



Political Science

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Geography & Planning

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## Global Innovation & Regional Development Speaker Series

*Presents*

### Professor Ram Mudambi

(Frank M. Speakman Professor of Strategy, Fox School of Business, Temple University)

### *“Global Connectedness and Local Disconnectedness”*

Thursday, March 16, 2017

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sidney Smith Hall 3130



**Abstract:** Two opposing worldviews of the global economy dominate both academic and public discourse. One view draws on the dramatic decline in spatial transaction costs and the resulting “death of distance”. This view holds that “the world is flat”. Opponents point out that knowledge hotspots and knowledge-intensive clusters account for a disproportionate and rising share of global economic activity. In the words of some economic geographers, “the world is spiky”.

We argue that the two worldviews are two sides of the same coin. The world is connected, and global value chains (GVCs) of innovation and production systematically link knowledge hotspots with one another. As they replace local systems with global ones, GVCs are also disconnecting many knowledge centers from their hinterlands of second tier cities, towns and rural areas. As knowledge clusters become increasingly connected with one another, they become disconnected from their local regions.

*Sponsored by the Canada Research Chair in Innovation and Governance*

For more information please contact Harald Bathelt ([harald.bathelt@utoronto](mailto:harald.bathelt@utoronto))

or Pierre Desrochers ([pierre.desrochers@utoronto.ca](mailto:pierre.desrochers@utoronto.ca))