Redefining Migration in Global Cities: A case study of Sydney

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Major Contents

- Introduction
- Literature
  - Global Sydney
  - Migration
  - Linking Global Sydney and Migration
- Methods
- Results
  - Spatial Relationship
  - Statistical Relationship
- Discussion
  - Nexus between Global Sydney and Migration
  - Redefining Migration in Global Sydney
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.
Global Sydney


- Multiple angels 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)
  - 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

Global City Thesis
- Advanced services in global cities

Global City – Migration Thesis
- Space of advanced services in global cities
- Articulation between global services and global mobility of people in global cities (a study of Sydney)
- Space of flows of people in global cities

Migration Thesis
- Growing migration in global cities
- Migrant settlement in global cities
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.
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.
Results: Spatial Relationship
Results: Statistical Relationship
Discussion

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