

**SHIRI M. BREZNITZ**

ROZ AND RALPH HALBERT PROFESSOR OF INNOVATION  
THE MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

1 Devonshire Place, 368S  
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3K7 Canada

416-946-5225  
[shiri.breznitz@utoronto.ca](mailto:shiri.breznitz@utoronto.ca)

**EDUCATION**

---

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, UK**

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
PHD, 2008

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, LOWELL**

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
MASTER OF ARTS, 2000

**HEBREW UNIVERSITY, ISRAEL**

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
BACHELOR OF ARTS, 1996

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

---

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, TORONTO, CANADA**

MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS  
THE RALPH AND ROZ HALBERT PROFESSOR OF INNOVATION (JULY 2023 – PRESENT)  
PROFESSOR (JULY 2022-PRESENT)  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH (JULY 2022 – JUNE 2024)  
DIRECTOR OF THE MASTER IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM (JULY 2020-JUNE 2022)  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (JULY 2016 – JUNE – 2022)  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (JULY 2013 – JUNE 2016)

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, ATLANTA, GA**

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY  
Assistant Professor (January 2009 – June 2013)

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL, NC**

**Department of Public Policy**  
Post Doctorate Fellow (August 2008 – December 2008)

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, ATHENS, GA**

**Institute of Higher Education**  
Post Doctorate Fellow (October 2007 – July 2008)

**VISITING POSITIONS**

---

**LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, LONDON, UK**

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT  
VISITING SENIOR FELLOW (FEBRUARY 2022 - PRESENT)

**POLITECNICO DI MILANO, MILAN, ITALY**

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT  
VISITING PROFESSOR (FEBRUARY- MARCH, 2019)

**UNIVERSITY OF STAVANGER, STAVANGER, NORWAY**  
BUSINESS SCHOOL  
VISITING PROFESSOR (MARCH 2019)

**COLLEGIO CARLO ALBERTO & UNVIERSITA DI TORINO, TORINO, ITALY**  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS S. COGNETTI DE MARTIIS  
VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW (SEPTEMBER 2012 – AUGUST 2013)

### **BOARDS, PANELS, AFFILIATIONS & FELLOWSHIPS (last five years)**

---

**MEDICINE BY DESIGN, TORONTO, CANADA**  
Executive Leadership Team (September 2023 – present)

**PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY JOURNAL**  
Associate Editor (January 2023 – present)

**JOURNAL OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**  
Editorial Board Member (November 2018 – Present)

**INNOVATION POLICY LAB, TORONTO, CANADA**  
Faculty Member (July 2013 – Present)

**MONASH UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA**  
Advisory Board Member (September 2020 – December 2023)

**SPECIAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**  
Member (September 2020- February 2021)

**ONTARIO IP PANEL**  
Member (April 2019 – July 2019)

**GEOGRAPHY COMPASS JOURNAL**  
Editor, Economic Geography Section (January 2016 – August 2019)

### **PUBLICATION**

---

#### **Books:**

Breznitz, S. M., and H. Etzkowitz Editors. **University Technology Transfer: The Globalization of academic innovation**. Routledge press. September 2016.

Breznitz, S. M., *Fountain of Knowledge? The Role of Universities in Economic Development*. Stanford University Press. July 2014.

#### **Journal Articles (last five years)**

Zhang, Q., Frank Fox M. and Breznitz, S. M. "Analyzing the impact of gender on entrepreneurship and innovation: evidence from university graduates." *The Journal of Technology Transfer*. Online first, August 2024.

Breznitz, S. M., Denney, S. and Zhang, Q. 2023. "Too much support? Entrepreneurial ecosystems and firm growth." *The Journal of Technology Transfer*. 49(3):1-20.

Hassink, R., Tripl, M., Breznitz, S., Coenen, L., Fitjar, R. D., Gong, H., and Zook, M. 2023. "Progress in Economic Geography: Inaugural Editorial." *Progress in Economic Geography*. 1(1).

Breznitz, S. M., Lawton Smith, H, and Bagchi-Sen, S. 2022. "The Contribution of Students to Regional Economies: Reframing the Regional Innovation Systems Approach." *Regional Studies Journal*. 56(6): 885-891.

Zhang, Q., Clayton, P. A. and Breznitz, S. M. 2022. "The Hope Fulfilled? Measuring Research Performance of Universities in the Economic Crisis." *International Regional Science Review*. 45(6):663-691.

Breznitz, S. M. and Zhang, Q. 2021. "Entrepreneurship Education and Firm Creation." *Regional Studies Journal*. 56(6): 940-955.

Noonan, D. S., Breznitz, S. M., and Maqbool, S. 2021. "Flocking to the Crowd: Cultural Entrepreneur Mobility Guided by Homophily, Market size, or Amenities?" *Journal of Cultural Economics*. 45(4): 577–611.

Noonan, D. S., Breznitz, S. M., and Maqbool, S. 2021. "Looking for a Change in Scene: Analyzing the Mobility of Crowdfunding Entrepreneurs." *Small Business Economics*. 57(2):685–703.

Breznitz, S. M., and Noonan, D. S. 2020. "Crowdfunding in a Not-So-Flat World." *Journal of Economic Geography*. 20 (4): 1069–1092.

Breznitz, S. M. and Zhang, Q. 2020. "Determinants of graduates' entrepreneurial activity." *Small Business Economics*. 55(4): 1039-1056.

Breznitz, S. M. and Zhang, Q. 2019. "Fostering the Growth of Student Start-ups from University Accelerators: An Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Perspective." *Industrial and Corporate Change*. 28(4): 855–873.

**Others:**

Breznitz S. M. and Munro D. 2020. "Cutting post-secondary budgets during COVID a bad move." Published in *Policy Options*. July 2, 2020.

Breznitz, S. M. and Herman, D. 2020. "A more strategic approach to IP key to long-term recovery." Published in *The Hill Times*, June 5, 2020.

Breznitz, S. M. and Kenney, M. 2018. Slouching Toward the Downton Abbey University System. *Issues in Science and Technology*. Spring 2018.

**Book Chapters (last five years)**

Brail, S. and Breznitz, S.M. 2024. "Unintentional Innovation: The Role of University Research in Urban Innovation." In Huggins, R., Kitagawa, F., Prokop, D., Theodoraki, C. and Thompson, P. Editors: *Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Cities and Regions: Emergence, Evolution, Future*.

Breznitz, S. M., Kazerouni, S. and Zhang, Q. 2022. "Universities' Ownership of Intellectual Property: Focus on Canada." In David B. Audretsch, Erik E. Lehmann, and Albert N. Link, Editors: *Handbook on Technology Transfer*. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

Breznitz, S. M., Hills, B. and Zhang, Q. 2019. "Measuring Alumni Entrepreneurial Impact: Standardizing the Practice of Alumni Impact Surveys." In Al Link and David Audretsch Editors. *A Research Agenda for Entrepreneurship and Innovation*. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

### **Work in progress:**

Marzocchi, C., Breznitz, S. M. and Zhang, Q. "The Role of Employment and Education in Entrepreneurship." R&R at Small Business Economics.

Vogelaar, J. and Breznitz, S. "Entrepreneurial ecosystems: an actionable framework? Challenges and opportunities for economic geographers." R&R at Progress in Economic Geography.

Breznitz, S. M. and Wolfe, D., "Policies, and Performance: Situating the Relationships between Universities' IP and Commercialization Policies." Under review at Spatial Economic Analysis.

Breznitz, S. M. and Zhang, Q. "International Experience and Entrepreneurship: Disentangling the impacts of education and employment."

Breznitz, S.M. Clayton, P. A. and Gherghina., M. "How does innovation policy (research funding) influence social network homogeneity/homophily?"

Breznitz, S.M. and Clayton, P. A "The impact of research funding on social and economic output"

### **GRANTS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS (LAST 5 YEARS)**

---

June 2024. *The Social and Economic Impact of Government Funded Research – workshop.* investigator: Shiri M. Breznitz. Sponsor: FAS International Research Events Fund & The Munk School. Funding level: \$15,000.

May 2023. *A policy framework to enable the commercialization of living therapies. Phase 2.* Principle investigator: Shiri M. Breznitz. Sponsor: Medicine by Design CFREF. Funding level: \$180,260.

March 2023. *Taking innovation to the neighborhood: the effect of micro-geographical proximity on innovation and inter-organizational relationships.* Principle investigators Shiri M. Breznitz and David Doloreux. Sponsor: IPL-Lupina small cutting-edge research grants. Funding level: \$ 22,247.

February 2023. *A policy framework to enable the commercialization of living therapies.* Principle investigator: Shiri M. Breznitz. Sponsor: Medicine by Design CFREF. Funding level: \$25,000.

May 2022. *Policies, Performance, and Places: Situating the Relationships between Universities' IPR and Commercialization within the Regional Ecosystem.* PI: Shiri M. Breznitz. Sponsor: Faculty of Arts & Science Tri-Council Bridge Funding & the Munk School. Funding level: \$15,000.

May 2020. *The Role of University Research in Urban Innovation.* Principle investigators Shauna Brail and Shiri M. Breznitz. Sponsor: IPL-Lupina small cutting-edge research grants. Funding level: \$24,000.

April 2019. *New Insights on the "Brain Drain" Problem: A Longitudinal Study of University Graduates.* Principal investigator: Shiri M. Breznitz. Sponsor: SSHRC Insight Grant. \$42,852.

### **PRESENTATIONS/INVITED TALKS (last 5 years)**

---

March 2024. *The role of educational diversity and work experience paths towards entrepreneurship.* Emlyon business school, Lyon, France.

November 2024. *International Experience and Entrepreneurship: Disentangling the impacts of education and employment.* Regional Studies Association Winter Meeting. London, UK.

November 2024. *Too much support? Entrepreneurial ecosystems and firm growth in the Greater Toronto Area*. Invited talk at The Manchester Institute of Innovation Research.

September 2024. *Situating the Relationships between Universities' Commercialization Policies and IP ownership*. Technology Transfer Society. Brussels, Belgium.

June 2024. *International Experience and Entrepreneurship: Disentangling the impacts of education and employment*. DRUID. Nice, France.

January 2024. *IP Policies, Universities' Commercialization Policies, and Performance*. Geolnno. Manchester, UK.

November 2023. *How Can Universities Contribute to Technology Commercialization? A look at what is happening in Canada*. The Ontario Research & Commercialization Alliance (ORCA) Annual Meeting. Keynote speaker.

October 2023. *IP Policy and Research Commercialization*. Seminar in Innovation and Regional Development, HEC Montreal. Invited workshop presentation.

June 2023. *Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Firm Growth*. Regional Studies Association Annual Meeting. Ljubljana, Slovenia.

June 2023. *Policies, and Performance: Situating the Relationships between Universities' Commercialization Policies and their Economic Impact*. International Public Policy Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada.

May 2023. *The role of universities as intermediaries in entrepreneurship ecosystems*. The 12 ST Prodem, the main conference of LATAM ecosystems. EAN business school Colombia. Invited Presentation.

November 2022. *Too much support? Entrepreneurial ecosystems and firm growth in the Greater Toronto Area*. McGill University. GeoSpectives speaker series. Invited presentation.

October 2022. *Revisiting the engaged university: Focus on students' entrepreneurship*. The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. Boston, MA. Invited panel participation.

July 2022. *International Experience and Entrepreneurship: Disentangling the impacts of education and employment*. Geolnno. Milan, Italy.

June 2022. *Too much support? Entrepreneurial ecosystems and firm growth in the Greater Toronto Area*. The sixth Global Conference on Economic Geography. Dublin, Ireland.

May 2022. *Too much support? Entrepreneurial ecosystems and firm growth in the Greater Toronto Area*. 4POINTO 2022 International Conference. Ottawa, Canada.

March 2022. *National Interest in the Digital Era: Canadian Prosperity and Competitiveness*. Geopolitics and National Security Learning Program, Canada School of Public Service. Invited panel participation

February 2022. *The Case for a Place Responsive Higher Education Institution*. Panel participation in the OECD's Geography of Higher Education task-and-finish group. Invited.

January 2022, *Entrepreneurship education and support organizations*. Small Business Administration (SBA) USA. Invited.

November 2021. *From Science to Entrepreneurship*. Munk School IPL and 4Point0  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_FzyPHIGWw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_FzyPHIGWw)

May 2021. *Regional innovation ecosystems*. University of Concepción, Chile. Invited.

March 2021. *The Role of Intermediaries and Policy in Entrepreneurship Ecosystems*. In the session on Policies, Actors, and Outcomes in Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, part of the workshop series: Workshop Series: The Evolution, Persistence and Success of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, Cardiff University, UK.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLXZff3MbW0&list=PL-heuJIFoIF6LGdyocEO0a-z0u8Ee19Oy&index=7>

March 2021. Intellectual property and Entrepreneurship in Canada.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3mr\\_kYgq0Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3mr_kYgq0Y)

June 2020. *COVID-19 & The Impact on Higher Education: What does the future hold?*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11jHko7M\\_Ms](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11jHko7M_Ms)

May, 2020. *The World after COVID-19*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1qUEd2XcHo>

January 2020. *Entrepreneurship and the University: Old Wine in New Bottles?* The 5<sup>th</sup> Geography of Innovation Conference. Stavanger, Norway. Keynote speaker.

January 2020. *University-Government Collaboration*. Ministry of Finance. Toronto, ON.

December 2019. *How can Universities supercharge the economy?* Ministry of Economic Development Job Creation and Trade. Toronto, ON.

November 2019. *How can Universities contribute to Canada's economic Competitiveness?* Canada Chamber Roundtable. Toronto, ON.

November 2019. *Student entrepreneurship ecosystems*. Regional innovation Policies Conference. Florence, Italy.

September 2019. Organizer. Technology Transfer Society Annual Meeting. Toronto, ON.

August 2019. *Entrepreneurial Ecosystems for Students (EES): Organizing Framework and Evidence across Countries*. Academy of Management. Boston, MA.

August 2019. *Fostering the Growth of Student Start-ups from University Accelerators: An Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Perspective*. Academy of Management. Boston, MA.

April 2019. *Spikey or flat? Crowdfunding and Regional Advantage*. Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.

March 2019. *Does Crowdfunding Flatten Regional Advantages?* University of Stavanger Business School. Stavanger, Norway.

February 2019. *Determinants of graduates' entrepreneurial activity*. Polytechnic University of Milan. Milan, Italy.

February 2019. *Determinants of graduates' entrepreneurial activity*. University of Manchester. Manchester, UK.

## IN MEDIA

---

September 2020. Can Canada's universities survive COVID? By Sadiya Ansari. Maclean's Magazine. <https://www.macleans.ca/education/can-canadas-universities-survive-covid/>

## RESEARCH PROJECTS, WORKSHOPS, AND PROFESSIONAL REPORTS (last 5 years)

---

2020 **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN ONTARIO'S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM – REPORT TO THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT**  
JIM BALSILLIE, SHIRI M. BREZNITZ, DAN HERMAN, NATALIE RAFFOUL, AND MYRA TAWFIK

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

Fall 2013 - Present	<b>MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS</b> University of Toronto GLA2111H: Research Methods for Capstone GLA2000H: Capstone: Innovation Policy GLA2014H: Innovation and Economic Development USA 400H1F: American Economic Development USA311H: Approaches to American Studies: Globalization & Economic Development in the USA MUN102H1S: Global Innovation II: Challenges and Solutions
Fall 2009 – 2012	<b>SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY</b> GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Task Force (Bachelor's capstone course) PUBP 4010 and PUBP 4020 Economic Development Policy and Planning PUBP 4260 Regions, Technology, and Policy PUBP 6417

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

---

*Technology Transfer Society (T2S). Editorial Board Member.*  
*American Association of Geographers (AAG)*  
*Regional Studies Association (RSA)*