



Trans-Reading the case-studies 1: Scalar accumulation, scalar politics

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“ Scale as strategy (structural and discursive)
as medium, arena, outcome, and instrument
of political-economic transformation
proceses”

Scale: Ontological, Ontic, or Heuristic ?

- Non-ontological Scales
 - The Ontic: Relational Scales – Territorial Scales
 - Molecular strategies and capital accumulation – scaled rhizomatic networks (stretching scales)
 - Scalar fixes or the production of territorial scale
 - the geo-economics of accumulation and the production of scalar configurations
 - The geo-politics of capitalism and the production of scales of institutionalised socio-political compromise
 - Scale as a Heuristic Device
- The contested production and transformation of scales of governance and scales of accumulation.
- The city-region as heuristic entry

Demologos's scalar conclusions

A complex reconstitution of scalar relations [has taken place] as urban, regional, and national [and transnational] regulatory capacities have been remade in the context of a politically-assisted deepening of “market rule” Peck and Theodore (in Chicago paper)

“ A time/scale intensification and imbrications, hybridization, and tangling of scales of economic governance” Peck and Theodore (in Chicago paper)

A stretching/contracting of economic scalar organization

The Cases:

Scalar imbroglios and transformations

DEMOLOGOS

Chicago		Nationally embedded local machine politics	Community/area driven progressive redistribution 'interregnum'	Locally embedded globalization strategies Articulated through emblematic machine politics
Pearl River Delta	Global-regional-urban	Global – urban exportism		Global-national-regional-local (regionalisation – transborderisation) Competing discursive apparatuses
Reggio Calabria and Mezzogiorno		National Centralised articulation	National Decentralisation	European – Regional (articulated through state neoliberalisation) Managing consensus (and the contradictions thereof)
London	City - Imperial	National articulation	National-European	'Glocal' City Local – Global - GLC – 'Red' Ken

Brussels	National (Francophone) imperial	National Fordist Keynesian	Scalar economic explosion – governance implosion Localisation - internationalisation	Multi-scalar incoherence – transnationalisation
Vienna	Imperial – multi-national node of governance	Nation-state centered Accumulation Class struggle	Internationalised regionalisation	Transnational regionalisation
North East England		National spatial Keynesianism – national fordist accumulation – north south divide	Re-scaling - neoliberalisation	Localised competitive development – regionalisation-globalisation
Rome		Late national Fordist export oriented accumulation	Internationalisation – local regulatory/political restructuring – political polarisation	Glocalization – neoliberalisation – Political transformation

Scalar Analysis - A Summary: from ABC and TSP papers to Case-Study narratives

- Scalar configurations, conceived off either as regulatory order(s), instable territorial configurations, or as networks, as well as their discursive and theoretical representation, are always already a result, an outcome of the perpetual movement of the flux of socio-spatial or rather time-space dynamics. The theoretical and political priority, therefore, resides never in a particular geographical scale, but rather in the process through which particular scales become constituted and subsequently transformed.
- → All case-studies considered the **process** of scalar re-articulation

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- There is a continuous tension between ‘scales of accumulation’, ‘territorial configurations’ and ‘scales of regulation’. As the first contracts and/or expand through processes of de- and re-territorialisation, the third emerges as institutionalised territorial compromises that mediate processes of co-operation and competition while, in the process, new territorial configurations become produced.
 - → case-studies examined the contradictory dynamics of the re-scaling of accumulation networks and regulatory scales, including how different social groups discursively mobilise scale and how new institutional arrangements and imbroglios become constituted: Rome, Mezzogiorno, Chicago, Vienna, Brussels

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- Struggling to command a particular scale in a given socio-spatial conjuncture can be of eminent importance. Spatial scales are never fixed, but are perpetually redefined, contested and restructured in terms of their extent, content, relative importance and interrelations. The continuous reshuffling and reorganization of spatial scales are integral to social strategies and an arena for struggles for control and empowerment.
 - → politics of scale – political mobilisation of scale: Hong Kong, Brussels, Northern way, London, Chichago

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- A process-based approach to scale focuses attention on the mechanisms of scale transformation through social conflict and political-economic struggle. These socio-spatial processes change the importance and role of certain geographical scales, re-assert the importance of others, and on occasion create entirely new scales. These scale re-definitions in turn alter the geometry of social power by strengthening the power and the control of some while disempowering others.
 - → Brussels, Centroe-Vienna, Pearl River Delta, Northern Way

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- There is a simultaneous, ‘nested’, yet partially hierarchical (although not necessarily top down or from larger to smaller), relationship between territorial scales, while networked scales can relationally stretch or contract. Clearly, social power along gender, class, ethnic or ecological lines refer to the scale capabilities of individuals and social groups.
 - → Rome, Mezzogiorno, Chicago, Brussels, London

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- Scale configurations change as power shifts, both in terms of their nesting and interrelations and in terms of their spatial extent. In the process, new significant social, economic, or political scales become constructed, while others disappear or become transformed. The social embodiment of such scalar configurations changes too → the social life of scale
 - → Dynamics of changing ‘gestalt of scale’:
Mezzogiorno, Rome, Brussels, Vienna, London

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- Processes of scale formation are cut through by all manner of fragmenting, divisive and differentiating processes (nationalism, localism, class differentiation, life-styles, embodied performative discourses, competition and so forth). Scale mediates between co-operation and competition, between homogenisation and differentiation, between empowerment and disempowerment
 - → Politics of Scale: Chicago, Brussels, North-East England

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- The mobilisation of scalar narratives, scalar politics, and scalar practices are an integral part of political power struggles and strategies. This propels considerations of scale to the forefront of emancipatory or transformative politics
 - → Discursive mobilisation of scalar accumulation tactics: Pearl River Delta, London, Northern Way, Brussels -> globalizing the local; “no problem is ‘too local’ for reframing in the language of globalization”

Contested Politics of Scale

Problematising the Explosion/Implosion of the National

1. Pre-Fordist scalar articulation (Vienna, London, Brussels)
2. National-Fordist Keynesianism
3. Implosion/Explosion of the national: a new scalar imbroglio – intensification of time/scale fixes and articulations and fluid contested politics

Possible urban-regional futures: multiple scalar arrangements and the erosion of democracy

- Multi-scalar governance and contested discursive elite formations
- Networked molecular accumulation strategies
- Incoherent territorial configurations
- Multiple modes of scalar and cross-scalar governing
- The evacuation of the proper political from the scaling of governing