



SOFYA KOPELYAN

Work Package: Practices and Governance

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RUNIN RESEARCH

Sofya examines universities' regional engagement in a context of increasing inter-institutional competition and strategic modernization that create pressures for external engagement alongside maintaining research and/or teaching excellence. Drawing on a comparative analytic case study of a set of three universities that have made increasing regional engagement a specific strategic aim (the University of Twente, Linköping University, and Aalborg University), Sofya explores the non-instrumental antecedents of academics' regional engagement behaviors in an attempt to understand what drives regional engagement at the individual level, and what implications this may have for academic identity and work. The research is expected to contribute both to academic debates foregrounding the unexpected tensions inherent in regional engagement activities and to university management debates concerning the practicalities of delivering regional engagement that is well connected to and supportive of universities' other missions.

HOST INSTITUTION

University of Twente

SECONDMENT INSTITUTION

Linköpings universitet
Aalborg Universitet

SUPERVISORY TEAM

Main supervisor: Paul Benneworth, University of Twente
Co-supervisor: DzAMILA Bienkowska, Linköpings universitet
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BACKGROUND

Sofya is a graduate of the Erasmus Mundus Master course in Research and Innovation in Higher Education (MaRIHE). She holds a MSc degree in Administrative Sciences awarded jointly by the University of Tampere (Finland) and Danube University Krems (Austria). In her Master's thesis, she utilized the theoretical perspective of institutional logics to explore how academics from social sciences make sense of their societal engagement and of its influence on the more conventional dimensions of academic work. Before entering the Master's program, Sofya had been employed as lecturer and academic administrator at the Center for Biblical and Jewish Studies of the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow (Russia).

WORKING PAPERS



Sofya Kopelyan. Academic 'boundary work' in a regionally engaged university
RUNIN WP 10/2018



Sofya Kopelyan & Lisa Nieth. Regional Mission Impossible? The Twente Region and the University of Twente
RUNIN WP 02/2018



The Role of
Universities in
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Regional Development



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