New Migration and Global Cities: A Melbourne perspective

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Globalisation has brought society closer together more than could possibly be imagined only decades ago. Population, social, economic, and cultural changes have been widespread, while communications and technological advances have made it easier to contact family and friends or do business anywhere in the world.

A key trend of globalisation has been the growing concentration of people, business, and political power in a small number of "global cities", such as New York, London, and Paris. Melbourne also has an important role to play as a global city – acting as a gateway to Australia, a base for many Trans-National Companies (TNCs), and one of our largest cities by population. As a result, the Melbourne region has increasingly become a base for what has become known as "new migration" - attracting people from all over the world with an increasing diversity of skills, mobility, networks, and reasons for relocation.

Most prior research in this field has focused on the flow of people and ideas between *nations*. This has also been expressed mostly in economic terms. Using Melbourne as an example, our research hopes to explain in detail the complex links between people and Global Cities – and the social changes that both cause and are influenced by these links.

This project is the second stage of a research cluster on Globalisation and Cities, following earlier research in the Sydney region. The project is partnered by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), and aims to assist decision-making in all levels of government and business. It stands to aid advances in migration policy, competitiveness and innovation, urban planning and sustainability, and social cohesion.

What we want to find out:

This research project aims to answer six key questions:

1. How have new people movement patterns constituted Melbourne's connectivity with the world?

2. How does Melbourne's rise as a global city interact with the dynamics of new migration?

3. To what extent are the lines of social and economic division between economic globalism, migrant globalism and localism evident within Greater Melbourne?

4. To what extent is migration relevant to social and/or occupational polarisation and spatial segregation?

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5. What are the implications of new migration and globalisation for immigration and urban governance? How can this be used to enhance the innovation, competitiveness and social environment of Melbourne, as well as other Australian cities and regions?

6. What are the impacts of people movement and the development of global cities on other government policy agendas?

The project aims to address two important issues in answering the above questions:

1. Global Melbourne as a node of the new migration flows

This aspect of our research aims to show how Melbourne, like other global cities, is now an 'active agent' in shaping globalisation as a 'spatial node' of the global economy.

Analysis of the Melbourne region as a node in new migration flows will include the use of data relating to visitors as well as recently-arrived and long-term residents; the reasons for and directions of people movement; the skill levels of internal and international migrants; and the exchange of items such as knowledge, communications, and funds (through business or family remittances). This research looks beyond migrant spatial settlement, to include dynamic issues such as duration of stay, migration patterns, and networks formed through migration.

2. New migration and social change in global Melbourne

This aspect of our research aims to show how new migration has contributed to social change in the Melbourne region. This will be achieved through the use of data on topics including industries and occupations of employment, income and housing prices, and cultural background, in spatial units across the Melbourne region. It will show how migration has been associated with Melbourne's increasing integration with the global economy, particularly in the Asia Pacific region. It will also reveal the relationship between social changes and connectivity at local, domestic, and international levels.

Communication of findings:

Research outcomes will be released in various forms including a final project report, academic publications, and project brochures.

To maximise the impact and awareness of our research, events such as education programs, public presentations, seminars, workshops, and media coverage will also be organised.

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