

MEIDE

Micro Evidence on Innovation and Development

**International Conference
2025**

December 10 - 12

University of Kerala, Kariavattom Campus



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY
UNU-CRIS
Institute on Comparative
Regional Integration Studies



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MERIT**



Organized by

- IUCAE-University of Kerala
- UNU-MERIT
- UNU-CRIS
- Kerala Start-up Mission

MEIDE

Micro Evidence on Innovation and Development Conference 2025

Innovation and New Technologies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development

10-12 December, 2025 University of Kerala, Kariavattom Campus

About the Conference

Following successful editions in Maastricht (the Netherlands), Beijing (China), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Tartu (Estonia), San Jose (Costa Rica), Cape Town (South Africa), Santiago (Chile), New Delhi (India), Moscow (Russia), Montevideo (Uruguay), Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Bogotá (Colombia), we host the MEIDE Conference 2025 at University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, India. The event will foster dialogue on how innovation shapes firms, households, communities, and governments, while also addressing critical development concerns, including economic growth, welfare, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, and equitable wealth distribution. The conference specifically aims to attract policymakers to actively engage in dialogue with researchers, fostering an informed policy discourse.

About the Host Institution

The Inter University Centre for Alternative Economics (IUCAE) promotes research and studies in alternative economics, which would address the problems of the economy and society beyond the neo-classical mainstream lens of economic analysis. The centre works in alignment of the Department of Economics, the oldest research department in the field of economics in Kerala, started in the year 1959. IUCAE and the Department of Economics indeed works as the lead institutions in the University of Kerala, ranked the first in the NAAC accreditation with the Highest Grade of A++ and within top public state universities in India. The spectrum of students who graduated from the department and university served in various fields including top civil services, national and international academic institutes, various organizations of national and international importance, media and other government, corporate and other private institutions. Hosting the conference and creating more space for future policy and academic deliberations is the ultimate moto - "Karmani Vyajyate Prajna" of the University.

Scientific & Organising Committee:

- Tommaso Ciarli (UNU-MERIT)
- Robin Cowan (UNU-MERIT)
- Micheline Goedhuys (UNU-MERIT)
- Nanditha Mathew (UNU-CRIS)
- Emanuele Pugliese (UNU-MERIT)
- Neil Foster McGregor (ADB)
- Alex Coad (Waseda Business School)
- Pierre Mohnen (UNU-MERIT)
- Carlo Pietrobelli (UNU-MERIT)
- Sneha Marydas (UNU-MERIT)
- Siddik Rabiyyath (University of Kerala)
- Fabiana Visentin (UNU-MERIT)
- Daniele Moschella (Sant'Anna)
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- Lili Wang (UNU-MERIT)
- Nordine Es-Sadki (UNU-MERIT)
- Tania Treibich (Maastricht University)
- Andrea Mina (Sant'Anna)

Local Organising Committee:

- Hon. Vice Chancellor, and the Syndicate Members, University of Kerala (Patrons)
- Siddik Rabiyyath (University of Kerala) (Organizing Secretary)
- Nanditha Mathew (UNU-CRIS) (Organizing Secretary)
- Anitha V (University of Kerala)
- Prasad AK (University of Kerala)
- Manju S Nair (University of Kerala)
- Sheeja SR (University of Kerala)
- Christabell PJ (University of Kerala)

Sponsors:

- UNU-MERIT, United Nations University, Maastricht, Netherlands
- UNU-CRIS, United Nations University, Bruges, Belgium
- Inter University Centre for Alternative Economics, University of Kerala, India
- Kerala Start-up Mission



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Online Webinar links:


C V Raman Hall

Date: **10 December**

Time: **5 pm to 9pm**

Date: **11 to 12 December**


Time: **9 am to 9pm**

 **Gmeet Link:** <https://meet.google.com/bzw-mfnp-xjo>

Janaki Ammal Hall

Date: **11 to 12 December**

Time: **9 am to 9 pm**

 **Gmeet Link:** <https://meet.google.com/idh-uavs-zbc>

International Conference Day - 1

Wednesday, 10 December 2025

➤ **17:30-18:00**

Registration

University of Kerala , Kariavattom Campus

➤ **18:00-19:00**

Opening Session

C.V. Raman Hall, Kariavattom Campus, KU

Welcome

Siddik Rabiyyath

Hon. Director IUCAE, University of Kerala

**Introductory
Remarks**

Nanditha Mathew

UNU-CRIS

**Presidential
Address**

Pierre Mohnen

Emiratus Professor UNU-MERIT

**Inaugural
Address**

Mohanan Kunnummal

Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala

Felicitation:

Adv. G Muralidharan Pillai

Convenor, Syndicate Standing Committee on Finance, UoK

Dr S Nazeeb

Convenor, Syndicate Standing Committee on Planning, UoK

Dr Shijukhan J.S.

Convenor, Syndicate Standing Committee on Staff, UoK

**Vote of
Thanks**

Dr Christabell P.J.

Head, Department of Economics, University of Kerala

➤ **19:30**

Welcome dinner & reception

University of Kerala , Kariavattom Campus

➤ 09:30–10:30 Keynote 1

C V Raman Hall

Speaker *Prof. Xiaolan Fu*, University of Oxford

Title Digital Technology and Inclusive Development During Global Crisis: Evidence from A Randomised Control Trial in Bangladesh

Chair *Erika Kraemer-Mbula*, Johannesburg Business School ➤ 10:30–11:00 Coffee break

➤ 11:00–12:30

Parallel Sessions 1A and 1B

Session 1A:

ICT Adoption, Digitalization and Firm Outcomes

Room: **C V Raman Hall**

Chair: *P.L. Beena* CDS

➤ Does Digitalization Promote GVC Upgradation? Firm Level Evidence from India

- **Subash Sasidharan** IIT Madras
- Ketan Reddy IIM Raipur

➤ Input Relatedness and Firm Performance

- **Andrea Mina** (Online) Sant' Anna School, Pisa, Italy.
- Nanditha Mathew UNU-CRIS
- Emanuele Pugliese UNU-MERIT

➤ Revisiting the Export–Productivity Nexus: Plant Level Evidence from Indian Manufacturing

- **Rijesh R** (Online) ISID

➤ 12:30–14:00 Lunch

➤ Session 1B:

Capabilities, Infrastructure and Digitalization

Room: **Janaki Ammal Hall**

Chair: *Sunil Mani* CDS

➤ Firm-Level Innovation and the Role of Political Capabilities

- **Amrita Saha** Institute of Development Studies
- Juan Manuel Del Pozo Segura Institute of Development Studies
- Gabriel Palazzo, Institute of Development Studies

➤ A Quantitative Approach to Quality Infrastructure

- **Carlo Pietrobelli** UNU-MERIT, Roma Tre University
- Ulrich Harmes-Liedtke TU Berlin
- Ann Ramkissoon University of Florence

➤ Digital Highways to Development: Mobile Internet and Tax Revenues in Brazil

- **David Zuchowski** Universitat de València
- Mateus Maciel University of Tübingen

➤ 12:30–14:00 Lunch

Session 2A: Gender, Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Room: C V Raman Hall
Chair: A.K. Prasad University of Kerala

 ➤ **Exploring Female Entrepreneurship and Innovation:
Sector-Wise Dynamics and Insights from India**

- **Rekha Ravindran** Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai.
- Namitarani Gochhayat Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai.

 ➤ **Technological and Non-Technological Innovation in Shaping Employment and Gender Diversity:
Evidence from Manufacturing Firms in a Large Developing Economy — India**

- **Akash Yadav** Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras
- Sandeep Kumar Kujur Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras

 ➤ **Gender Differences in Awareness About Intellectual Property (IP):
Evidence from a Global Survey**

- **Carlotta Nani** World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- Julio Raffo World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- Martin Correa World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

 ➤ **15:30–16:00** Coffee break

Session 2B:
Room: Janaki Ammal Hall
Artificial Intelligence, Firm Strategies and Performance
Chair: Vinod Velayudhan COO, KASE

 ➤ **Digital Technologies, Hiring, Training, and Firm Outcomes:
Evidence from AI and ICT Adoption in Indian Firms**

- **Sneha Marydas** UNU-MERIT
- Nanditha Mathew UNU-CRIS
- Giordano De Marzo University of Konstanz, Konstanz
- Carlo Pietrobelli Roma Tre University

 ➤ **The “Gold Rush” in AI and Robotics Patenting Activity:
Do Innovation Systems Have a Role?**

- **Riccardo Leoncini** Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna, IRCR ESCNR, Milan
- Giovanni Guidetti Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna
- Mariele Macaluso Department of Economics, University of Torino

 ➤ **Can AI Ease the Start-ups in Vietnam?
Rethinking the Lean Start-up Approach**

- **Ngoc Quang Pham** FPT School of Business and Technology (FSB), FPT University, Hanoi, Vietnam
- **Ngo Phuc Hanh** Academy of Policy and Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam
- Vu Tam Academy of Policy and Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam
- Tsuyuri Satoki Technica Japan, Tokyo, Japan

 ➤ **15:30–16:00** Coffee break

Session 3A:

Innovation PolicyRoom: **C V Raman Hall**Chair: **K.J. Joseph**

GIFT

➤ **Impact Evaluation of Associative Research Programs:
Basal Research Centers from Chile**

- **Andres Zahler** Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile
- Mariano Pereira Departamento de Industria, Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina
- Florencia Di Crocco Departamento de Economía, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile

➤ **The Impact of Smart Specialization Strategies on Steering Innovation:
A Causal Map of EU S3 Policy at the Technology Level**

- **Emanuele Pugliese** UNU-MERIT
- Alessio Bumbea Department of Engineering and Science, Universitas Mercatorum, Italy, UNU Merit
- Andrea Mazzitelli Department of Economics, Statistics and Business, Universitas Mercatorum, Italy,

➤ **Interplay Between Innovation, Barriers and Cooperation in Latin America:
Lessons for Public Policy**

- **Mauricio Canêdo-Pinheiro** FCE/UERJ (Online)
- Filipe Lage de Sousa University of Maryland
- Bernardo Pereira Cabral Federal University of Bahia

Session 3B:

Economics of Science, Knowledge Flows and SpilloversChair: **Anitha. V**

University of Kerala

Room: **Janaki Ammal Hall**➤ **Brokers of Novelty or Agents of Specialization?
The Impact of Mobile Researchers on Domestic Scientific Trajectories**

- **Tommaso Ciarli** UNU-MERIT and SPRU Sussex University, England
- Rodrigo Ito UNU-MERIT
- Diego Chavarro Research Policy Solutions, Colombia
- Robin Cowan UNU-MERIT
- Fabiana Visentin UNU-MERIT

➤ **Exploratory Study of the Social Value of Patents of Publicly Funded Research
Organizations in India**

- **Megha Chamoli** IIT Indore
- Ruchi Sharma IIT Indore

➤ **The Making of an Entrepreneurial State:
Exploring State-Led Entrepreneurship Through Kerala's Startup Experience**

- **Krishnapriya VS** Centre for Development Studies (JNU)

➤ **20:00****Social dinner**Gokulam Grand Trivandrum, Chakkai-Kazhakkootam Bypass,
Near Akkulam Bridge, Trivandrum

Day - 3

Friday, 12 December 2025

➤ 09:30–10:30 Keynote 2

C V Raman Hall

Speaker

Prof. Pierre Mohnen

Professor Emeritus at Maastricht University and UNU-MERIT

Title

Efficient industrial policy for innovation

Chair

Emanuele Pugliese

UNU MERIT

➤ 10:30–11:00

Coffee break

Industrial Policy in a Multi-Level World: Regions and Local Governments

UNESCO Chair Policy Panel

Panelists:

C.V. Raman Hall

Carlo Pietrobelli

Professor at UNU-MERIT and Roma Tre University, Italy,
UNESCO Chair on “Science, Technology and Innovation
Policies for Sustainable Development in Latin America

Erica Kraemer-Mbula

Professor of Economics, Johannesburg Business School

Xiaolan Fu

Professor of Technology and International Development,
Founding Director of the Technology and Management
Centre for Development (TMCD), University of Oxford.

P. Rajeev

Minister for Industries, Law and Coir, Government of Kerala

M.B. Rajesh

Minister for Local Self-Governments, Excise and
Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Kerala.

Moderator

Nanditha Mathew

UNU-CRIS



12:30–14:00

Lunch

Session 4A:

Regional Development DynamicsRoom: **C V Raman Hall**Chair: **Siddik Rabiyyath**

Director of IUCAE, UoK

➤ **The Less-than-One Percent:
How a Few Firms Shape Regional Capabilities in India**

- **Nanditha Mathew** UNU-CRIS
- Emanuele Pugliese UNU-MERIT

➤ **Optimal Intertemporal Broadband Investments to Promote Regional Economic Development**

- **Jaan Masso** University of Tartu, School of Economics and Business Administration, Estonia
- Rasmus Bøgh Holmen Partner, Vista Analyse, Oslo, Norway; Associate Senior Researcher at the Institute of Transport Economics, Oslo, Norway.
- Timo Kuosmanen University of Turku, Turku, Finland.
- Per Botolf Maurseth Norwegian Business School, Norway.
- Kenneth Løvold Rødseth Institute of Transport Economics, Norway.

➤ **Transforming Coastal Communities Through Renewable Energy Microgrids in Tamil Nadu and Kerala: Case Studies, Implementation Strategies and Lessons for the Global South**

- **Brathikan V. M.** Kumaraguru College of Technology
- **Harini R** Kumaraguru College of Technology

➤ **15:30-16:00**

Coffee break

Session 4B:

Digital Finance, Inclusion and DevelopmentRoom: **Janaki Ammal Hall**Chair: **Rajkishan S**

LEAD Academy

➤ **Taxing Digital Financial Services: Mobile Money Levies and Their Impact on Financial Inclusion in Kenya**

- **Marco Carreras** Institute of Development Studies, International Centre for Tax and Development
- Awa Diouf Institute of Development Studies, International Centre for Tax and Development
- Fabrizio Santoro Institute of Development Studies, International Centre for Tax and Development

➤ **Cultivating Connectivity: Baseline and Monitoring Results on Digital Literacy and Platform Adoption From a Digital Training for Indonesian Farmers and Extension Workers**

- **Irene Furlani** University of Passau
- Michael Grimm, Alia Bihrajihant Raya, Ishadiyanto Salim, Nadila Puspa, Arum Widjanarko, Ratih Ineke Wati, Anung Pranyoto, Rani Nur Rochim, Siti Fatonah, Subejo, Irene Furlani

➤ **Global Technological Paradigms, Local Capabilities and Catch-up Strategies: The Case of Indian Firms in Blockchain-based Financial Markets**

- **Samyukta Bhupatiraju** Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati, India.
(Online)
- Ajay Thutupalli ABN AMRO Bank, The Netherlands.

➤ **15:30-16:00**

Coffee break

Session 5A:

Room: **C V Raman Hall**Digital Technologies, Upgrading and Productivity DynamicsChair: **Christabell P.J.** University of Kerala➤ **Non-technological Upgrading and Productivity Dynamics in a Transition Economy: The Case of Croatia**

- **Vitaliy Roud** Zagreb School of Economics and Management,
- Zoran Aralica Economic Institute Zagreb
- Ljiljana Božić Economic Institute Zagreb
- Bruno Škrinjaric Economic Institute Zagreb

➤ **Digital Technology Adoption, Ownership and Productivity Gap: A Study of Small Firms in India**

- **Jayati Chatterjee** Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras
- Subash S Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras

➤ **Mobile Internet Adoption and Inclusive Structural Change: Evidence from Nigerian Non-Farming Enterprises**

- **Bernardo Caldarola** European Commission, Joint Research Center
- (Online) (JRC), Seville, Spain

➤ **Do ICT Drive Productivity in Indian Manufacturing: Insights from Low-, Medium-, and High-Tech Manufacturing**

- **Subal Danta** IIT Hyderabad
- Badri Narayan Rath IIT Hyderabad

➤ **15:30 - 16:00** Coffee break

Session 5B:

Room: **Janaki Ammal Hall**Skills, Training and Human Capital for InnovationChair: **Sheeja S.R.** University of Kerala➤ **The Role of Green, Digital, and Twin Skills in Attracting FDI: Evidence from European Regions**

- **Alberto Marzucchi** Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy
- Andrea Ascani Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy
- Stefano Basilico Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy
- Giulia Martinelli Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy

➤ **Automation and Human Capital Investment**

- **Sidharth Rony** UNU-MERIT

➤ **Local Gains From Global Minds: The Impact of Collaborating with Foreign-Educated Researchers on Non-Mobile Researchers' Performance**

- **Rodrigo Ito** UNU-MERIT and University of Campinas, Brazil.
- Fabiana Visentin UNU-MERIT
- Robin Cowan UNU-MERIT and BETA, University of Strasbourg, France
- Diego Chavarro External consultant.
- Tommaso Ciarli UNU-MERIT SPRU, Sussex University, England

➤ **15:30 - 16:00** Coffee break

➤ 18:30-19:00

C V Raman Hall

Concluding remarks

Speakers

Carlo Peitrobelli

UNU-MERIT, Roma Tre University

Siddik Rabiyyath

Director of IUCAE, University of Kerala

Acknowledgement & Special Thanks

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful organization of MEIDE 2025.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the partnering institutions, resource persons, and supporting teams whose dedication and cooperation made this event possible.

We also acknowledge the invaluable efforts of the volunteers, technical staff, and all those who worked behind the scenes to ensure the smooth coordination of the conference.

Their commitment and support have been instrumental in bringing this programme to fruition.

“At the intersection of innovation and development
lies the power to transform societies,
one insight at a time”



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10-12 December, University of Kerala, Kariavattom Campus

International Conference 2025

Contact

SIDDIK RABIYATH

Director of IUCAE

+91 8111989221

siddikrabiya@keralauniversity.ac.in

siddikrabiya@gmail.com

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