

Contribution to the Round Table:
Organizing the research on Learning,
Innovation and Competence Building at
the global level

**One suggestion about how to proceed
with empirical comparative research
and a few issues for a research agenda**

The suggestion: Building a comparative framework for National (?) Systems of Innovation: a pictorial constructive approach

**Socio-economics
general
dynamics**

**dominant trends in the demand
and use of science and
technology**

**production of knowledge
and building capabilities to use
knowledge**

**public policy and the
institutional fabric
supporting innovation
and diffusion**

**university-
government-
production
relationships**

**collective attitudes related
research and innovation**

**interactive
learning
spaces**

**the role of innovation in the competitive
strategies of different productive sectors**

**Issue (1): From “measuring”
innovation to “measuring”
comprehensively learning processes,
its achievements and difficulties:
what indicators?**

**Normative guidance: more attention
should be paid to life-long education**

Issue (2): Relations between inequality and upgrading learning, innovation and competence: a difficult indeed question and a fundamental problem in the South, and perhaps also in the North

Issue (3): How to bring onboard political analysis?

This is not an easy task, and it is badly needed: often our policy recommendations amount to saying that we need policies.

- Helena remembered Herrera's distinction between implicit and explicit policies
- What are the actual implicit policies?
- What are the political reasons of the differences between implicit and explicit policies?

How Power(s) work?

Issue (4) (the last one): Going back to the basic issue of styles of development

Some tips to take into account in doing so:

i) Underdevelopment is not the same as being behind

(history and external power relations do not allow to simply climb the ladder)

ii) Nor should we attempt to climb it because environmental problems and related consumers patterns (as Gregersen and Segura elaborate, we need to put forwards Freeman's idea of a "green economic paradigm")

iii) Cultural specificities and identities that are in need of projects must be addressed (following Amartya Sen regarding the right to choose styles of life that people have reasons to value and treasure)

iv) Underdevelopment is not the same phenomenon today than some decades ago (the shift towards a "knowledge based and innovation driven economy" has change the problem)

Taking into account i), ii), iii) and iv): Should we think in terms of catching-up or in terms of new and different strategies for development?