

# The Dynamics of Inventors, Employers and Innovation

Ajay Bhaskarabhatla  
Erasmus University

Luís Cabral  
New York University and CEPR

Deepak Hegde  
New York University

Very preliminary: September 2022;

**Abstract.** We develop a theory of inventor career, largely based on a ladder model of on-the-job search with generic and specific human capital. We derive a series of testable implications regarding inventor mobility, productivity, and assortative matching. Broadly speaking, these predictions are confirmed by data from US innovators from 1975–2012 (a total of about one million inventors).

Keywords: innovation