Innovation in Real Places: Strategies for Prosperity in Canada

Dan Breznitz
4:00-5:30 PM
Tuesday, November 29, 2022
Pearson Room, Rideau Club
99 Bank Street, 15th floor
Ottawa, Ontario
(please note that the Rideau Club dress code requires men to wear a jacket)

To attend, please RSVP by November 25, 2022 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

Innovation is often considered the Achilles heel of the Canadian economy. Canada is a laggard on many innovation metrics, especially business R&D. Canada's poor productivity performance is often related to our weak innovation record. But what is the way forward?

In this seminar, Dan Breznitz will present a novel perspective on strategies for prosperity in Canada. Drawing on his recent book *Innovation in Real Places: Strategies for Prosperity in an Unforgiving World* , winner of the 2021 Donner Prize for best policy book, he develops a four stage framework for understanding production and innovation processes: novelty; design, protype development, and production engineering; second-generation product and component innovation; and production and assembly. He makes the case that a flourishing high-tech industry is not necessarily the key to prosperity. He arguess that all localities have certain advantages relative to at least one stage of the global production process. Communities need to recognize their own advantages to foster forms of specialized innovation.

Dan Breznitz is Professor and Munk Chair of Innovation Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto where he is Co-Director of the Innovation Policy Lab. He currently serves as Clifford Clark Visiting Economist at Finance Canada. He is also co-founder and co-director of the program on Innovation, Equity and the Future of Prosperity at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. Born in Israel, he received a PhD from MIT and taught at Georgia Tech for eight years before coming to the University of Toronto in 2013.