The geography of work practices

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In this paper we will integrate different research areas of geography, representing time-geography (Hägerstrand, 1970), management geography (Schlunze et al., 2012) and gender geography (Rose, 1993). It is also cross-disciplinary through integrating theories and models from economic sociology (Granovetter, 1995) and sociotechnical systems (STS) (Winter et al., 2014, Røpke and Christensen, 2012). This paper aims to integrate social, economic and technology elements for understanding the geography of work practices, and it feeds into the argument that the conception of place contexts and geographical distance and proximity for economic activities can contribute to the understanding of management, organisation and development of companies and work (cf. Schoenberger, 2001, Faulconbridge and Jones, 2012). Hence, a deep study of conditions for work practices requires focusing on a particular segment on the labour market. The selected segment is highly educated and qualified workforce in the advanced business services industry (ABS). ABS is a “fast moving” industry and early adopter of organisational and technical innovations and applications (including ICT). The ABS industry is characterised by project based work, flexibility and short innovation cycles. In this industry, the organisation of work in time-space is constantly rearranged and negotiated. We want to explore how employees, in teams within and across organisations, manage their work practice, the role to develop knowledge and customized services to their clients, such economic activities have impacts on other organisations and labour market norms more generally.