

# Preface

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The contributions forming the different chapters in this book were first presented and discussed at the Twelfth Uddevalla Symposium on 'The Geography of Innovation and Entrepreneurship', held at the Polytechnic Institute of Bari, Bari, Italy, June 11–13, 2009.

The purpose of this international conference was to contribute to an increased understanding of the role of geographical space in innovation and entrepreneurship, since in recent decades we have witnessed a renewed interest in the spatial aspects of innovation and entrepreneurship including the role of the centripetal and centrifugal forces influencing the location of firms and households. The contributions covered a significant range of topics including the role of agglomeration, clustering and entrepreneurship in regional economic development within a global market context.

The Twelfth Uddevalla Symposium 2009, organized by the University West, Department of Economics and IT, Trollhättan, Sweden, was hosted by the Polytechnic Institute of Bari, Italy. The School of Public Policy, George Mason University, USA, and Jönköping International Business School, Jönköping, Sweden were also parts of the organizing committee.

The symposium was co-financed by CESIS (Centre of Excellence for Science and Innovations Studies), Stockholm & Jönköping, Sweden; Centre for Innovation Systems, Entrepreneurship and Growth (CISEG), Jönköping International Business School, Sweden; Media Management and Transformation Center (MMTC), Jönköping International Business School, Sweden; Nordic Section of Regional Science Association (NS-RSA), Polytechnic Institute of Bari, Bari, Italy; Research Unit for Rural Entrepreneurship and Growth (RUREG), Jönköping International Business School, Sweden; The School of Public Policy, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA; and the University West, Trollhättan, Sweden. Supporting local partners were Banca Popolare di Bari, Association of Industrial Manufacturers of the Province of Bari, Confindustria Bari, and the Regional Agency of Technology and Innovation of Apulia (ARTI Puglia), Italy.

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