

# IN SEARCH OF “GOOD LIFE”: DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND CITIZENS UNDER GLOBALISATION

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Dialogues between complementary transcontinental research  
groups

Kari Lilja

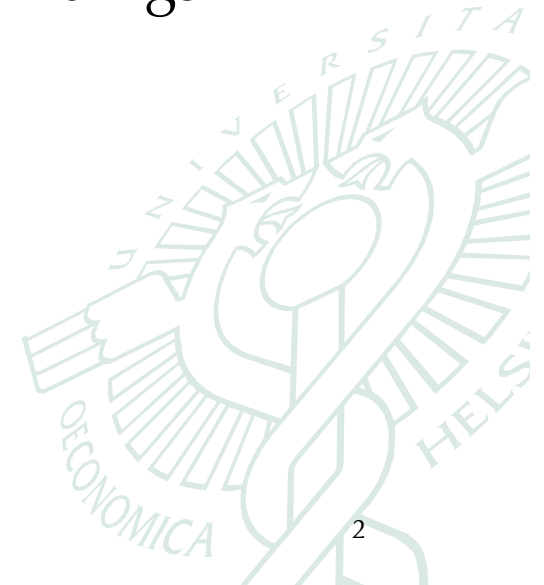
Opening speech - Translearn final workshop

18 March 2009

# TRANSEARN PROJECT AS A CATALYST FOR A DIALOGUE

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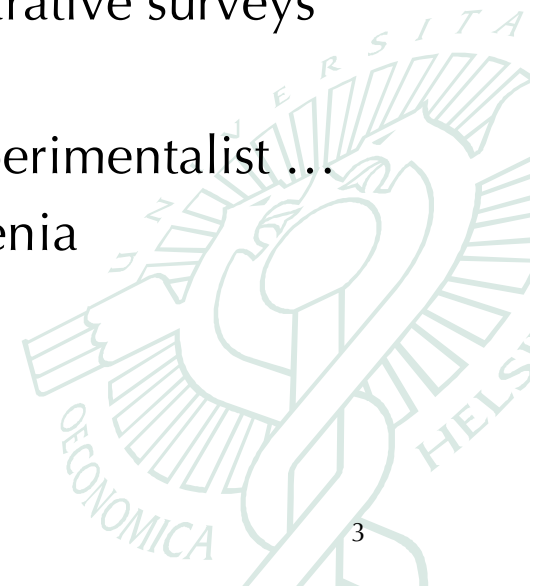
- Milestones
- Participants
- Mode of working
- Intellectual background
- The final workshop: presenting core findings



## Milestones in the Translearn project

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- Preparation of the Translearn application in 2004-2005, informal acceptance in December 2005, start date April 1, 2006
- Sampling of local cases and fieldwork
- Interrelating cases to the national systemic context and change
- Inductive reasoning based on constructed narratives, secondary sources and cross-national comparative surveys
- Involvement of two Steering Committees
- Final report: *New Modes of Globalizing: Experimentalist ... Lessons from the Nordic Countries and Slovenia*



## Presenting the Translearn researchers

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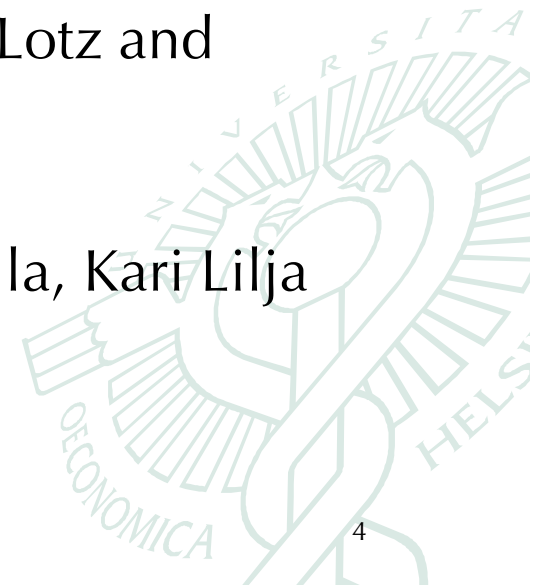
Slovenia: Aljaz Hribernik, Marko Jaklic and Hugo Zagorsek

Sweden: Christer Peterson

Norway: Åge Mariussen and Eli Moen

Denmark: Peer Hull Kristensen, Maja Lotz and Robson Rocha

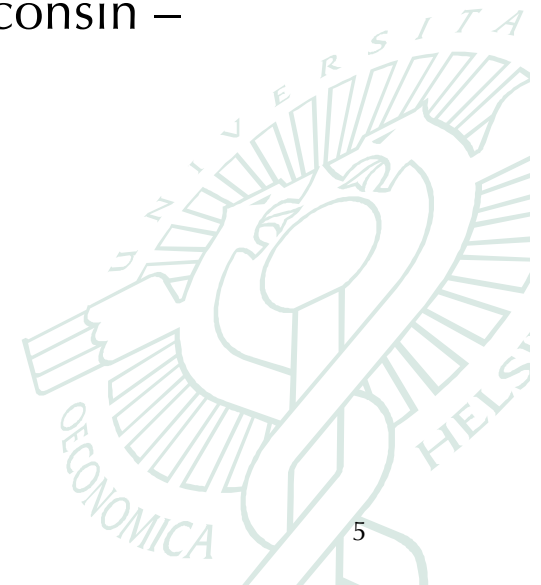
Finland: Jari Jääskeläinen, Juha Laurila, Kari Lilja and Raimo Lovio



## Members of the Scientific Steering Committee

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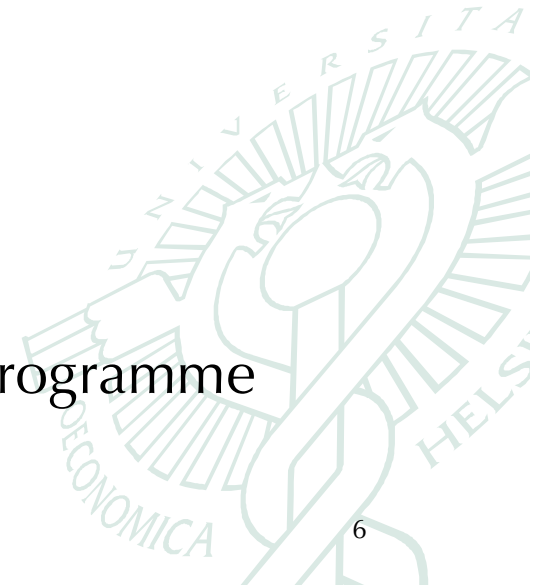
- Professor Marie-Laure Djelic, ESSEC Business School, Paris
- Professor Glenn Morgan, Warwick University, UK
- Professor Sigrid Quack, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne
- Professor Charles Sabel, Columbia University, N.Y.
- Professor Jonathan Zeitlin, University of Wisconsin – Madison.



## Link to earlier stages of NBS research and EGOS

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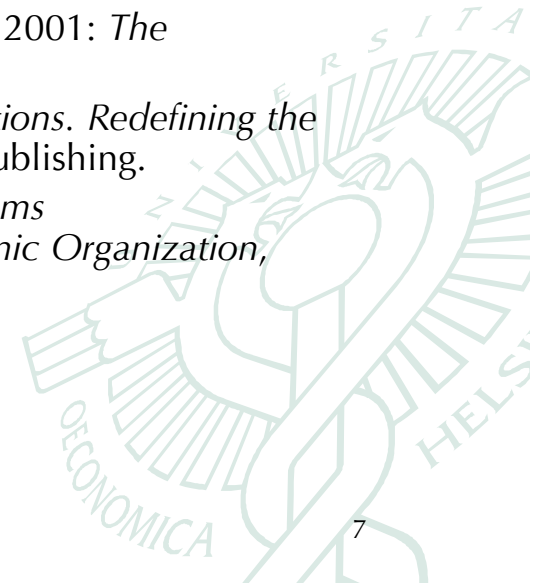
- National Business Systems Research Programme, since 1989
- Contexts:
  - European Science Foundation Programmes (EMOT- and ESRI)
  - EGOS Standing Working Group
- Outcomes: edited books
- Phases of development of the research programme



# Examples of edited books from the NBS research programme

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- R. Whitley (ed) 1992: *European Business Systems. Firms and Markets in their International Context*. London: Sage;
- R. Whitley and P. H. Kristensen (eds) 1996: *The Changing European Firm: Limits to Convergence*. London: Routledge;
- Whitley and Kristensen (eds) 1997: *Governance at Work: The Social Regulation of Economic Relations on Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press;
- G. Morgan and D. Knights (eds) 1997: *Regulation and Deregulation in European Financial Services*. London: Macmillan;
- S. Quack, G. Morgan and R. Whitley (eds) 2000: *National Capitalisms, Global Competition and Economic Performance*. Amsterdam: J. Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Morgan, Glenn, Peer Hull Kristensen and Richard Whitley (eds) 2001: *The Multinational Firm*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- M-L. Djelic and S. Quack (eds.) 2003: *Globalization and Institutions. Redefining the Rules of the Economic Game*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Morgan, G., Whitley, R. and Moen, E. 2005: *Changing Capitalisms Internationalisation, Institutional Change and Systems of Economic Organization*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.



# Phases of development in the NBS research programme

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- Economic actors shaped by national history and evolution of institutional configurations
- Widening scope of interfaces between the national and the global: MNCs, global financial markets, off-shoring of manufacturing operations and services, transnational epistemic communities and regulations, federal features in the EU; impact on the capacities of national champions and space for national policies
- Research based on actor-centred institutionalism:
  - bottom-up initiative of local actors engaged in global business games by using and reconfiguring institutional resources
  - e.g. Kristensen and Zeitlin (2005). Local Players in Global Games. OUP
  - Translearn project: ambition to catalyse a third phase



## “New Modes of Globalizing”

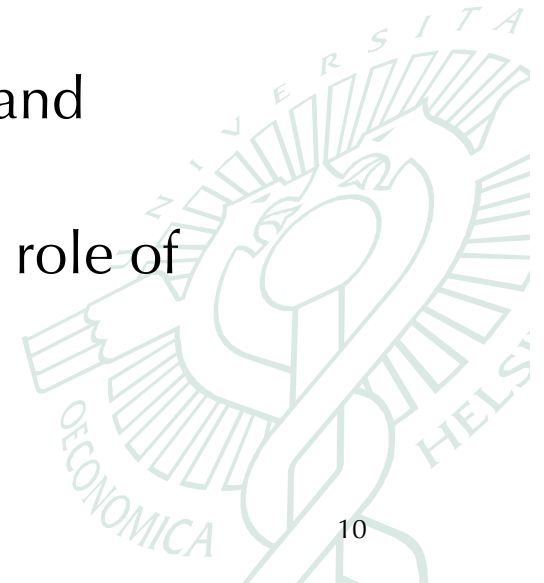
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- Peculiarity of the Nordic model - Slovenia as a test case
- Interpretations of observations from case studies by relating them to cross-national survey data
- Surprising differences in the dynamics of change of the national business systems and types of dynamic complementarities
- Availability of and need for new risk sharing tools: employees, citizens, entrepreneurs, etc. – Towards an enabling welfare state

## COMPLEMENTARY DIALOGUES AS THE SECOND OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP

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- Contextual change
  - the dynamics of global value chains
  - competition models
  - financial markets
- New actors in global settings: the role of different subsystems
  - labour markets and industrial relations
  - innovation system
  - dynamic recombination of institutions and organising of companies and work,
- Regulations of relations among subunits, role of social movements, etc.



## Is there a momentum for next steps?

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- Inventing new ways to understand the dynamics of change between levels of aggregation, actors, institutions and systems
  - “Revolution” as a routine: Interesting path-breaking examples?
  - The role of EU and experimentalists forms of governance, social movements, etc.
- Exploring potentials for transnational learning: new types of roles, identities, rules and practices
- Other themes?

