2 Framework of the Comparative Studies of City

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Why A City Attracts People?

• More jobs opportunities?
• Higher wages?
• More chance to develop your talents?
• Better protections?
• But, it is very costly to live!
• But, it is very polluted!
• But, it is very crowded and insecure!

• Why?
Why A City Provide More Opportunities?

• Specialisation and division of labor?
• Economies of Scale?
• Increasing Return to Scale by Network Effects?

• But many people fail!
• But unemployment can be high!
• But working hour can be very long!
Why A City is Formed?

- Trading – provide specialisation?
- Transportation hub – cut cost?
- Innovations – enhance efficiency?
- Institution – reduce transaction costs?
- Finance – borrow and lend allocate resources?
How A City is Formed?

• Technological change that can improve savings
• A transportationally convenient place to trade
• A bazaar saves transaction costs
• Finance helps allocate resources
• A city is a huge market without self-sufficiency of resources but relying on trading and specialisation
  
  – http://ecyyiu.wordpress.com/2014/01/26/the-economics-of-city-formation/
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A City is Striking a Balance

City

Efficiency

Resilience

Trading Cost and Resource Availability
A City is Striking a Balance

Efficiency

- Specialisation & Globalisation
- Economies of Scale and Network Effect
- Division of Labor (Comparative Advantage)
A City is Striking a Balance

Resilience

- Self-sufficiency (energy, water, food, waste, materials, capital)
- Decentralisation, diversity (risk management)
- Crisis Prevention and Management
A City is Striking a Balance

Trading Cost

- Resources
- Institutional Arrangement
- Monetary and Fiscal Policies
Overall Framework

1. Purposes
2. Elements
3. Factors
4. Methods
Framework – 1. Purposes

Ecumenopolis (Environmental Sustainability)

Aesthetic? (Heritage, Tourism, Beauty)

1d) A City of Aesthetic

1a) A City of Environmental Sustainability

1c) A City of Economic Efficiency

1b) A City of Social Equity

Technopolis (Economic Efficiency)

Anthropopolis (Social Equity)

Framework - Methods

- By Gaia Analogy
- By Remote Sensing
- By Spatial Metrics
- By Space Syntax Analysis
- By Fractal Geometry
Framework – 2. Elements

2a) City Types

2b) Street Patterns

2c) Buildings and Infrastructures

2d) Spaces (Scale and Density)

2e) City Ethos (Spirits)

2f) Cityscapes & Activities
City Types

3a) Ancient eastern v western cities

3b) Medieval v renaissance cities

3c) Colonial v tourist cities

3d) Industrial v modernist cities

3e) Socialist v capitalist cities

3f) High dense v sprawling cities

3g) Mega city regions v slum cities

3h) Eco v emerging cities
Framework 4. Factors

4a) Factors Shaping Urban Process

4b) Geography, topology and climate

4c) Philosophies, arts, science and technologies

4d) Energy resources and transport systems

4e) Social and political factors

4f) History, historical events and artifacts

4g) Population, demography, density control

4h) Economic factors and trade

4i) Institutional, governance and environmental factors
Factors Shaping City Form

History & Geography

Political

Social-Economics

Management & Institutions

Infrastructures, Buildings and Space

Observable / Impressible Patterns, such as City Form

Human & Connections

City Ethos and Spirits
Factors Shaping City Form

• History and Geography
  – History / historical artifacts
  – Location, topology and natural resources
  – Disasters / historical events

• Political
  – Defense
  – Political systems and value
  – Institutions
  – Governance
  – Planning

• Socio-Economics
  – Energy and technology
  – Trade and mobility (transportation)
  – Population and demographics
  – Culture and value
Planning Theories

• Rational Model
• New Urbanism
• Communicative Model - Collaborative Planning, Participatory Planning
• Just-city Formulation
• Incrementalists (neoclassical economics)

http://uar.sagepub.com/content/35/4/451.full.pdf+html
New Urbanism

• Elitism and Utopianism:
  – For planning theory, the most interesting aspect of the new urbanism is that its assurance of a better quality of life has inspired a social movement. Its utopianism contrasts with communicative planning, which offers only a better process.
  – Thus there is a model of planning practice that is based not on the picture of the sensitive planner who listens and engages in ideal speech but on the messianic promise of the advocate who believes in a cause and eschews neutrality.
  – As in all such cases, the benefits are exaggerated. But there is an attraction to the doctrine, both because of its hopefulness and because the places it seeks to create do appeal to anyone tired of suburban monotony and bland modernism.

New Urbanism

• The new urbanists claim that their design prescriptions incorporate diversity and provide people what they really want rather than what archaic zoning laws and greedy developers impose on them.

• Thus, even though they have been criticized for imposing a particular formula on others, they defend themselves by arguing that their conception incorporates difference.

• Compare with Steve Job’s design approach.

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Participative Planning Framework (2a)

- Empowering and Engagement:
  - City building for the benefit of nonelite groups
  - requires empowering those who are excluded not just from discussions but from structural positions that allow them genuine influence.
  - Ability to participate is one resource in the struggle for power, but it must be bolstered by other resources, including money, access to expertise, effective organization, and media coverage.
  - [But] Communicative planning theory has evaded the issue of universalism by developing a general procedural ethic without substantive content.
Just-city Framework (3a)

- Knowledge and Power:
  - They believe that progressive social change
  - results only from the exercise of power by those who previously had been excluded from power.
  - Participation is the vehicle through which that power asserts itself.
  - the purpose of their vision is to mobilize a public rather than to prescribe a methodology to those in [govt] office.
  - any distributional conception of social justice will inevitably be linked to the broader way of life in which people engage
  - Compare the Neomarxian approach

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Neoliberalism Framework (3a)

• The market model and neoliberalism have proved popular because they promise increases in affluence for all even if within the context of growing inequality.

• to identifying a formula for growth with equity [and sustainability]

• Given the existing system of social domination, it cannot be assumed that participation by stakeholders would be transformative in away that would improve most people’s situation.
Analytical Framework (1a)

- Urban Morphology Framework

Source: http://icd.uni-stuttgart.de/?p=6261
Analytical Framework (2a)

Source: Ng and Hills, 2003, p.155.

Figure 2  Great cities: a comparative framework. Source: modified from Ng and Hills (2000, p 19)
Analytical Framework (2b)

Case Under Study

History, Culture, Respect of Law

Global Economy & Technological Changes

Political Development & Admin. Institution

Economic Development

Social Development

Built Environment (Urban Land Nexus)

Distribution of Power & Resources WITHIN & AMONG

Different Levels of Government

Planning Profession

Private Sector Interests

Local Community

Development Role: Conceptualisation of Economics, Planning and Policies

Urban Form: Other Substantial Concerns about Spatial Development: (a) Planning Administration (b) Hierarchy of Plans (c) Planning Legislation & Plan Making Process (d) Development Control & Plan Implementation

Issues of accountability, participation, professionalism and the role of the development industry

Urban Form:
- Shapes our lives
- An outcome of a complicated process
- Not determined after our ‘hearts’ desire’?
- What is the relationship between urban form and people’s life ad livelihood?
- What is good urban form?
- How can good urban forms come about?

Source: Author.

FIG. 1. A tentative theoretical framework (Source: Author)

City as a growth machine?
World city?
Just city?
Utopia & dystopia?

Source: Ng, 1999, p.7
Analytical Framework (2c)

Social Formations: Hong Kong

Central Government
One Country, Two Systems

Hong Kong SAR Government: REFRAINED FROM SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANNING.

Private Sector
- Two private sectors: conglomerates (esp. property and finance) versus small and medium size enterprises
- Facing the challenge of economic restructuring and depression

Minimal nurturing of the local governance
Society
- Social polarization
- Minimal involvement in urban planning

Urban Planning Culture
- Reactive rather than proactive. Acting on crisis
- Compartmentalized Government departments working on their own rules & regulations
- Focused on land use planning

Source: Ng, ?
Analytical Framework (2d)

Social Formations: Shenzhen

Central Government
- Investment from central ministries—state-owned enterprises
- Top down administrative control & policy guidance

Open Door Policy
- Socialist market economy
  - Reforming SOEs & COEs
  - Separation of administrative and economic functions within the government
  - Relying on domestic investments
  - Growing reliance on foreign investment
  - Moving toward high-tech industrial development

Shenzhen Municipal Government
STRESSING ON PLANNING, ESPECIALLY SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANS

Maintain strong control over the migrant society

Society
A “dual” migrant society of elite and workers with different aspirations

Planning Culture
- Planning-led at central and local levels
- Goals & objectives directed but sensitive to evolving market needs
- A strong learning culture, eager to excel

Source: Ng, ?
Analytical Framework (3a)

- Predictive Urban Model
  - How to change and get improvements?
- It emphasizes scientific understanding, and empirical studies.

Source: Steinitz’s Framework
http://www.spatial.redlands.edu/geodesign/ontology/?n=SDSSWorkflow:LandscapeChangeModel
Learning Approaches

• Develop your own framework of analysis
• Case Studies
• Hypotheses formulations
• City Comparisons – as a test of the hypotheses by a controlled natural experiment.
• Why comparative perspective?
• Not just a comparative perspective! But a temporal-spatial comparative perspective is proposed.
  – Compare N-city at time T (Cross-sectional study): but how about missing variables?
  – Compare 1-city between time T1 and T2 (Longitudinal study): but how about time effects?
  – Compare N-city between time T1 and T2, with a change of city K at time T2 only (temporal-spatial comparative perspective): a controlled natural experiment

• See
References

- Ng, M.K. and Hills, (2003)
- Ng, M.K. (1999)
The End

comments are welcome.
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