



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Economics

BUILDING PROGRESS TOGETHER: WHY PEOPLE ARE THE HEART OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026
10.00 am, Meeting Room 1
San Giobbe Economics Campus
Cannaregio 873, Venice

Led by Prof. **MAGDALENA ZDUN**, the program is structured into **four sessions designed to examine the intersection of geography, sociology, and economics.**

The first session, ***Socio-Economic Development as Co-Creation***, analyzes development through the lens of major academic paradigms—evolutionary, modernization, dialectical, and endogenous—to establish development as a process fundamentally shaped by the active participation and co-creation of social actors

This is followed by an examination of ***Innovation as a Multidimensional Concept***, which presents innovation as a primary catalyst for development. This session highlights the dual nature of innovation, integrating pragmatic efficiency with axiological (value-based) dimensions.

The third component, ***Cultural Determinants of Innovation and Entrepreneurship***, offers a theoretical synthesis of how cultural norms and social values influence economic initiative and innovative behavior

The series concludes with a critical discussion on ***Future Challenges: Automation, Digitalization, and Work***. This final session evaluates the opportunities and systemic risks associated with technological change, specifically addressing how automation and digitalization are redefining entrepreneurship and the contemporary landscape of human labor.

Magdalena Zdun, Professor at the Department of Social and Economic Geography, Cracow University of Economics (Poland), is a sociologist specializing in socio-economic development, innovation, and the cultural determinants of economic activity. Her research focuses on the role of culture in shaping innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as broader transformations related to digitalization and contemporary economic change.

For info

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