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Crisis, Civility, Imaginaries and Revolt: New Politics for the Global City?



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Redefining Migration in Global Cities: A case study of Sydney

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Introduction

- The global city thesis and the migration thesis for Sydney have been developing in parallel.
- The scholarship has not sufficiently addressed the association between the two theses.
- I argue that the global city thesis and the migration thesis are intrinsically linked.
- The question is how the two elements concerning Sydney's role in contemporary globalisation are interrelated.



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Global Sydney

- The global city discourse has included Sydney as a member city in the global city hierarchy, and has ascertained Sydney's competitive position in the global context and its evolution (Beaverstock et al., 1999; Friedmann, 1986, 1995; Godfrey & Zhou, 1999; Taylor, 2004, 2011; Taylor, Ni, & Derudder, 2011).
- Multiple angles have been employed to analyse Sydney's economic transformation along with Australia's integration with the world economy to justify its rise as a global city.
 - Macroeconomic transformations – (Spiller, 2003; Tonts & Taylor, 2010; Searle, 1996; Fagan, 2000; Stein, 2002)
 - Financialisation – (Daly & Pritchard, 2000; O'Neill & McGuirk, 2002, 2003, 2005)
 - Creative economy – (Gibson, 2006; Mould, 2007)
 - Knowledge-based economy – (Hu, 2012; Searle & Valence, 2005; Searle & Pritchard, 2005)

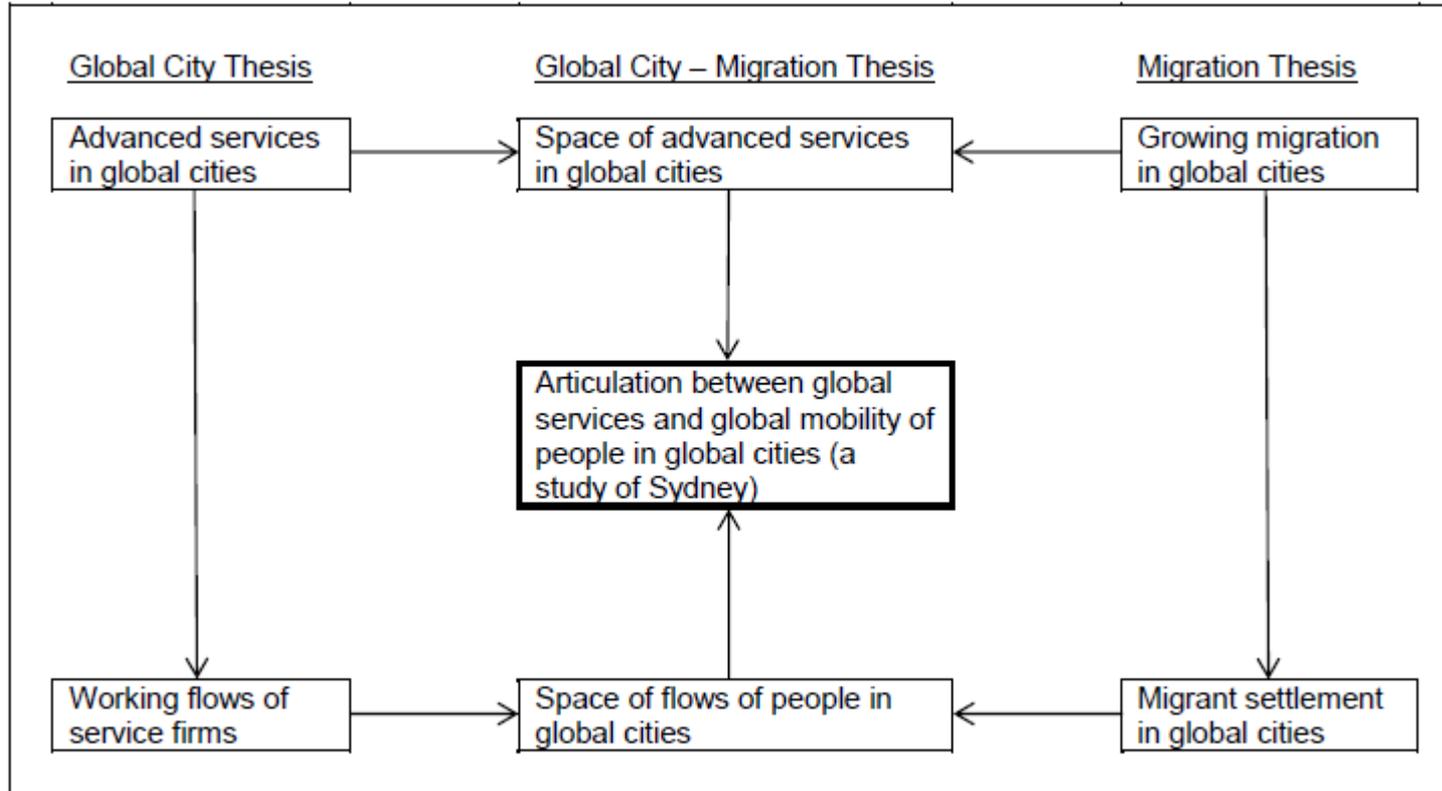


Migration

There are two contrasting observations on the evolving spatial patterns of ethnic concentration:

- One observation is that Sydney is bifurcating with growing migration – one increasingly dominated by low to medium-income non-English-speaking migrant communities in the west and southwest, and the other comprised of established inner affluent areas and predominantly English-speaking ‘aspirational’ areas on the metropolitan periphery (Healy & Birrell, 2003).
- The opposite observation is that the ethnic concentration in Sydney does not translate into high levels of ethnic segregation, but into a spatial assimilation that reflects an intermixing of different ethnic groups with each other and with the host society, a view of Australian multiculturalism as ‘assimilation in slow motion’ (Forrest et al., 2006; Poulsen et al., 2004).

Towards a New Analytical Framework



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Hypotheses

Applying the global city – migration analytical framework to Sydney, this study aims to test two hypotheses concerning the interrelationship between global Sydney and migration:

- Global Sydney's capacity of global services is not necessarily linked to global migration defined by foreign born population in its role as a gateway city for immigrants;
- Global Sydney's capacity of global services is linked to global mobility of people in its role as an urban node in the global network.



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Methods

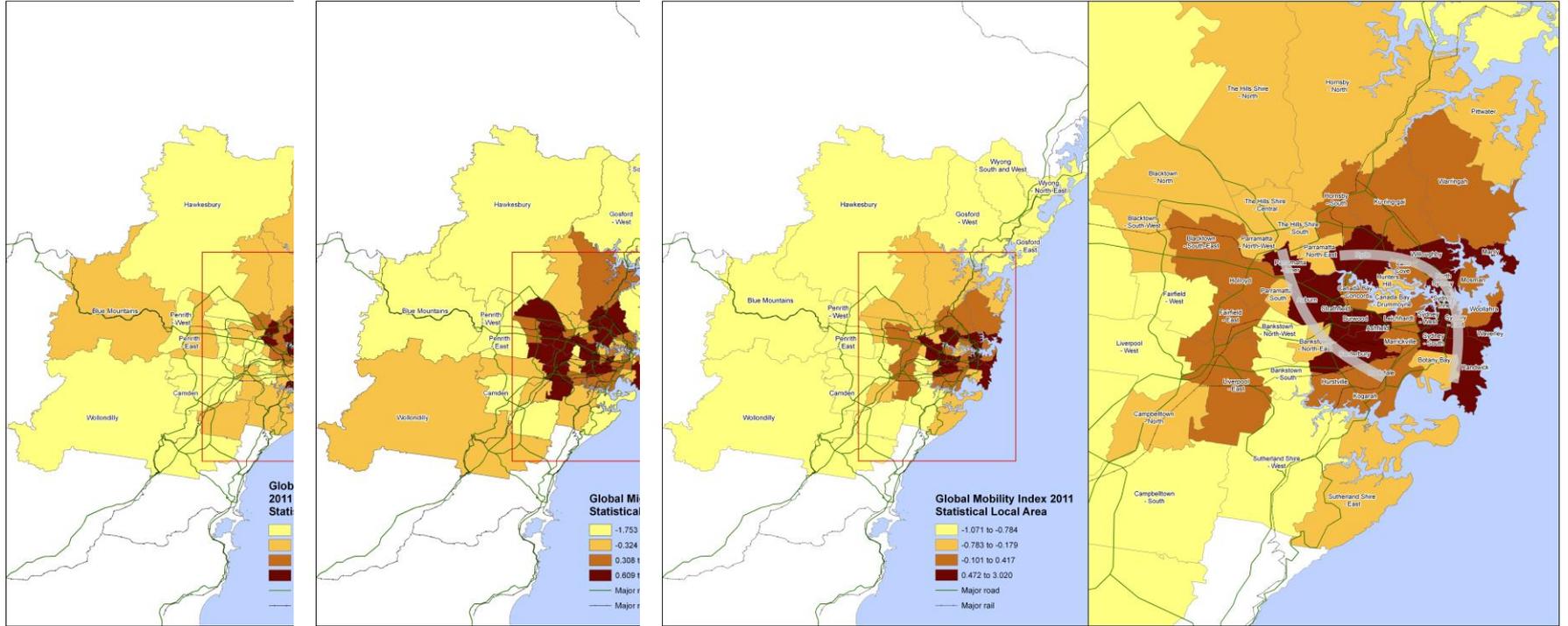
Three sets of indexes are constructed for the 64 SLAs in global Sydney: global competitiveness index (GCI), global migration index (GMI), and global mobility index (GloMo).

- GCI measure's a community's capacity of global services in terms of knowledge-intensive industry, highly-skilled occupation, higher levels of qualification and median income.
- GMI measures a community's stocks and diversity of migrant populations who were born overseas.
- GloMo measures a community's new people movement from overseas and elsewhere in Australia.

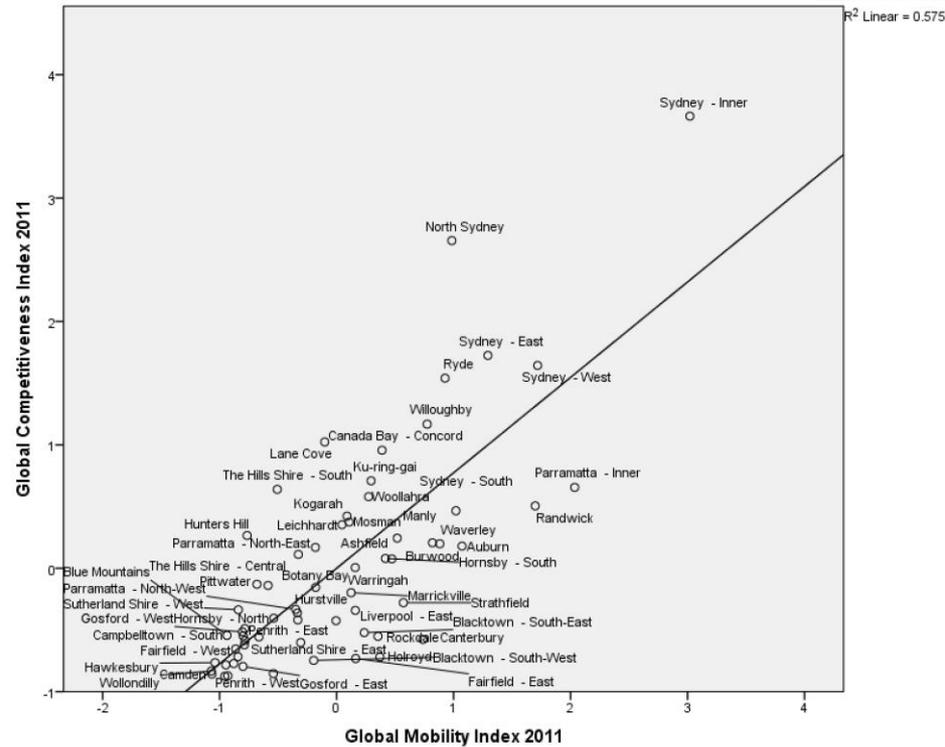
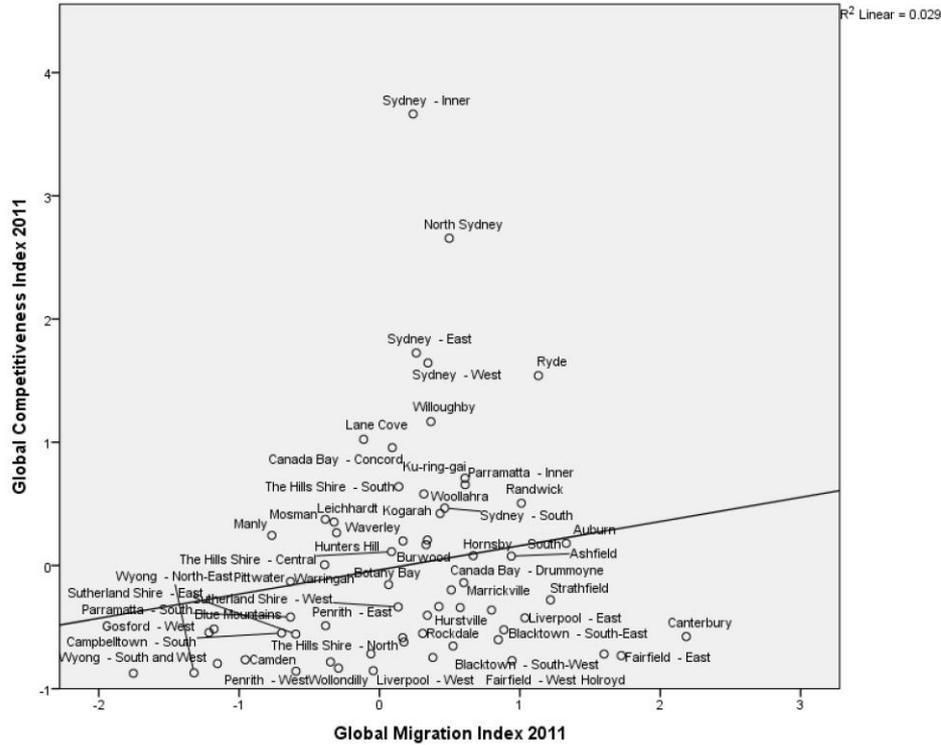


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Results: Spatial Relationship



Results: Statistical Relationship



Discussion

- Nexus between Global Sydney and Migration
- Redefining Migration in Global Sydney



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