

The Governance of City Regions between Local Competitiveness and Regional Aspiration

*'The Normative Implications of
Regional Organization of Metropolitan
Regions' Workshop, UVIC*

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Outline of Argument

- Regionalisation and Regional Governance
- Globalisation and Paradigms for City-Regional Governance
- Metro Regions and Metropolitan Regions-Real and Virtual
- Examples
- Analytical Framework

(City-) Regional Governance?

- Wedefine regional governance as *deliberate efforts by multiple actors to achieve goals in multi-jurisdiction environments.* (Barnes and Foster 2011). It is:
 - focused on achieving a set policy goal through ‘adjusting’ governance in its
 - Territoriality
 - Boundedness
 - Scale

Regionalisation of Urban (Metropolitan) Governance

- Creates its own political narrative as justification and legitimation
 - Crosses borders and boundaries between spheres of power and responsibility (territories, institutional structures, actors)
 - goes beyond formal government sphere and processes (transparency?)
 - Needs to justify its existence by creating narratives and deliver on them (competition with local and/or state agendas and powers)

Effectiveness of Regional Governance Shaped by:

- **Specificity:** Ability to reflect specific conditions of place, time, and agenda
- **Operability** (ability (capacity)) to act on the collective agendas and priorities of the participating regional actors,
- **Responsiveness** to the sum of local interests and concerns within a regional space – whatever its ‘realness’.
- **Ability to learn** and adjust strategies to changing conditions and narratives

Producing *Resilience* as New Paradigm for Regionalisation (?)

- Global nature of challenges questions bordered (spatially, institutionally, societally) thinking among actors:
- Seeming need to (be seen) to engage with ‘outside’ to boost:
 - Economic competitiveness
 - Sustainability (social equity, ‘greenness’)
- **Outcome: Normative Narrative of metropolitan (city-regional) governance as tool for ‘delivering’ on set policy agendas**

Urban (metropolis)-centred agenda increasingly 'localises' regional paradigm:

Competing (?) ideological norms, especially:

- **Competitiveness** (neo-liberal, public choice)
- **Sustainability** (more statist, regulative, equity focused):
 - Growing differentiation and *localisation* of regional agenda,
 - Growing emphasis on relational spatiality (network regions), with its selective inclusions and exclusions (territories, actors)
 - Regions no longer act as *safety nets* for excluded, marginalised, 'by-passed') actors and spaces

Result of Metropolitan-Regional Agenda:

- Proclamation of **new localised (selective) geographies of entrepreneurial opportunities**
- that implies corresponding '**geographies of 'dis-opportunities' (marginalisation)**:
 - go beyond conventional notion of marginality as 'on the edge' – to include 'in between'
 - result from fragmentations created by relational networks and production of connected and unconnected actors (places, agencies, personalities),
 - stretch between and across spatial scales (governance structures!)

Result of Metropolitan-Regional Agenda (ctd)

- Selective involvement of citizenship (empowerment) based on location (economic relevance)
- Result of a two-tier citizenship – those that matter and have a voice, and those who don't?

Normative Conditions for Metropolitan Regionalisation?

- common purpose (agenda) as win-win outcome (broad legitimacy) for all participants
- scope to choose the degree of 'realness' ('hardness') of representing a region as an entity – spatially, politically or functionally
- ability to overcome underlying divisions (territorial scale, interests, social/societal differences)

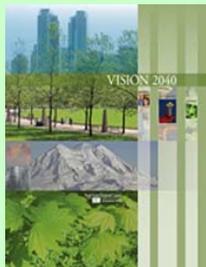
Normative Conditions for Metropolitan Regionalisation? Ctd.

- choice of mechanisms for region building through territorial governance:
 - hierarchical links through government institutions
 - relational connectivity between actors (leadership)
 - projection of togetherness with/without 'realness' (virtual regionality)
- coherence and/or cohesion of a regional space in terms of societal values and aspirations (agendas),
- degree of state support (legislation for taxation, statutory provisions for govt (MLG), provision of 'hard' factors

Puget Sound – produced policy region based on geographic belonging

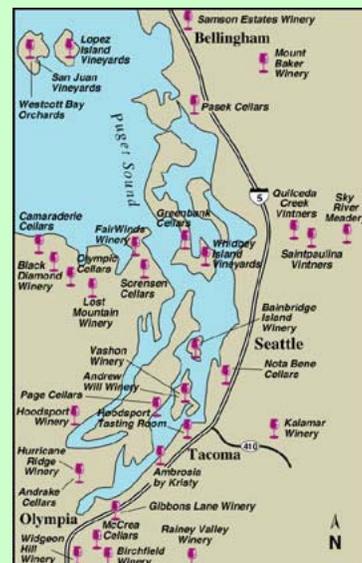
Puget Sound Regional Council

Visible organisational expressions of locally collaborative regional association with the blessing of the State.:
technocratically framed, planning-based
'suggestive' regionalisation



Visioning the competitive region for 2020 through the lens of planning

"Growth management, environmental, economic and Transportation strategy for the Central Puget Sound Region"
Attempt at 'catch all'?



Puget Sound – 2040 Vision

The concept of people, prosperity and planet provides a central theme for VISION 2040. It describes what is referred to as the triple bottom line approach of capturing an expanded spectrum of values when planning for the future and in measuring results. It signals that the region uses an approach to public decision-making that produces social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits.

The new normative paradigm: Growth and sustainability? In very different settings



‘Making’ Economic Competitiveness and Sustainability

Puget Sound Regional Council

Google Custom Search Search

About Growth Management transportation Economic Development Funding Data

Home > Growth Management

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

- VISION 2040
- Centers
- Plan Review
- Tools and Resources
- Regional Food Policy
- Sustainable Communities
- Growth Management Policy Board

Growth Management

PSRC maintains and implements the region's long-range growth management, environmental, economic and transportation strategy: VISION 2040. This includes working with PSRC members and other groups to ensure that adopted policies and strategies are consistently represented and addressed throughout the region and in all PSRC planning and project funding efforts.

VISION 2040
The region's adopted

Centers
Designated centers

Plan Review
Courtwide policies,

Tools and Resources

PSRC's Purpose

- “PSRC’s mission is to ensure a thriving central Puget Sound now and into the future through planning for regional transportation, growth management and economic development” (website)
- And this is through facilitating ‘consistency and representation’ of local (members’) plans throughout the region (= no implementational powers to maintain (formally) voice for all.

Puget Sound – another, more ‘acceptable’ word for Greater (Metro) Seattle?



The spatial construct of shared, common purpose and benefit. Yet some local participants are more visible than others. Where does that leave regional participation and legitimacy?



regional transportation, growth management and economic development planning

Seattle-focused city region – and where is the rest?
Whose interests are served?

One Region – Many Voices: New Urbanism, 'Old Urbanism', 'Sub-urbanism' and 'Cowboy Land'



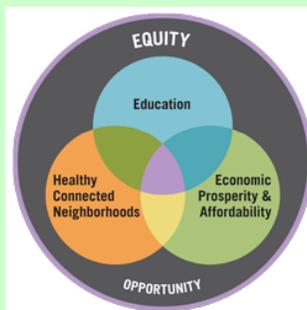
Different and competing interests between – and within – places. How negotiated? Whose representation? Planning for the centres and the *in between*



Portland: Metropolitanisation, and the Promotion of Equitable Growth



Legitimation Beyond Instrumental Planning



Portland: Competitiveness and Growth – If ‘Green’ – Prevail as ‘Norm’



Atlanta – Virtual ‘Metro-isation’



Atlanta – Metro-isation



Commercial use of virtual competitive metro status: on-line portal for businesses

Dis-/Connectivity by MARTA: inclusions and (wanted) exclusions



Atlanta – Regionalisation through projecting territoriality and fostering actor-relational networks

Atlanta Regional Commission is the regional planning agency for the 10-county Atlanta region . ARC serves as the catalyst for regional progress by focusing leadership, attention and planning resources on key regional issues. For more information, visit www.atlantaregional.com



Regional Leadership Institute: Today's regional challenges require a new problem-solving capacity and the ability to work across political, geographical and institutional boundaries. Through RLI, leaders develop a broader awareness of the region in which they live, work and play.

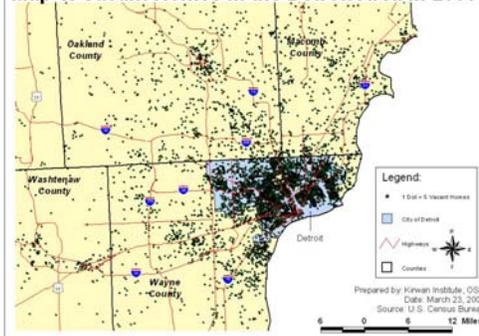


Detroit: Peripheralised Core: Suburban Regionalisation Around the Centre – Core as Periphery

Hollowing out of a city region



Map 1: Vacant Homes in the Detroit Area in 2000



‘Metro-isation’ to boost a weak core and (disguise?) its economic standing

Metro Detroit: Suburban Metropolitan Regionalisation

- Two increasingly apparent determinants of regional prosperity are a metropolitan area’s ability to cooperatively address challenges and concentrate talent-class workers. Southeast Michigan is struggling to do both.
- A lack of viable mass transit, excessive barriers to urban redevelopment and a lingering rust-belt image.....discourage investment.....”

Detroit: Escaping Peripheralisation through Change of Mind Among Future Local Leaders (Mayors)



“Millennials” are.... people born between 1978 and 1993.their values and preferences...[include] “green” lifestyles, walkable communities, local businesses, cultural diversity and social tolerance—tend to support urban vibrancy” (MSA).



Catalysts for Change

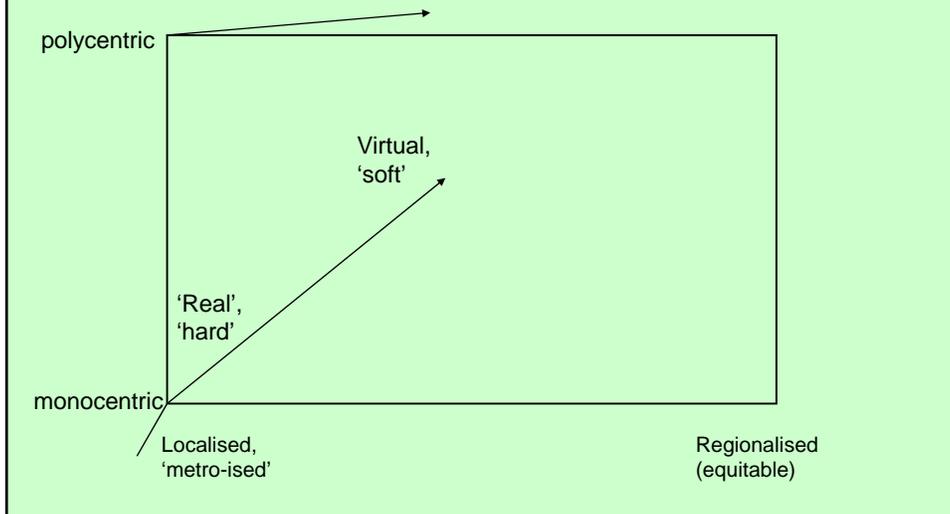


- ▶ Collaborative
- ▶ Connected
- ▶ Pro-urban
- ▶ Pro-regionalism

Millennials are best positioned to address this new divide.



Analytical Dimensions of Metropolitan Regionalism



Summary – Observations

- Globalisation drives two main agendas: competitiveness and sustainability with differing concepts of the nature of governance (neo-liberal individualism vs equitable communitarianism)
- Emergence of new 'normative' paradigm of 'effective' governance: metropolitanisation, city-focused (local) regionalisation
- Metropolitanisation – or '*metro-isation*' as new paradigm for sub-national governance to produce 'resilience' to globalisation pressures
- New forms of marginalisation: Belonging to inter-actor networks, rather than territorial belonging (inside/outside a boundary) decide who is 'in' and who is 'out'

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Thank You!

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