9-Apr: Spurring the Innovation Economy in Cambridge and Boston

Guest Speakers:

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Readings:

- First, read Bruce Katz and Julie Wagner’s 2014 Brookings Institute report on the *Rise Of Innovation Districts* either by
  - Downloading this PDF (https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/2399/files/431692/download?verifier=w1YljB2oF15N4VRIWyaruN7FGfJ8TXapbrre6QyQ&wrap=1) (focus on pages 1-10, skim the rest)
  - Or exploring their interactive website (http://www.brookings.edu/about/programs/metro/innovation-districts)
- Then briefly explore the Cambridge Innovation Center's website (http://cic.us/) and watch
  
  https://www.youtube.com/

- Third, explore Boston's Innovation District by
  - Taking quick looks at the website for Boston's Innovation starting on the "about" page (http://www.innovationdistrict.org/about-2), as well as the Venture Cafe Foundation's website, starting with the page about District Hall (http://voncaf.org/district-hall-boston/),
- Finally, learn about the Roxbury Innovation Center (http://roxburyinnovationcenter.org/about/), a forthcoming facility in Dudley Square that will be managed by the Cambridge Innovation Center team that will be speaking in class by reading:
The [city's announcement](http://www.cityofboston.gov/news/default.aspx?id=17912) about the center


**Recommended**

Localities' interest in "Innovation District" was sparked in part by Richard Florida's research and writings about the importance of "the creative class." For a good and relatively short overview of his work, see "[Comeback City, Divided City.](http://urbanland.uli.org/economy-markets-trends/comeback-city-divided-city)" an essay Florida wrote for *Urban Land* magazine. Many economists, including Harvard's Ed Glaser, have criticized Florida's work. For a good short summary of these critiques see "[Questioning the Cult of the Creative Class](http://nextcity.org/daily/entry/questioning-the-cult-of-the-creative-class)," a post on the NextCity blog by Sean Andrew Chen.

[Click here](https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/2399/discussion_topics/32890) to submit a discussion question