

Relational Comparisons

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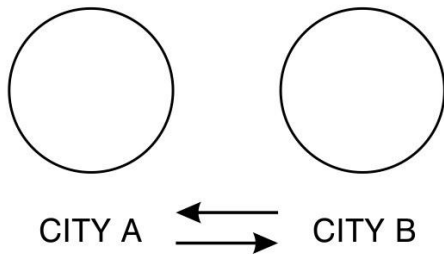
Structure

1. A relational comparative approach
2. Issues of methodology
3. A brief example
4. Take home points

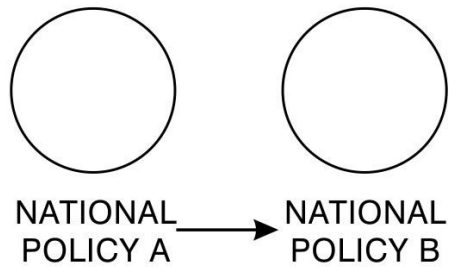
1. A relational comparative approach

- Cities *in* networks – varying geographical reach
- Cities *as* networks – elements and bits
- Cities as assembled – elsewheres co-presence
- Cities as territories – spaces of coming-togetherness
- Cities as political – use/exchange value and more
- Cities as extra-ordinary – differentiation and sameness

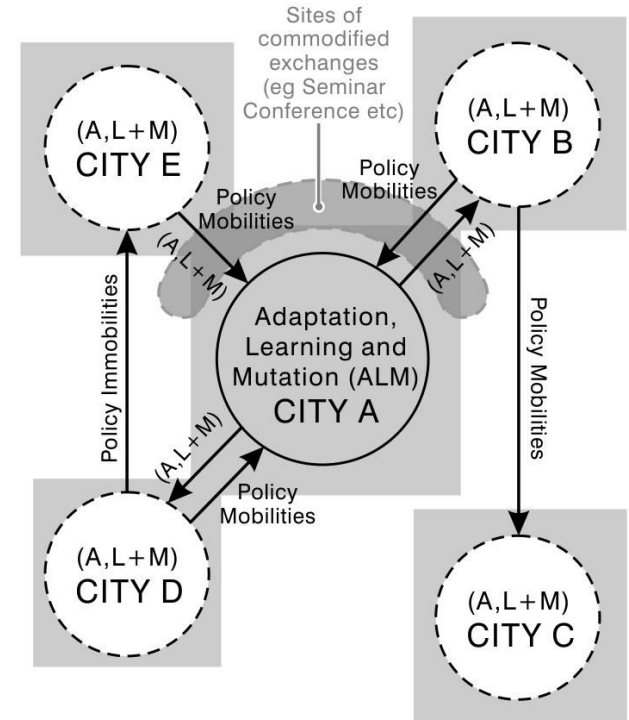
"Traditional" Comparative Urban Studies



"Traditional" Policy Transfer



Relational Comparisons and Mobile Policies/Immobile Policies



- Each city is embedded in a range of territorial contexts, (regional, national and international) and these contexts are present in the city
- Cities are labelled, City A... in a non-hierarchical manner

2. Issues of methodology

- Historicizing the now
- The labour behind the 'label'
- Sites/sights of comparison and policy tourism
- Non-linearity and beginnings/endings
- Locating 'the field'
- Action-in-the-name-of-repetition/action-in-the-name of differentiation
- Evidence of absence/Absence of evidence

3. A brief example

- Financing infrastructure/economic development – Tax Increment Financing
- Exploring the constitution of the policy in Edinburgh and its political stasis
- Exploring the policy's mutation over decades and de-activation in California
- Exploring the origins, evolution , mutation and push-back in Chicago
- Exploring evidence of the policy's absence in Australia/New Zealand
- 'Connective tissue' between the above!
- Cosmopolitan comparative urbanism?

4. Take home points

- Theoretically revisiting past work on comparative urban studies in light of the current relational urban condition
- Methodologically rethinking the location of 'the urban' and seeking to avoid presentism in both sense of the word
- Empirically, stitching together sites, spaces and times