

**AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ABOUT TERRITORIAL NETWORKS AND SMES' INNOVATION IN CANTABRIA**

**José Manuel López Fernández**, Profesor Asociado, Universidad de Cantabria

**Mariluz Maté Sánchez-Val**, Profesora Titular, Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena

**Francisco M. Somohano Rodríguez**, Profesor Titular, Universidad de Cantabria

**Area temática:** G Nuevas Tecnologías y Contabilidad

**Key words:** Geographical proximity, SMEs, innovation, economic agents, micro-territorial networks

## ***An empirical study about territorial networks and SMEs' innovation in Cantabria***

### **Abstract**

This study considers the role of networks derived from geographical proximity between economic agents on industrial SMEs' innovation. With this aim, we designed a construct to measure firms' innovation through voluntary disclosed information in the websites. Based on this process, we built a database composed by 1927 industrial SMEs located in Cantabria. In addition, we geo-located economics agents and facilities in firms' territories whose proximity could impact on firms' innovation. A two-step Heckman model allows us to confirm significant results for geographical variables. Our results suggest that the closeness to R&D centres and universities is crucial in firms' innovation activities.