

Regional Economic Resilience: a new model of territorial development?

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Introduction:

The growing interest in resilience

- Context – “*the generalised contemporary sense of uncertainty and insecurity*” (Christopherson et al, 2010; p. 3)
- Understanding the resilience of regions to economic crisis and the role of territorial policy

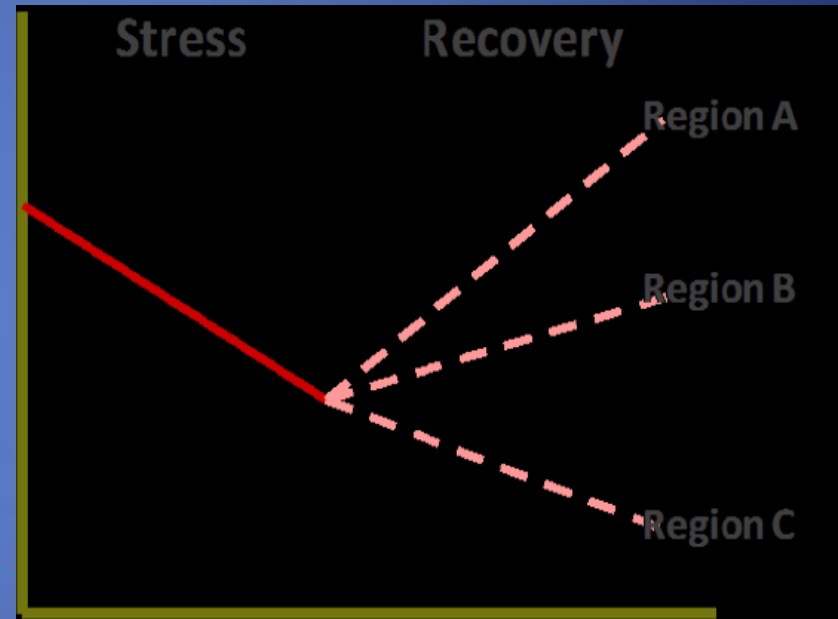


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Conceptions of regional resilience (1)

- Resilience as **outcome**:
 - *‘the ability of a region to recover successfully from shocks to its economy...’* (Hill et al, 2008);
- Possibility of hysteretic outcomes (Martin, 2012; Davies et al, 2012)



Conceptions of regional resilience (2)

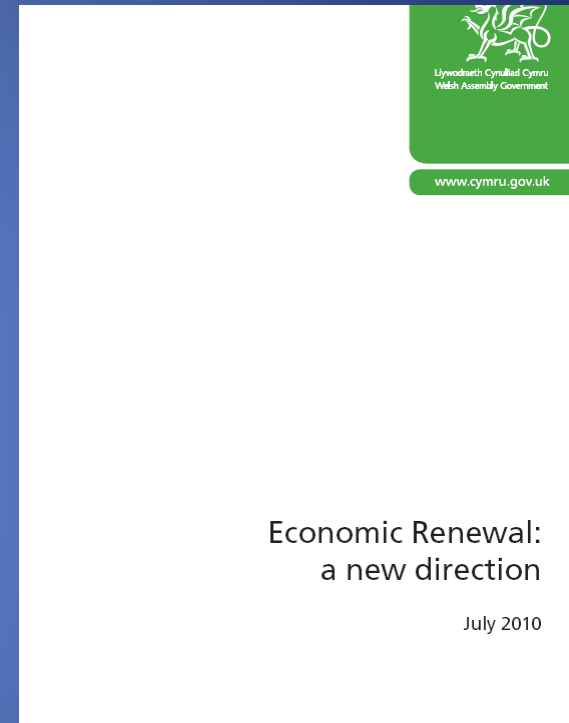
- Resilience as *capacity*:
 - ‘the capacity of a regional economy to reconfigure, that is adapt, its structure (firms, industries, technologies and institutions)...’
(Martin, 2012; p. 10)
- Shaped by inherited conditions and their evolution – adaptive cycles
- And purposeful agency

Conceptions of regional resilience (3)

- Resilience as *agenda*:
 - ‘the choice of ‘resilience agenda’... may itself be the subject of considerable political debate and even ideological conflict...’ (Martin, 2012; p. 13)
- The normative dimensions of resilience
 - Crises, recovery, systems and goals
- Broadly two competing resilience agendas:
 - Resilience as growth
 - Resilience without growth

Resilience agendas in practice: Wales

- Perceptions of different stakeholders in Wales
 - Welsh Government – resilience as *renewal* and ‘greening’ of business
 - Small businesses – resilience as *stability and security*



Why resilience agendas matter

- Resilience as performance and capacity may not tell the whole story
 - Populations may be happy with ‘non-resilient’ outcomes (e.g. Hill et al, 2011)
- Open up the possibility of debate around values and development pathways
 - ‘small businesses in Wales are remaining robust and continuing to demonstrate resilience’ (FSB, 2012)

From concept to methods

➤ Measure outcomes for multiple variables

- Longitudinal quantitative analysis
- And over different cycles – test for synchronicity and shock transfer

➤ Components analysis – test key drivers of outcomes

➤ Case studies – qualitative analysis

➤ Numerous challenges!



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