ANTRITTVORLESUNG

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Matthias Fink  
(Institut für Innovationsmanagement)

Matthias Fink is head of the Institute for Innovation at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. He previously worked as a Professor for International Small Business Management and Innovation at Leuphana University Lüneburg Germany and was Head of the Research Institute for Liberal Professions at WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria. Matthias holds a Ph.D. and a postdoctoral qualification (Habilitation) from WU Vienna University of Economics and Business and was a Visiting Professor at several universities e.g. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain and University of Twente, The Netherlands.

In research, Matthias’ focus is on the role of innovation in new venture creation and small business management. His current interests include entrepreneurship as a driver of innovation and change in regional contexts, entrepreneurial finance for innovation and ethical issues in business research. In his research designs, Matthias combines quantitative and qualitative methods. His research has been published in journals such as Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice, British Journal of Management, Journal of Banking and Finance, Technological Forecasting and Social Change, Regional Studies as well as Journal of Business Ethics.

Montag, 20. Oktober 2014, 16:00 Uhr  
Repräsentationsräume der JKU, 1. Stock (Uni-Center)

Innovation als Antwort auf gesellschaftliche Herausforderungen

Successful innovation addresses key societal challenges. This argument will be established against the backdrop of three key societal challenges. Firstly, innovation calls for crossing borders. Innovation implies breaking new grounds or establishing new links across borders. Borders are bridged between organizations in the form of cooperation, networks and clusters or across the public, for-profit, the third sector or different industries. Also enlarging the business activities beyond geographical borders such as moving R&D offshore constitutes an innovation for firms. Crossing borders brings about the need to manage the transfer of knowledge and information flows between entities. Second, innovation implies sustainability and change. Innovation is the interplay of sustainability and change. While innovativeness refers to the ability to induce and manage technological and social change, the aspiration of sustainability calls for the institutionalization of innovative practices as diverse as securing property rights, establishing governance structures, scaling up to the societal level or implementing innovation policy. Innovators draw on external resource
holders such as business angels, venture capitalist and governmental funding bodies. Innovation raises ethical issues for individuals, organizations and society. Third, innovation needs to be social and regional embedded. Innovation draws on the innovative capacity of places and communities (tangible and virtual communities). Identities and practices rooted in places as well as trust, social capital and social cohesion of communities are the sources for innovative resource combination. Embedded management practices of innovation crystallize as social enterprises, community-led businesses or place-based entrepreneurship. Examples from current research at the ifi Institute for Innovation Management (ifi.jku.at) will show how this perspective contributes to the academic discourse, economic policy and practice.