

**ICURD research
project 2010/2011**



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EU home university	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
US host university	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
title of project	Knowledge transfer through science and technology parks
main research goal	To identify the influences on university-firm linkages
main research question	What influences the level of university-firm linkages?
main research methods	In the American survey, linkage is measured by the importance of eight possible kinds of interactions, as indicated by entrepreneurs on a five-point Likert-scale. In the German survey, semi-structured interviews with entrepreneurs were conducted to determine their interaction with university institutes.
main results (description of projects and findings)	The findings suggest that it is not possible to infer the overall level of connectedness between the university and firms simply from the companies' characteristics. Certain characteristics, however, correlate with higher importance for certain kinds of linkages. For instance, the importance of universities was ranked similar by branch and independent companies, but branches rank the access to university workforce much higher than independent companies. Second, if there exists many universities in a particular region, the universities will create several opportunities to cooperate and form linkages with firms. Therefore, a high amount of universities in the same region will adversely affect the ability for a certain university to form university-firm linkages within the STP. Particularly for relationships between university institutes in the STP and firms, a small amount of universities in the same region is better for forming linkages. Third, the overall level of interaction between universities and firms does not significantly change over a period of six years. At least in part, however, personal linkages between firms and university institutes become more important over the same period of time.
key words	Knowledge transfer, university-firm linkages, Science and Technology Parks