Maria P. Roche
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EDUCATION

2015 – May 2020	**PhD, Strategy and Innovation** Scheller College of Business | Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta
2013 – 2015	**M.Sc., Business Administration** University of Passau, Germany | International Marketing and Management, Innovation Management, Entrepreneurship

PHD COURSES

Major: Strategy and Innovation
Strategy Research, Entrepreneurship, Economics and Sociology of Science, Organizational Theory, Microeconomics
Methods:
Econometrics, Survey Design and Analysis, Experimental Design, Introduction to Python, SQL, and Machine Learning
Minor: Policy
(Micro-)Geography of Innovation, Intellectual Property Transactions

WORKSHOP SPONSORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIPS

2018	West Coast Research Symposium, NBER Entrepreneurship Bootcamp, Strategy Science – all Doctoral Workshop Fellowship| Laboratory for Innovation Science at Harvard and the Science Production Function Society
2017	Strategic Management Society - Doctoral Workshop
2016	12th Annual Smith Entrepreneurship Research Conference & 7th Kauffman Doctoral Consortium, College Park MD

ACADEMIC COMMUNITY SERVICE

2017	Reviewer for Research Policy
2017, 2018	TIM, ENT division reviewer for the Academy of Management Annual Conference

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

2018	Paper presenter: International Industrial Organization Conference, Indianapolis, IN; Munich Summer Institute, Germany; Academy of Management, Chicago, IL

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (REDUCED)

2013 – 2014	Robert Bosch España Gasoline Systems, S.A., Madrid, Spain Recruitment Management, Marketing, Process Improvement, Organization
2012 – 2013	Venture Stars GmbH (Incubator for Internet Start-ups), Munich, Germany
2007	Stuntwoman | *Wilde Kerle 5*, Bavaria Filmstudios, Munich

Atlanta, Oct 16th 2018

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General Research Interests and Description of Projects

I would like to thank you for considering me as a participant in NBER project on the Economics of Digitization. In the fall semester of 2015, I joined the Georgia Institute of Technology (Scheller College of Business) as a PhD student in Strategy and Innovation coming from Germany where I had received my M.Sc. in Business Administration. I am currently in my fourth year of the program having completed all coursework and having passed my comprehensive exam in June 2017. In general, my research focuses on the organization of science and innovation. My ongoing projects are with Annamaria Conti, and Alexander Oettl, as well as with Frank T. Rothaermel, and Christian Catalini. In the following I will go into more detail about two of the projects I am pursuing at the moment.

For my dissertation, I have assembled a dataset (with Annamaria Conti) using fine-grained information on graduate students, faculty, and their labs from a major US research university. My primary goal is to better understand the consequences of academic entrepreneurship on a research institute as a whole. Over the past years, the university has experienced an extension of its traditional roles of research, teaching and knowledge dissemination to including the promotion of academic entrepreneurship. However, despite these increased efforts to promote academic entrepreneurship, not enough is known about the possible implications of these activities. For instance, faculty's engagement in entrepreneurship could have an impact on their own research agenda and, consequently, on the organization of their labs. Moreover, there could be an impact on the extent to which graduate students receive a treatment from their professors (e.g., via mentoring). Understanding these effects will not only help shed light on the potential implications of faculty's participation in entrepreneurial activities on individual career outcomes, but also on the overall university research agenda given possible shifts in research focus and human capital composition of the institute as a whole. Preliminary results from interviews with lab PIs have also unveiled the important role new information technologies have played and are playing in forming the organization of labs, specifically with regard to decision-making processes, norms, and information disclosure.

A further phenomenon I have been studying that takes a more microgeographic perspective on the organization of innovation is the emergence of entrepreneurial co-location spaces. Specifically, I am interested in how these places can support firm survival and success by

enabling face-to-face interaction and entrepreneurial learning. In an on-going project (with Alexander Oettl and Christian Catalini), we examine the influence of close geographic proximity on new (to the entrepreneur) technology adoption decisions at one of the largest technology coworking hubs in the United States. To deal with endogenous geographic clustering, we rely on the random assignment of office space to the hub's 254 startups. Using floorplans to measure geographic distance, we find that close proximity greatly influences the likelihood of adopting an upstream (production) technology also used by a peer firm – an effect that quickly decays with distance. However, the distance discount disappears for female-founder startups and same-industry firms suggesting these startups rely on alternative mechanisms to overcome the negative effects of distance.

I would like to thank you for this great opportunity and if given the chance, very much look forward to spending valuable time at the NBER Economics of Digitization meeting in March. Thank you for your consideration.