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**Historical Trajectory and Knowledge  
Embeddedness: A Case Study in the  
French Perfume Cluster.**

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# **Historical Trajectory and Knowledge Embeddedness:**

## **A Case Study in the French Perfume Cluster.**

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### **Abstract**

Much of the research on clusters refers to trajectories as a central feature of regional development. In this article, we explore changes within a French perfume cluster in order to show how a theory of cluster trajectory could be improved by an analysis of this specific case. Using central concepts from Mahoney's theory, we analyse the historical sequences of the development trajectory of this regional cluster and put forward a conceptual model and a case study. In particular, we argue that embedded knowledge and innovation influence trajectory sequences in the long and discontinuous history of the cluster. Our research has also led us to identify some types of managerial behaviour that support embedded knowledge.

**Keywords:** trajectory, regional development, embedded knowledge, cluster, historical sequences