



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PALERMO

DIPARTIMENTO DI FISICA E CHIMICA - DiFC

Direttore: prof. Gioacchino Massimo Palma



From trophic levels to value chains: ecological perspectives on economic networks

16th December 2025 17:00, aula Specializzazione, DiFC, Edificio 18, Viale delle Scienze

Fabio Caccioli

Dept of Computer Science, University College London, London, UK

I will discuss measures introduced in economics to quantify the position of sectors within input-output networks, which are conceptually similar to trophic levels in ecology. In particular, I will show that empirically observed correlations between upstreamness and downstreamness can arise from basic structural constraints, rather than reflecting meaningful economic positioning. I will then turn to inter-firm credit networks and introduce DebtStreamness, a trophic-level-inspired metric that captures the length of credit chains among firms. Using data from Uruguay, I will show how this approach reveals patterns of financial intermediation that are not captured by conventional classifications.

