

Winnipeg Gateway and Corridor Workshop
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Global Cities, Gateways, Corridors: Hierarchies, Roles and Functions

Kathy Pain

The Young Foundation, London
Globalisation and World Cities (GaWC) Study Group,
Loughborough University

Urban Systems, Gateways & Corridors

- The terms 'gateway' & 'corridor' originated in traditional geographical location/systems theory
- Described the systematic ordering of urban places in C19th *pre-globalisation* era
- Applied now in new ways/new situations
- A 'transportation corridor' can be a 'gateway' *and* an 'urban corridor' simultaneously, *or* simply an ICT infrastructure!

Gateway & Corridor Concepts

- ‘Gateways’: have unique *positional + morphological* characteristics (*Burghardt, 1971*), control over a hinterland
- ‘Corridors’: ‘natural’ trade routes *between* gateways (*Whebell, 1969*), *more than* a bundle of transportation infrastructures, an *urban economic phenomenon*
- *Locational* factors prioritised – specificity of site/situation – linked to power of cities
- How should these concepts inform policy/planning in the new *globalisation* era?

Understanding Globalisation

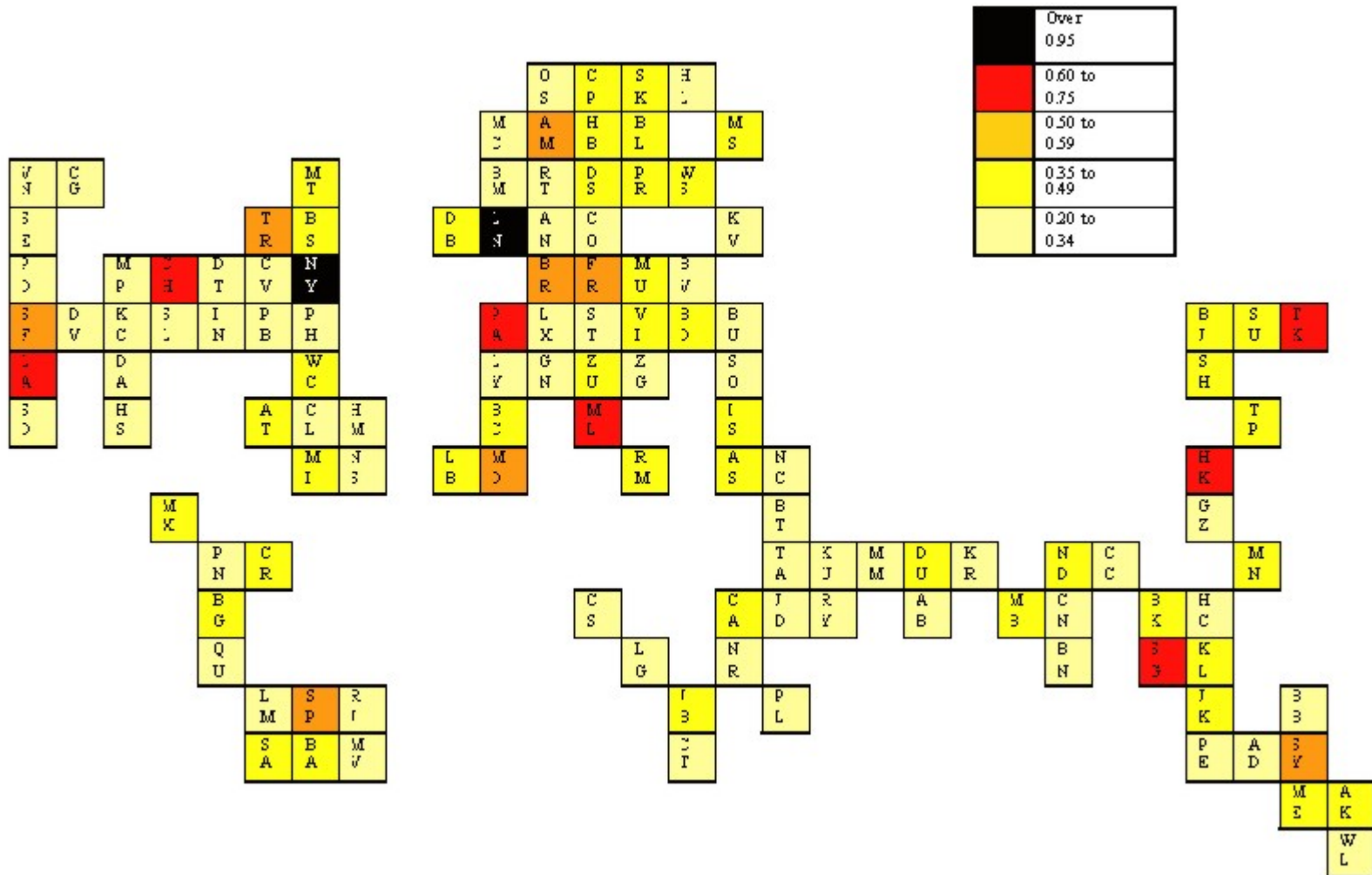
- From *Christaller, 1933*: focus *local* hierarchical hinterland relations
- To a 'world economy' – industrial manufacturing to advanced services
- 'Advanced producer services' – production geographically dispersed & concentrating in key trading centres – 'global cities' (*Sassen, 1991*)
- 'Network organisation'/'informationalisation' of economy; 'space of flows' takes precedence over 'space of places' defined by political boundaries (*Castells, 1996*)

City Network Analysis

- Emphasises *external relations* of cities – Globalisation & World Cities (GaWC) Group fills void in empirical data, researches *network connectivity of cities* in globalisation
- Large-scale quantitative analysis (firms & their functions) + in-depth interviews on APS practice
- Provides evidence on city ‘hinterworlds’ as their economic zones of influence extend/overlap world-wide through knowledge-based trading
- EU results illustrate 2 spatial paradoxes ...

Global Network Connectivity

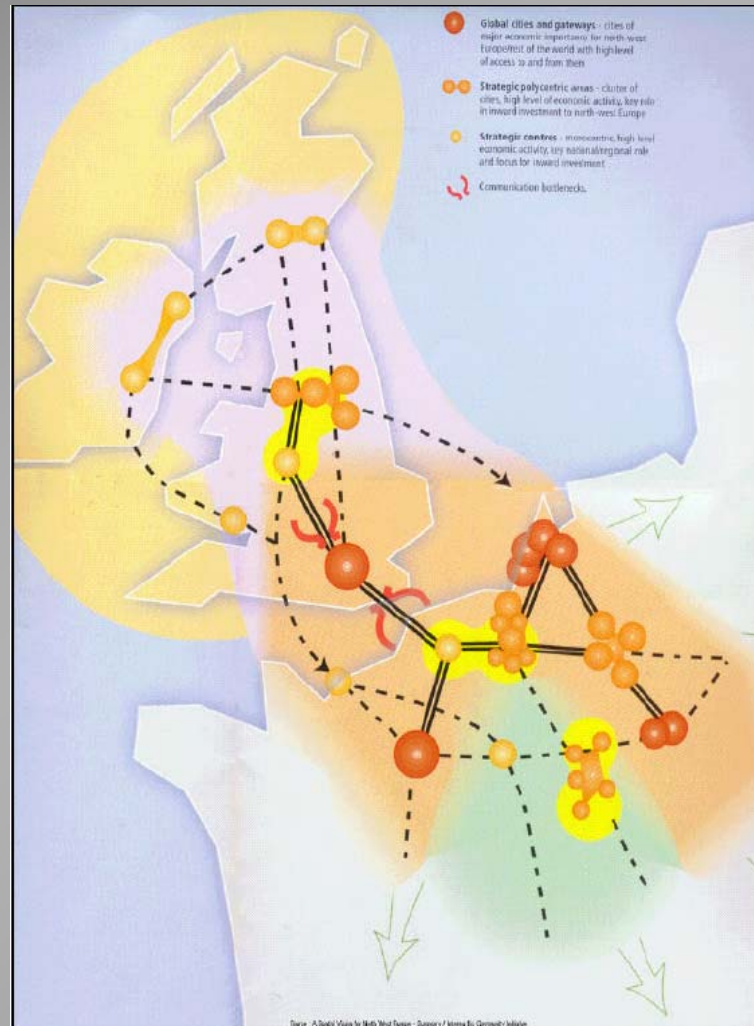
Taylor et al, 2002



EU Spatial Policy

- *European Spatial Development Perspective, 1999: balanced, sustainable development – economic, social, environmental (Lisbon/Gothenburg Agenda, 2000/01)*
- European ‘core’ or ‘Pentagon’ v alternative ‘global economic integration zones’ in ‘peripheral areas’ (Structural Funds)
- Aim: promote global competitiveness, ‘territorial cohesion’ through ‘polycentricity’
- *NW Metropolitan Area Spatial Vision, 2000: gateways/ corridors – spatial policy tools/delivery vehicles*

NWMA Spatial Vision 2001



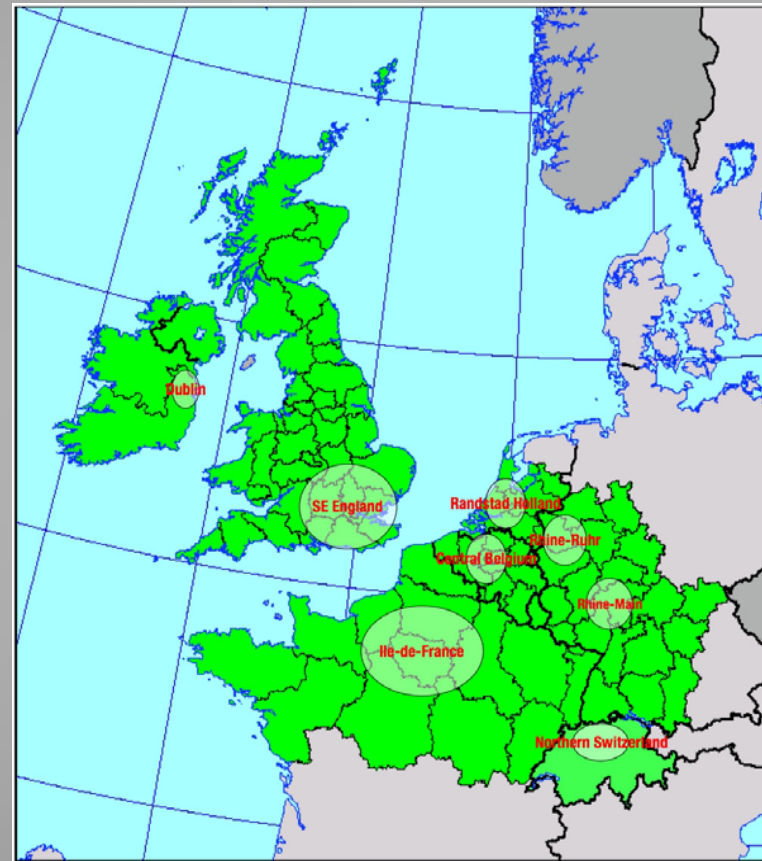
EU Gateway & Corridor Concepts

- Concepts lack definition, focus on physical infrastructures *not* inter-city trading relationships
- London & Paris = ‘global gateways’ but development dispersed to ‘counterweight’ global gateways via multi-modal ‘eurocorridors’
- Link between infrastructures & *economic development* not demonstrated
- *A redistributive strategy* / “political slogan”?
Practitioner scepticism!



'Polynet' INTERREG IIIB Study

- EUR 2.4 million *transnational* study led by Professor Sir Peter Hall and Dr Kathy Pain
- Investigated interrelationship between new economy 'informational flows' & 'geographical space' in 8 city-regions in EU economic core
- Underlying question – How do expanding city *hinterworld* relations inform planning in a *hinterland* space?

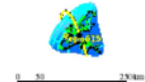
North-West Europe Partners



Interreg 3B: North West Europe

-  E.U. regions
-  zones outside the E.U.

Non-E.U. areas are indicative only.
© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries.



5 Research Components

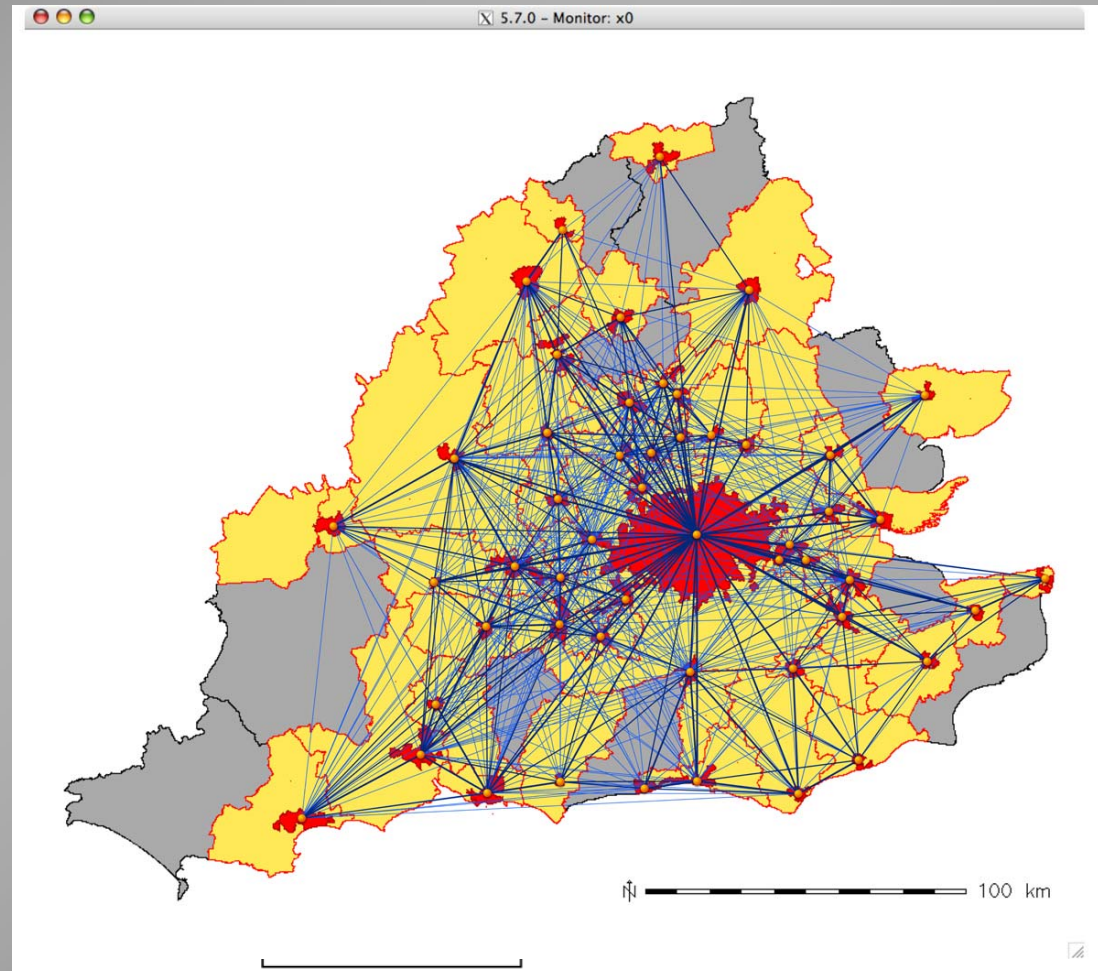
- 4 empirical studies:
- Local change – extending city *hinterlands* defined by contiguous ‘functional urban regions’ (FURs)
- Web-based data on transport/communication flows
- GaWC quantitative analysis of APS networks: 4 scales
- Face-to-face APS interview study
- Fifth policy analysis/practitioner focus groups

Space of Flows & Location of Production

- London + Paris have highest global connectivity
- But a *non-zero* sum game - increasing city network *functional* interdependencies
- Other 'first cities' have specialised *global* 'knowledge gateway' role/functions
- Articulate regional/national markets into world-wide service economy
- *And* SE England secondary centres functionally interlinked— a 'mega-city region process'?

SE England Networks

- Business structures: W has network connections bypassing London
- Replicate commuting: W is densely networked, cross-cutting hub & spoke infrastructures



Networks, Flows, Hierarchies: Spatial Paradox I

- Urban gateway-hinterland-hinterworld relations becoming more complex
- Inter-urban interdependencies *extending* whilst *global* functions *cluster/centralise*
- But apparently contradictory processes operate *at multiple geographical scales*
- Other cities have a 'gateway' role (not just top 'global cities')
- APS networks = 'new corridors' for trade flows
- Functional complementarities can be exploited through policy

Spaces of Flows & Infrastructures

- F-to-F + multi-sector clustering remain vital for hi-complexity service trading – ‘hi-tech/hi-touch’
- Cities ‘openness to flows’ – physical as well as virtual – is vital
- Transport is key threat to global APS clustering in London
- Regional criss-cross commuting/business travel not supported effectively by public transport

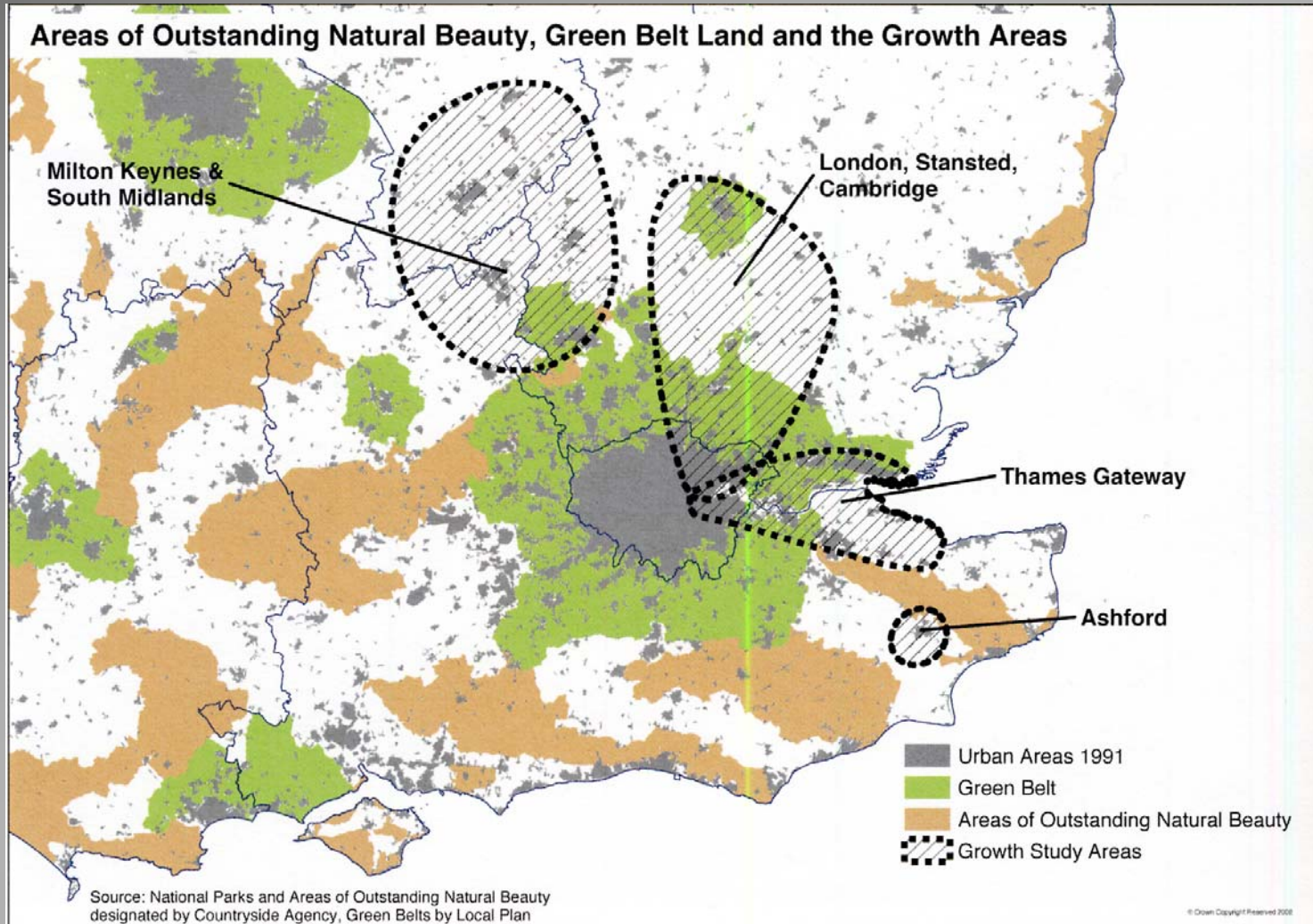
Networks, Flows, Hierarchies: Spatial Paradox II

- Gateway & corridor roles becoming *more detached from yet increasingly dependent on* physical infrastructures (space of places)
- As conduits of trade flows are *dematerialising* (informationalisation/virtualisation), physical flow infrastructures (transport hubs/gateways & corridors) are becoming *more important*
- *Flexibility/openness* to virtual & physical flows is crucial in dynamic globalising markets

Policy Dilemma

- Knowledge-based services prioritised (Lisbon) *BUT* resources diverted to new 'growth areas' along new corridors (ESDP), intra-regional movement restricted (Gothenburg)
- Practitioner scepticism e.g. 'Thames Gateway Corridor'
- *AND* support for strong gateways and their 'new natural corridors' needed

South East Growth Areas



Spaces of Flows - Hinterland Governance

- Institutional structures inadequate to deal with globalisation
- Multi-scale functional business linkages & flows do not relate to horizontal + vertical boundaries:
 1. SE England MCR crosses 5 'standard' regions, boundaries bisect 2 major 'growth corridors'
 2. Centralised governance + local 'NIMBYism'
 3. Interdepartmental, public-private splintering
 4. Dichotomy between economic & spatial planning

Governing Hinterworlds

- Cross-border, inter-organisational co-operation needed
- ‘Hinterworlds’ increasingly impact at local level
- Inter-city/inter-regional territorial competition
BUT synergistic inter-city network relations
- Appropriate infrastructures needed: legislative, regulatory, physical

The Polycentric Metropolis: Learning from Mega-City Regions in Europe

<http://shop.earthscan.co.uk/productDetails/mcs/productID/712>

Special Issues:

Built Environment (May 2006)

Regional Studies (forthcoming 2007)

<http://www.polynet.org.uk>

