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2010

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citation for published version (APA)

Smit, M. J. (2010). *Agglomeration and innovation: evidence from Dutch microdata*. Thela Thesis/TI.

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tinbergen *institute**Agglomeration and Innovation*

Evidence from Dutch Microdata

Martijn J. Smit

Cities are often seen as centres of innovative activity and high productivity. But are firms and people in urban areas really more productive and more innovative? And if they are, which characteristics make cities into centres of innovation? How important is an urban environment as a driver of innovation vis-à-vis internal characteristics of a firm? This study employs microdata to look into these issues in the Dutch context. In addition, it studies the spatial, temporal and sectoral distance decay of knowledge spillovers, and conducts a meta-analysis of previous literature on agglomeration effects.

Martijn Smit (*1980) obtained an MSc in Geography and an MA in Classics from the University of Groningen. He wrote this thesis at the department of Spatial Economics of the VU University in Amsterdam, where he is currently employed as a researcher.