Nano-economics and the Growth of Regions

What accounts for the emergence of Silicon Valley as an engine of firm formation and technological progress? What determined its location? Are the forces underlying the formation and growth of Silicon Valley different from those behind other famous historical industry clusters, most notably the automobile industry around Detroit, Michigan and the tire industry around Akron, Ohio? These questions are addressed through a nano-economic investigation into the historical evolution of the automobile, tire, and semiconductor industries, which involves identifying every producer of each product, their eras of production, their intellectual and geographic origins, and their performance. Notions of organizational birth, heredity, and strategic disagreements are employed to guide and interpret the data and synthesize various questions about management, policy, and organizational performance.

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