

Cities, regulation and boundaries What role for the English state?

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Abolition of the English regions

- At least a decade of scholarly debate surrounding the meaning and relevance of 'the region' (and scale).
- Evolving urban functional relationships and their implications for the definition of 'functional urban areas' (FUAs) > 'functional economic areas'.
- Fuelled the redrawing of the (political) administrative map for English sub-national governance.

A world of cities

ESPON (European Spatial Observation Network) *Tiger*, 2012

APS 2000

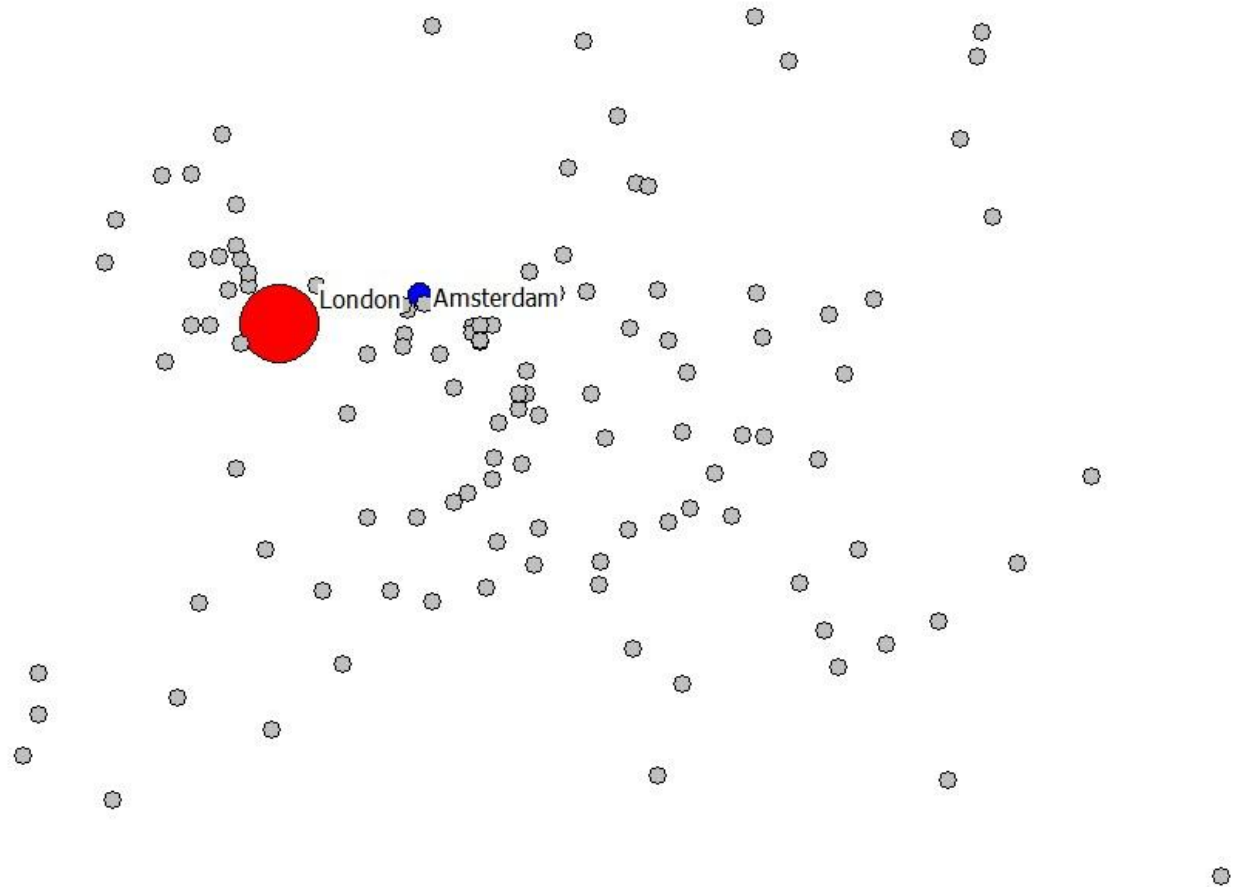
| | |
|--------------|-------|
| 1. LON | 326.8 |
| 2. NY | 318.3 |
| 3. HK | 237.3 |
| 4. TOKYO | 231.7 |
| 5. PARIS | 231.3 |
| 6. SINGAPORE | 218.7 |
| 7. CHICAGO | 202.3 |
| 8. MILAN | 198.7 |
| 9. MADRID | 197.0 |
| 10. LOS ANG | 194.5 |

APS 2010

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| 1. LON | 339.9 |
| 2. NY | 320.0 |
| 3. HK | 249.1 |
| 4. SINGAPORE | 231.7 |
| 5. PARIS | 230.4 |
| 6. SHANGHAI | 212.7 |
| 7. TOKYO | 212.3 |
| 8. SYDNEY | 205.2 |
| 9. CHICAGO | 202.9 |
| 10. DUBAI | 202.4 |

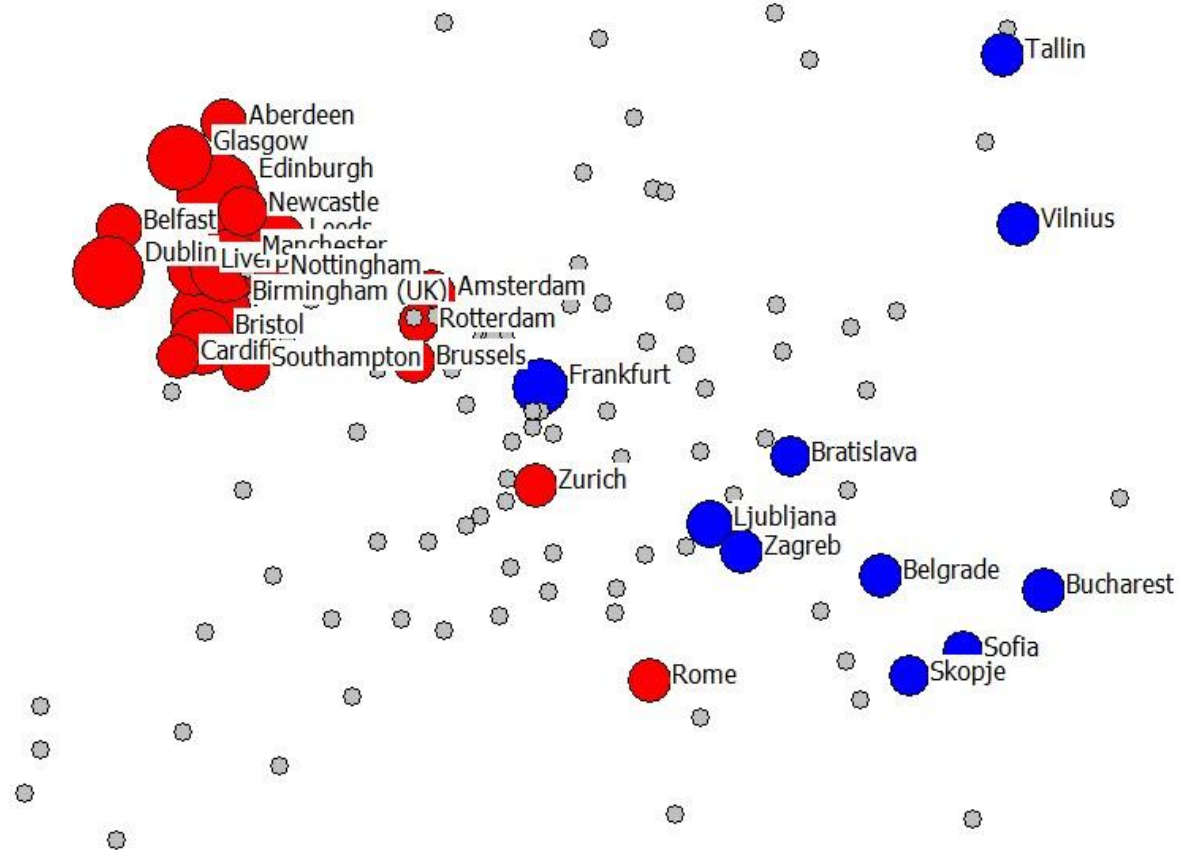
Global APS 'primate' European strategy

ESPO*N* Tiger,
2012



Global APS 'British' strategy

ESPON *Tiger*,
2012



The relevance (or not) of scale

“City-Regions are not defined by natural boundaries, because they are wholly the artefacts of the cities at their nuclei: the boundaries move outward – or halt – only as city economic energy dictates”



Jacobs 1984: *Cities and the Wealth of Nations: Principles of Economic Life*

The relevance (or not) of scale

An “urgent need for new conceptualizations of scale to obtain an analytical - and political - fix on current processes of reterritorialisation and their implications for the geographical organisation of social relations in an era of neoliberal globalisation”

Brenner 1999, 448.

'Mega-city regions' The *Polynet* study, 2003-06

ERDF funded Interreg IIIB NW Europe study

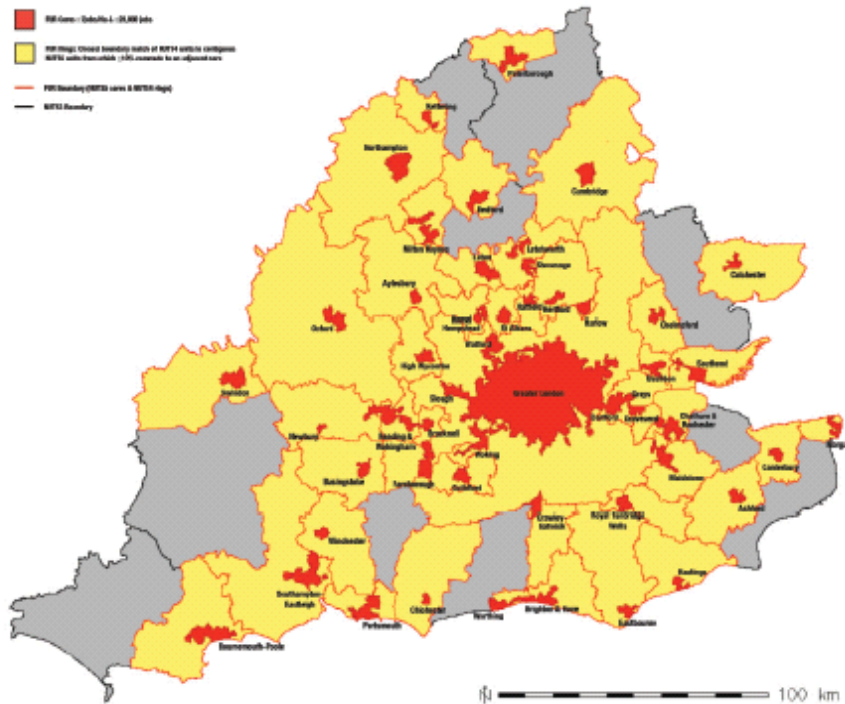
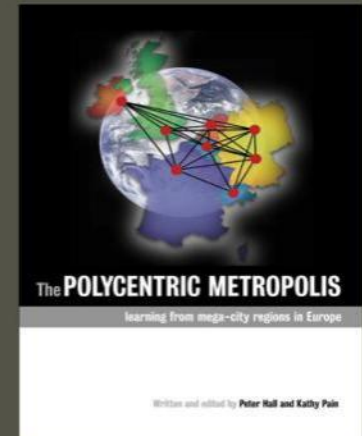


Figure 1a: South East England MCR: Constituent FURs



the polycentric metropolis: learning from mega-city regions in europe

22 May 2006

Written and edited by Peter Hall and Kathy Pain
Published by James and James/Earthscan

The Polycentric Metropolis is the definitive POLYNET final summary report, bringing together the key research findings in a highly readable, lavishly illustrated book. With contributions from all eight research teams, it has been synthesised by the London lead team's research directors, Peter Hall and Kathy Pain.

Part 1, The Polycentric Metropolis: Emerging Mega-City Regions, is a single introductory chapter. Part 2, Analysing the Polycentric Metropolis: Quantifying the Mega-City Region, has four chapters which analyse polycentricity and the polycentric Mega-City Region by measuring information flows. Part 3, Understanding the Polycentric Metropolis: Actors, Networks, Regions, has three chapters which probe qualitative information from hundreds of interviews with executives and senior managers in eight key Advanced Producer Service sectors in the eight regions.

In Part 4, Visiting the Polycentric Metropolis: Regional Identities, Regional Policies, eight chapters from the regional research teams emphasise some of their special characteristics including recent policy responses to the challenges of strategic planning and delivery. Finally Part 5, Planning the Polycentric Metropolis: The Effectiveness of Policy, focuses on these policy questions. In a single chapter, it sums up key general conclusions before setting policy responses in a common framework and suggesting an agenda for continuing research.

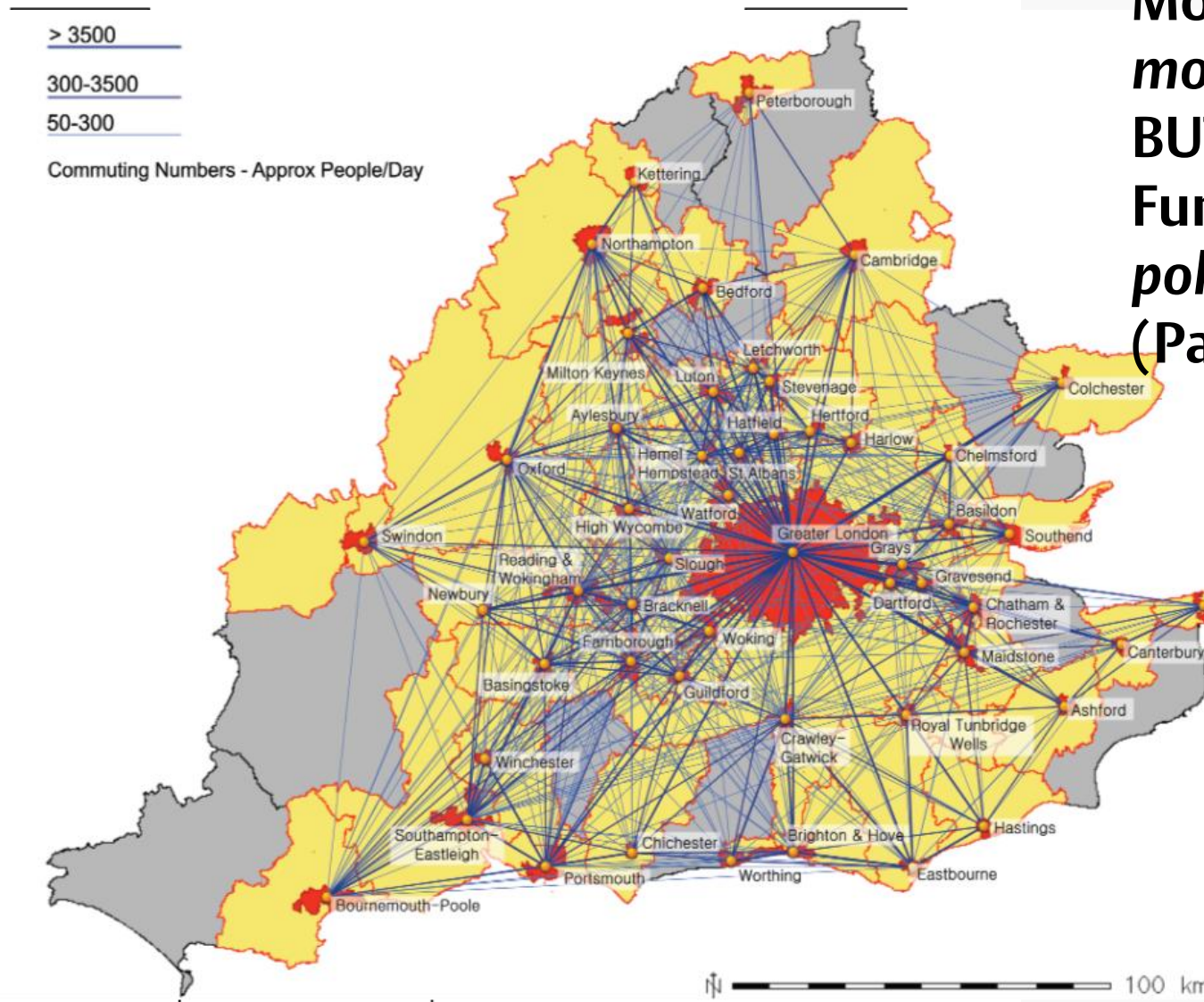
Metropolitan regions deeply integrated in global economic networks

“Mega-city regions are a series of anything between 10 and 50 cities and towns physically separated but functionally networked, clustered around one or more larger central cities, and drawing enormous economic strength from a new functional division of labour“

(Hall and Pain, 2006)

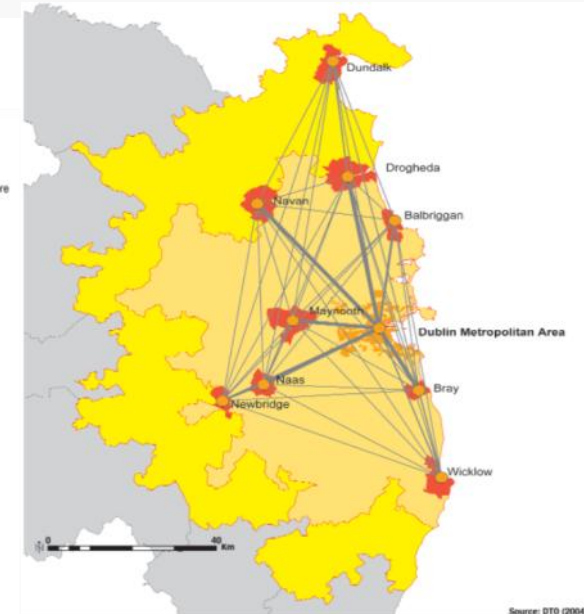
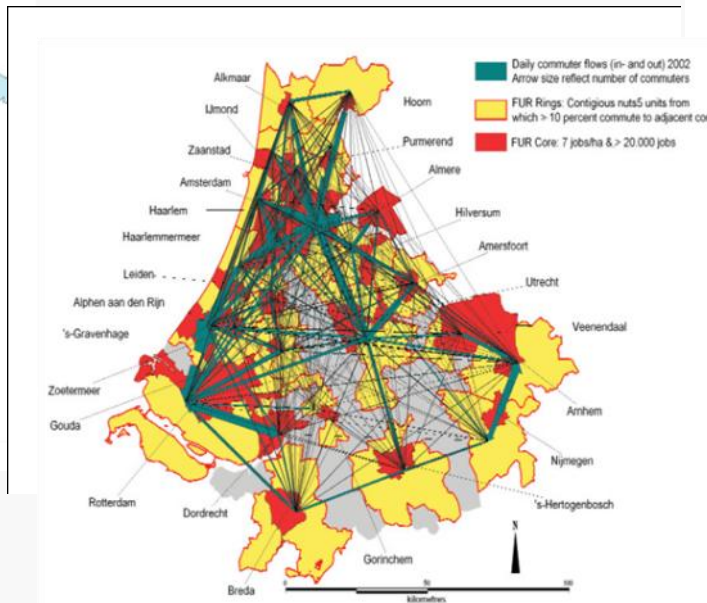
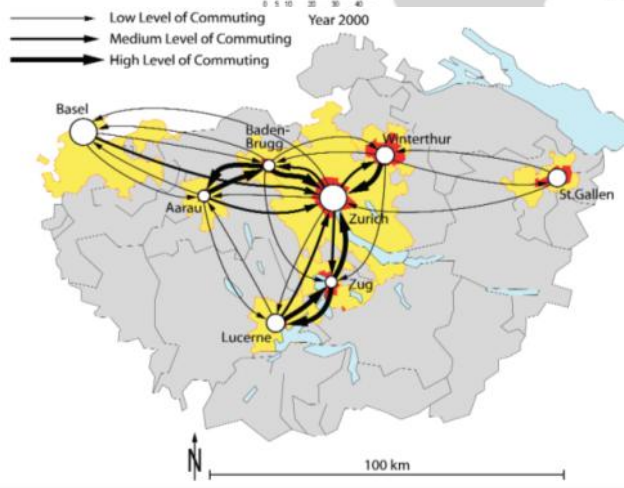
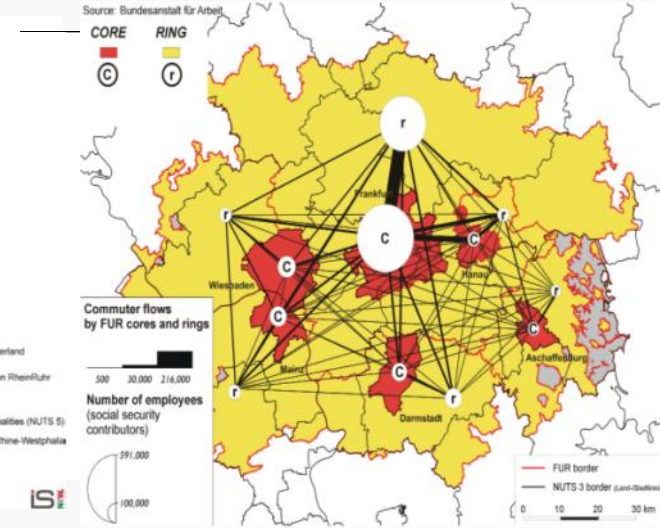
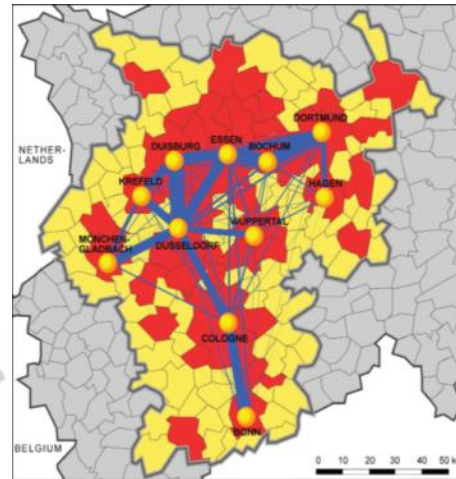
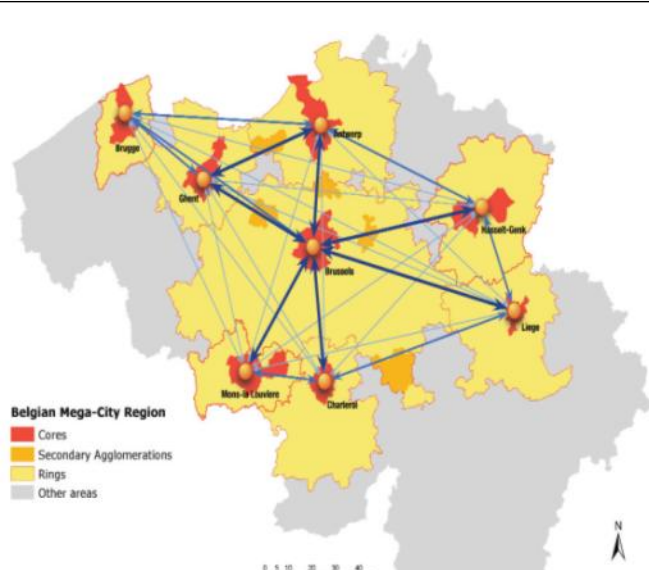
The 'polycentric' mega-city region

Morphologically *mono-centric*
BUT
Functionally *poly-centric!*
(Pain, 2008)



Local firms
joining
larger cross-
border
networks /
global firms
with local
strategies⁰

The scale of the sustainability challenge



The governance challenge

- In all the cases studied, policy and democratic engagement was found lacking in the most intense interactional spaces where multiple functional scales overlap.
- The definition of sub-national territorial-administrative structures and boundaries was concluded to be largely irrelevant because functional relations in dynamic globalizing spaces are agile.

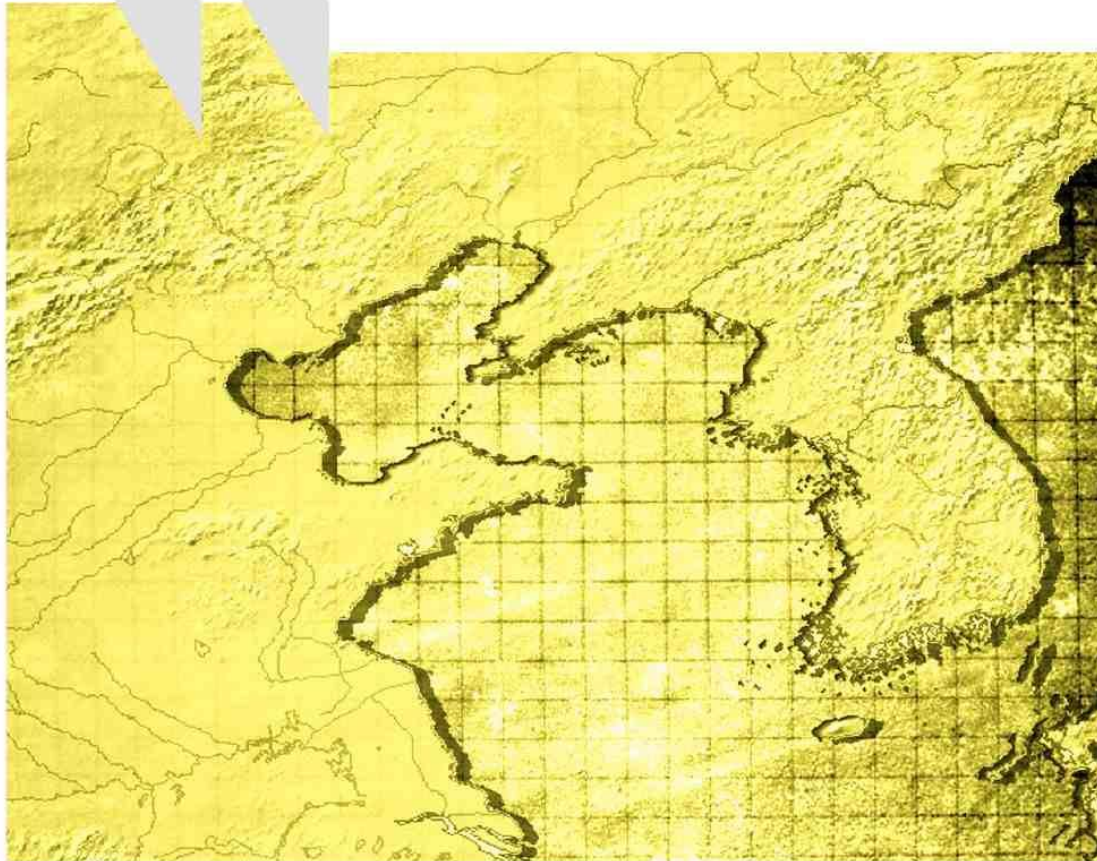
The relevance (or not) of scale

“scales evolve relationally within tangled hierarchies and dispersed interscalar networks ... [and] ... cannot be construed adequately as a system of territorial containers defined by absolute geographic size (a ‘Russian dolls’ model of scales)”

Brenner 2001, 605-606.

OECD Territorial Reviews

Trans-border Urban Co-operation in the Pan Yellow Sea Region



The 'meta-city region' challenge

Place: The 'Pan-Yellow Sea Region' (PYSR):
Japan, S. Korea, China.

Process: 'Flying geese', reversing.

- The established division of labour has been disrupted.
- Horizontal intra-industry trade.
- Governments are increasingly confronted with intertwined economic, social and ecological challenges.
- Need to deal with complex cross boundary, inter-scale processes involving multiple actors and institutions.
- Requires non-territorialist cooperation.

ESPON *Tiger*, 2010-12

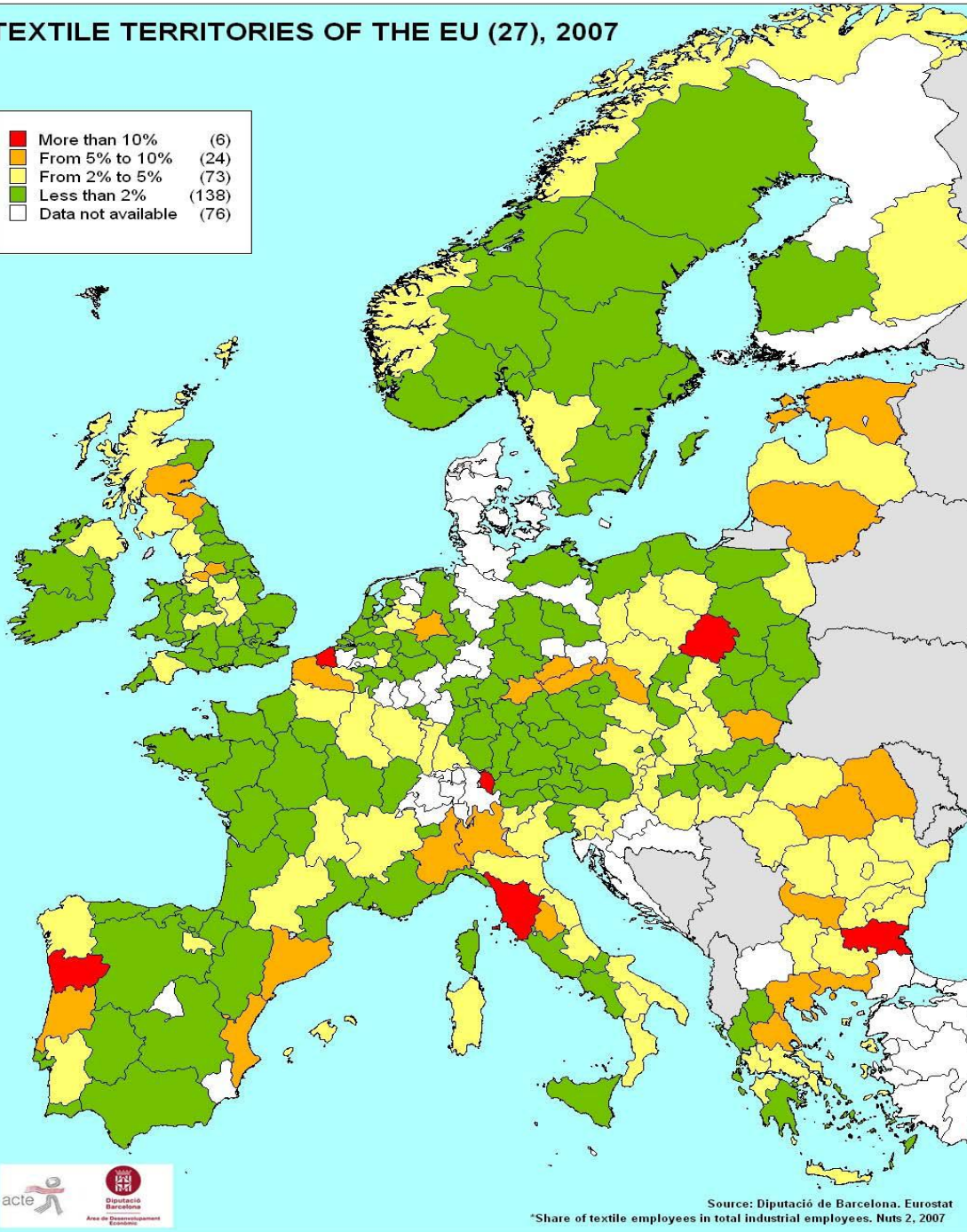
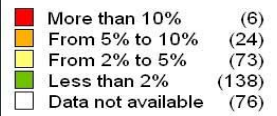
- Increasingly interwoven multi-scale flows of goods, people and knowledge, accompanied by geographical rebalancing articulated through global value chains involving Europe.
- Functional integration at a European *macro-regional* level, (the ‘global macro-region’) however, the macro-regional and global levels of interaction are not discrete scalar processes, but are shown to be deeply intertwined.
- Pain and Van Hamme, 2004, forthcoming, Edward Elgar.

The region – how appropriate?

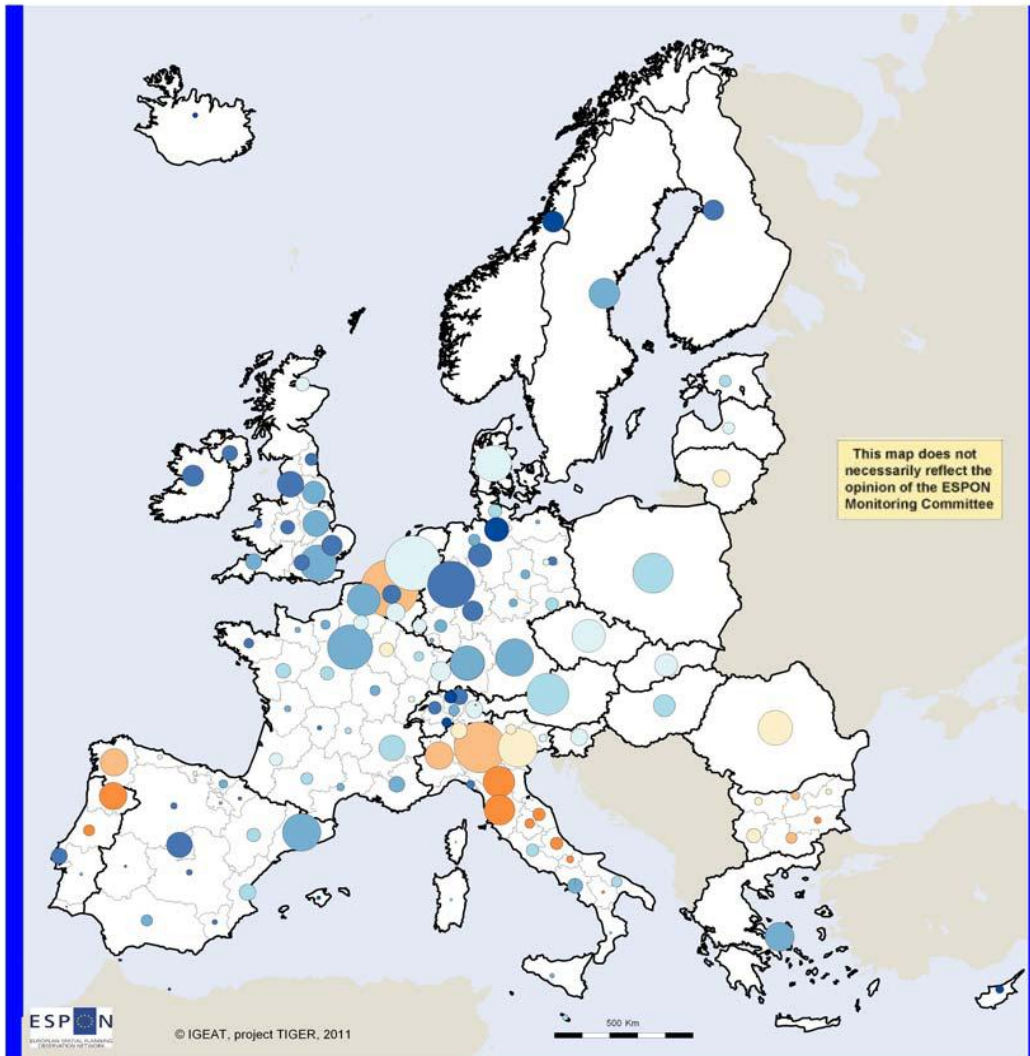
- The ‘regionalist-fix’ of EU territorial policy since the political construction of a ‘Europe of Regions’ (The ‘Committee of the Regions’) (1994), fails to engage with Europe’s contemporary inter-scale relations / the role of cities.
- Alongside the construction of the European Union (EU) as an advanced world territorial assemblage through successive waves of political upscaling, the region has until recently retained its prominence as a focus for EU policy and funding.

Merit?

TEXTILE TERRITORIES OF THE EU (27), 2007



Roukova et al.,
Tiger WP8.1




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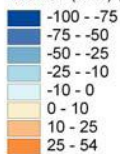
Source : IGEAT, 2010

Origin of data : Eurostat, national institutes,
own calculations.

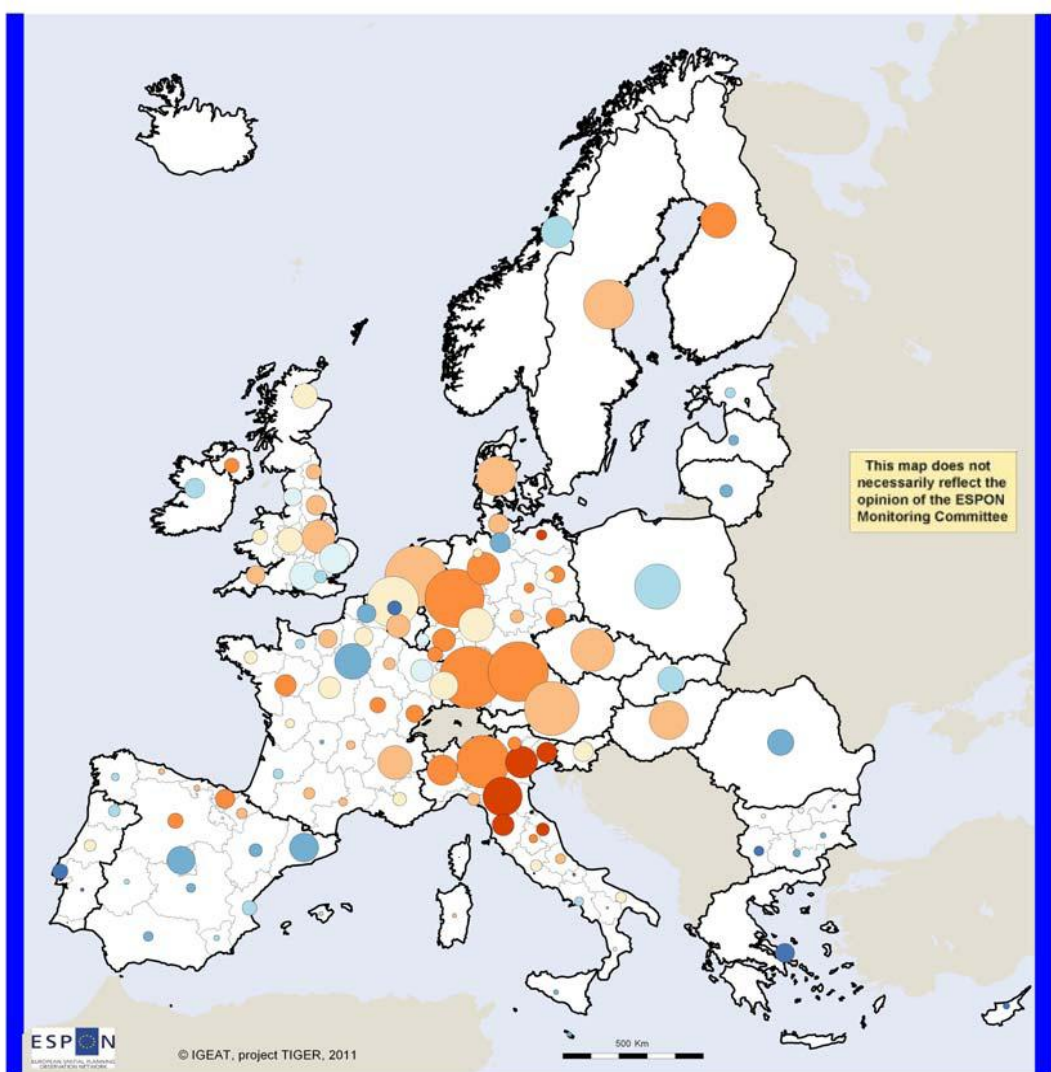
Textile trade (M euros)



Textile : $(X-M)/(X+M) \times 100$



Regional trade in textile and clothing industry, 2007-2009 (Van Hamme, *Tiger* WP7)



ESPON
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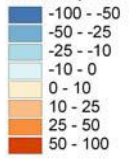
© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

Source : IGEAT, 2010
 Origin of data : Eurostat, national institutes,
 own calculations.

Machinery and equipment trade (M euros)



Machinery and equipment : $(X-M)/(X+M) \times 100$



Regional trade in automotive and others means of transport industry, 2007-2009 (Van Hamme, Tiger WP7)

What role for the English state?

- *Tiger* shows how local specificities and differences are actively constitutive of diverse scalar relations.
- But in England a strategic perspective, looking outwards from the local (and across spatial and economic spheres), is missing.
- The place-fixing of local politics has been reassembled.

Governance and planning must be
“reflexive and agile, reflecting on /
incorporating new knowledge /
understandings”

(Harrison and Pain, 2012, p.8)

Empirical evidence from Europe suggests that governance modes must focus on *processes* as opposed to territorial boundaries to engage with the fluid spaces of diversity.