MAKING GREATER VANCOUVER A WORLD CITY:
POLICY AND GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Conference Goals

Think about Vancouver as WC in order to engage other communities in area in initiative

What are central questions:
- **Space and relationality**
- **Connectivity**
- **Flows**
- **Sustainability**

Space and Relationality

Includes governance issues, multi-level governance, regions

Dealing with "wicked" problems
- **Coping with unintended consequences of different policy choices**

Are we creating a new center/periphery divide? How are small/non-metro communities linked to Vancouver and each other in a WC perspective?

Lagging institutional apparatus created for earlier issues, e.g race/gender v. immigration

MLG structures vary by policy area, region

Is MLG associated with good policy? Do we need to expand/adjust our concepts of accountability in assessing MLG?

Space and Relationality

"Return of the barbarians"

Social construction of socially marginalized groups as "barbarians"/disorderly and in need of policing v. self-governed

Infection metaphor for globalization
"Networked Disease: who is/is not infected

Splintering cities...and rebundling

Connectivity

Land, sea air transportation hub and networks

<u>Transport Revolution</u> challenges a "WC myopia"

Is Vancouver headed towards "stranded assets" in face of energy crisis?

Recognizing the hazards/dangers/negative externalities of connectivity

FLOWS

Immigration flows and civic culture

- **Note cyclical trajectories of globalization and instability of WC measures**
- **How does transnationalism viewpoint lead to different understanding of WC links?**
- **Is civic culture the driver in explaining the policy decision to try to become a world city?**
  - **Rogers: Vancouver as Principled, Prepared, Partners**
- **How does policy shape future politics?**

Immigration Flows in Vancouver

Policy Dissonance and Disconnect on Immigration

- **Flows are poly-managed**
- **Federal/provincial immigrant policy initiatives but cities on front line**
- **Policy focus on cultural integration but political and social integration are key challenges and disconnected**
- **This policy disconnect will shape future politics in city where visible minorities will be majority in 2027**
- **What is successful integration…and who can deliver it in Vancouver?**

Sustainability

Urban Political Ecology

Beyond Boosterism: recognizes risks and opportunities of being networked

The Power of Ideas

Is the WC framework a useful way to think about Vancouver's future?

Value Conflicts
Trends and conditions
Power Shifts
Discourse and Rhetoric

The Politics of Ideas

Who wants Vancouver to be a WC?

Does Vancouver's civic culture support this aspiration?

Rogers: Vancouver as Principled, Prepared, Partners

Is it worth it? What are the value trade-offs?

Path dependency prevails?

What is problematic about a WC aspiration?

WC concept localizes globalization but has multiple meanings

"Indicator mania": attributes v. relations

Unstable measures: static v. dynamic

Geoeconomic bias=power failure?

Is WC status really a function of corporate locational decisions rather than governmental choices?

Overlooks "in-between city" most live in

Is the City-Region concept more useful/appropriate?

Not WC network or roster or hierarchy but series of regional city-based networks

- Brings in small/non-metro communities in relation to V and others
- Fits political needs/incentives

What's Missing?

Are we stuck in intellectual silos?

- **Power?**
  - need to focus on power over cities, power between cities
  - political agency
- **Creativity as an economic force**
  - But note Toronto rhetoric/reality of creative class city
- **Resilience**
- **Justice&Democratic values**
- **Alternative approaches?**

What's Next?

- EB-J....!!