., Wiek, A.: “Success factors for scaling community-supported C6 food-businesses: reconstructive and formative evidence from Hansalim (South Korea) and Solawi-Verein C7 Werra-Meißner-Kreis (Germany)”

17:10 – 17:15**Short break / room change****17:15 – 18:00****Keynote: UWE CANTNER**

“Activating Transformation”

Building: F / room: start-up lounge

18:00 – 19:00**Individual break / no program (60 min)****19:00 – 21:00****Conference dinner**

Location: Restaurant “Le Feu”,

Address: Holland 17, 32052 Herford

Keynote Speaker

Prof. Dr. Uwe Cantner, Chair of Microeconomics, Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Uwe Cantner is a leading scholar in innovation economics and evolutionary economics. He is Director of the Schumpeter Center at Friedrich Schiller University Jena and Secretary General of the International Joseph A. Schumpeter Society. His work bridges theoretical excellence and policy-relevant research on innovation, firm dynamics, and structural change. His key achievements include chairing the German Expert Commission for Research and Innovation (EFI) 2019 – 2025, founding and leading the Schumpeter Center, serving as Editor of the Journal of Evolutionary Economics, and publishing over 100 articles in leading international journals. His research focuses on innovation economics, entrepreneurship, networks, productivity, and industrial and innovation policy.



Prof. Dr. Michael Fritsch (Emeritus), former Chair of Business Dynamics, Innovation and Economic Change, Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Michael Fritsch is an internationally recognized expert in entrepreneurship, innovation, and regional development. His empirical research has fundamentally shaped our understanding of how new firms and innovations drive regional economic development. His major achievements include more than 160 peer-reviewed journal articles and 18 books, including two widely used textbooks on Entrepreneurship: Theory, Empirics, and Policy and Market Failure and Economic Policy. Michael Fritsch served as associate editor of Regional Studies and is a longtime editor of Small Business Economics: An Entrepreneurship Journal. His research interests include entrepreneurship, regional development, innovation processes, and institutional influences on economic change.



Conference Venue – BildungsCampus Herford

