Governance from megalopolis to the megaregion
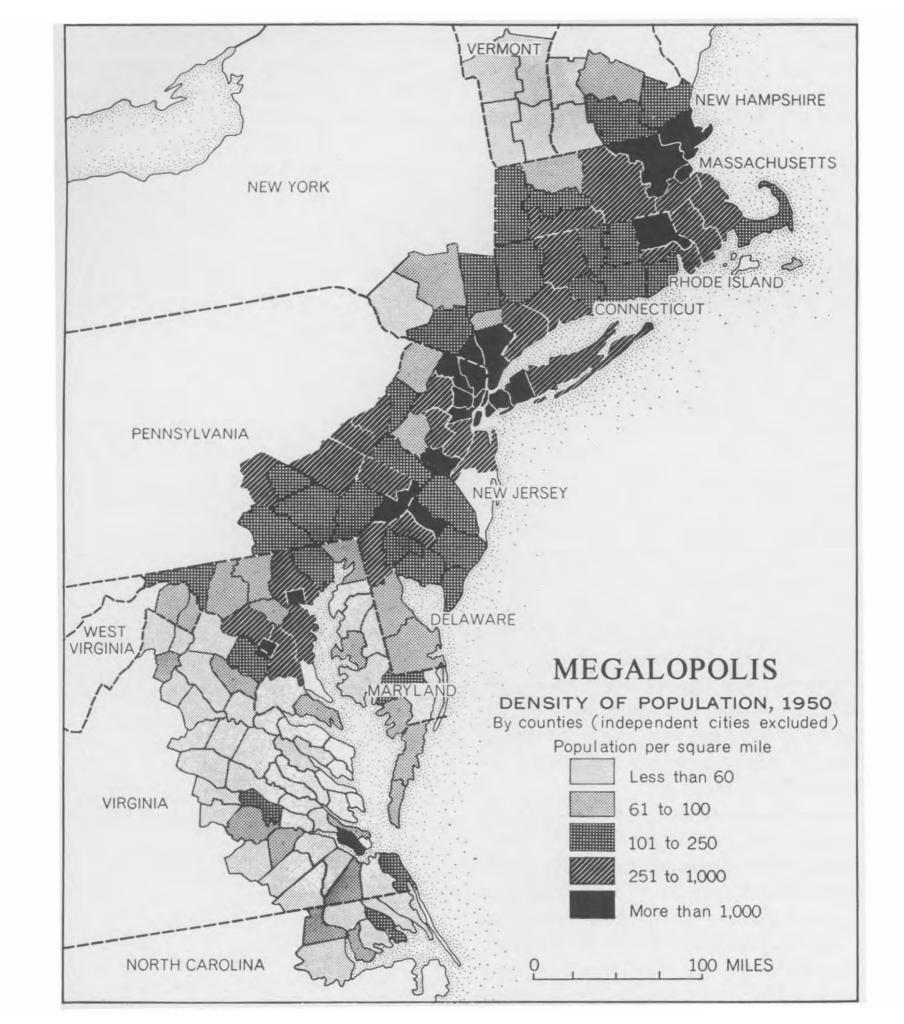
A *world of cities* or *planetary urbanization?*

David Wachsmuth

School of Urban Planning, McGill University
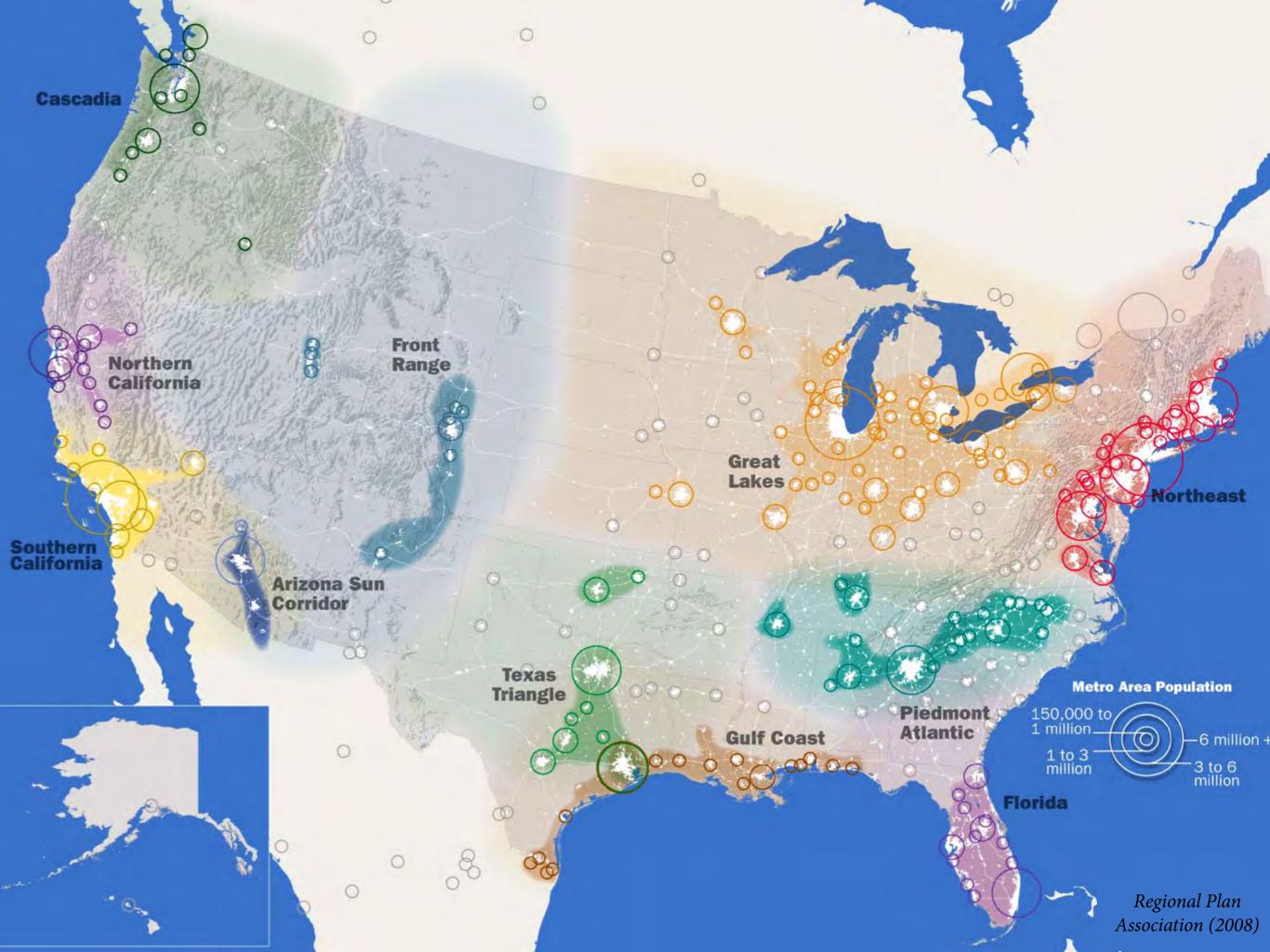
July 26, 2016

Urban thinking (and governance) beyond the city

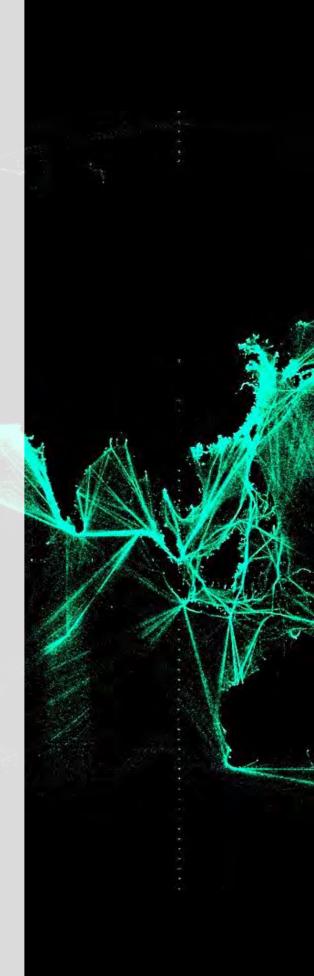# Megalopolis as governance thinking

MEGALOPOLIS

DENSITY OF POPULATION, 1950
By counties (independent cities excluded)

Population per square mile

Less than 60
61 to 100
101 to 250
251 to 1,000
More than 1,000

0   100 MILES

Gottmann (1957)

Cascadia

Northern
California

Front
Range

Great
Lakes

Northeast

Southern
California

Arizona Sun
Corridor

Texas
Triangle

Gulf Coast

Piedmont
Atlantic

Florida

Metro Area Population

150,000 to
1 million

1 to 3
million

6 million +

3 to 6
million

Regional Plan
Association (2008)

A shift from redistribution to competitiveness in mega-urban governance thinking

A shift from redistribution
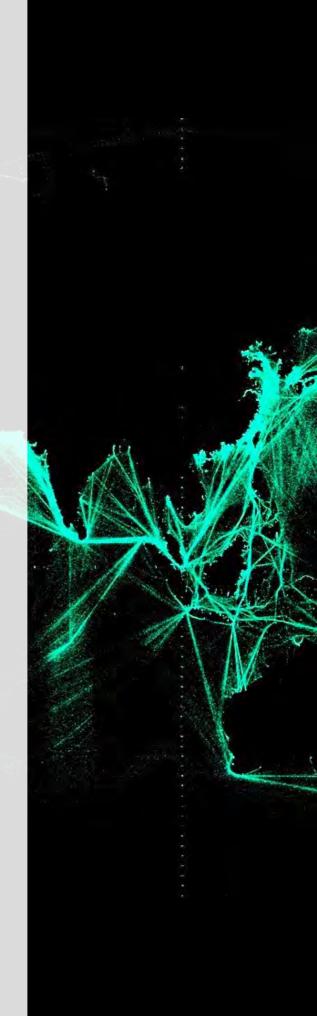to competitiveness in mega-
urban governance thinking

The development of a
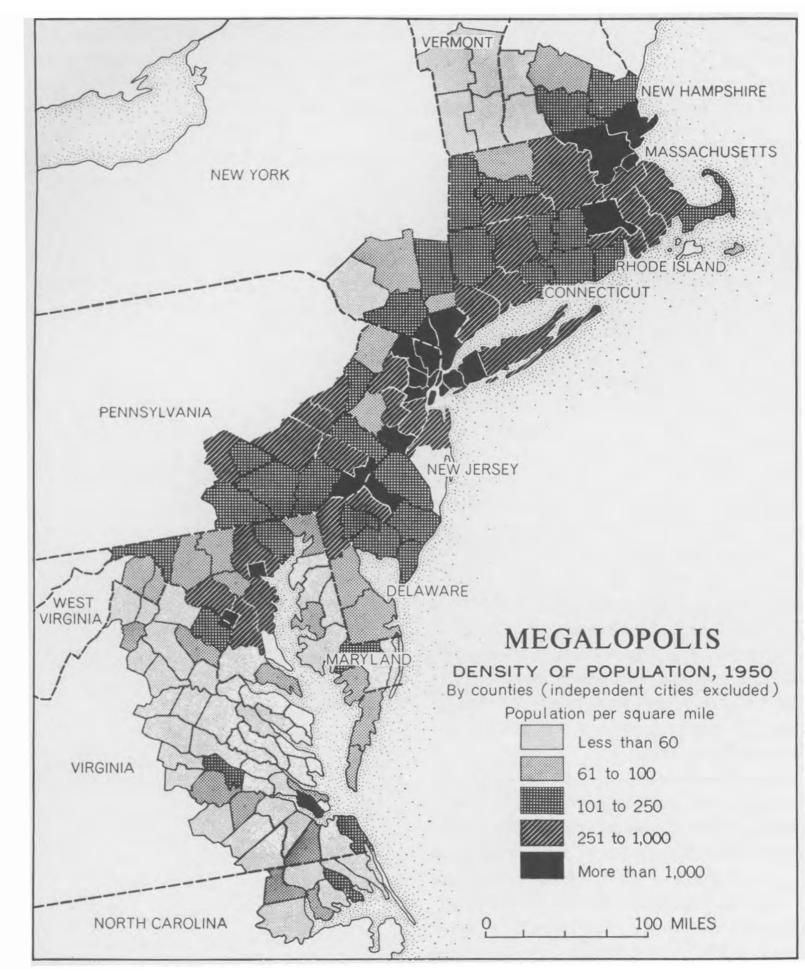city-centric imaginary
of the mega-urban

A shift from redistribution
to competitiveness in mega-
urban governance thinking

The development of a
city-centric imaginary
of the mega-urban

Megalopolitan
governance challenges
are more than territorial

MEGALOPOLIS

DENSITY OF POPULATION, 1950

By counties (independent cities excluded)

Population per square mile

Less than 60

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0   100 MILES

Gottmann (1957)

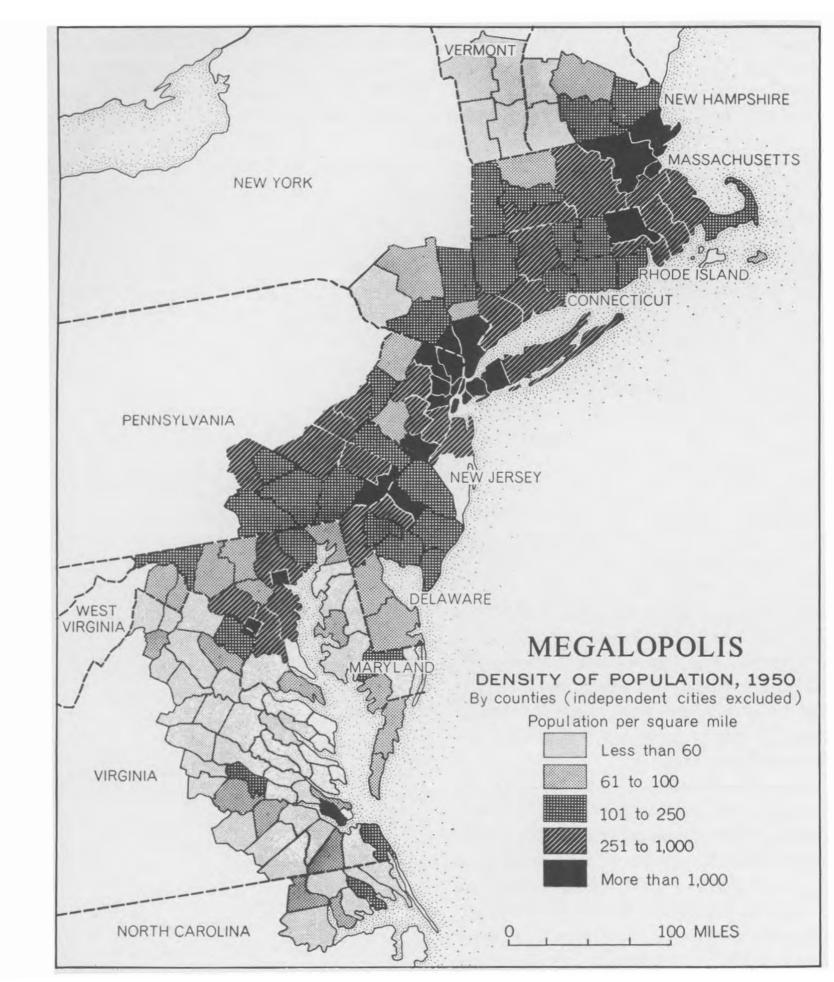"Not in fact a new sort of city, but **an anti-city**"

Mumford (1961)

"A **completely new pattern of living** and of regional interdependence between communities."

Gottmann (1957)

"It seems that a necessary condition of a megalopolis is **a hinge articulating two or more networks**, one of them a national internal network, and another an international and overseas network."
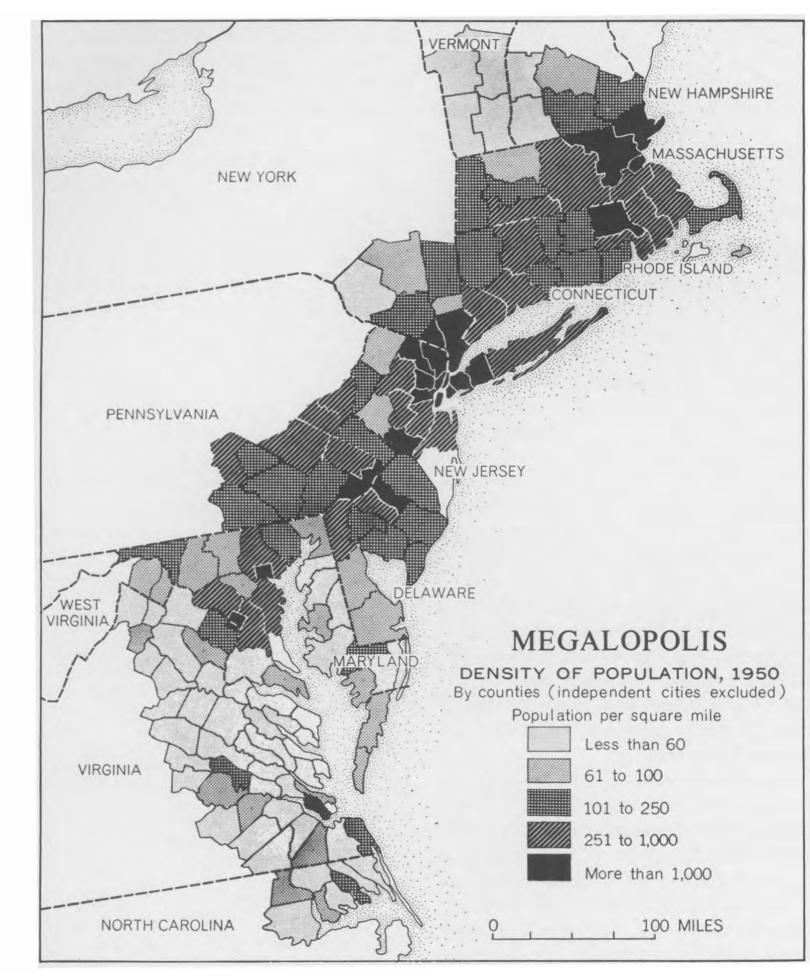
Gottmann (1976)

MEGALOPOLIS
DENSITY OF POPULATION, 1950
By counties (independent cities excluded)
Population per square mile

	Less than 60
	61 to 100
	101 to 250
	251 to 1,000
	More than 1,000

0   100 MILES

Gottmann (1957)

A polycentric urban area of 25 million people or more

Integration of dense (urban) areas and less dense (rural) areas

Connects national and international economic space
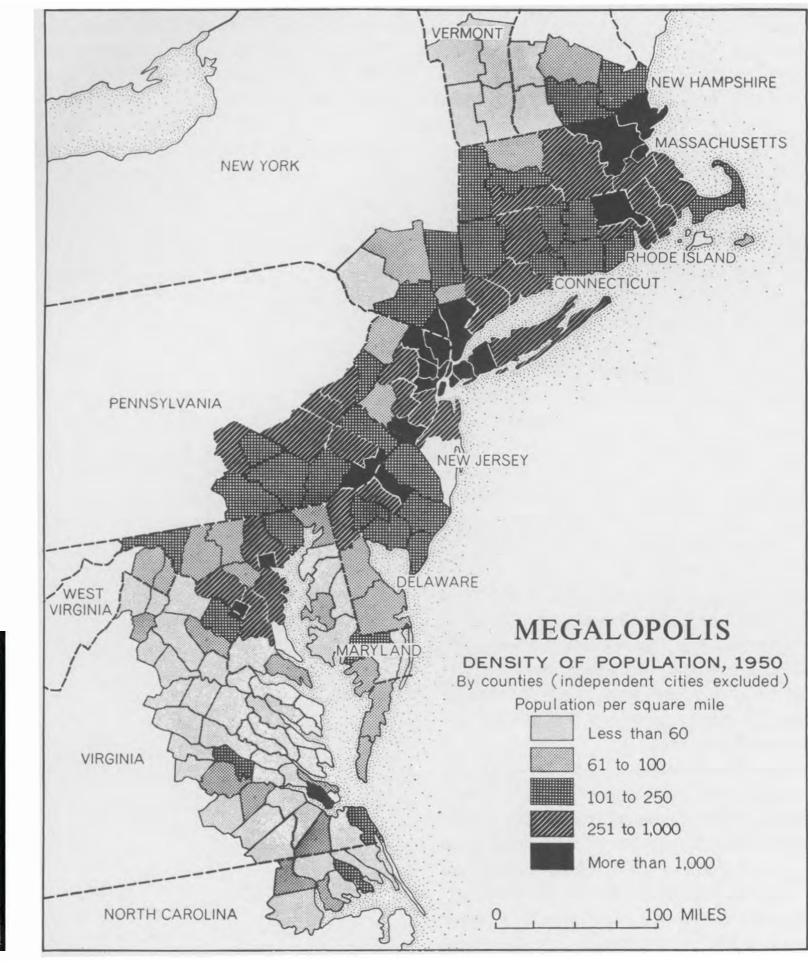
Qualitatively different from the city?

MEGALOPOLIS

DENSITY OF POPULATION, 1950

By counties (independent cities excluded)

Population per square mile

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61 to 100
101 to 250
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More than 1,000

0   100 MILES

Gottmann (1957)

Governance challenges

Infrastructure

Territorial redistribution and service provision
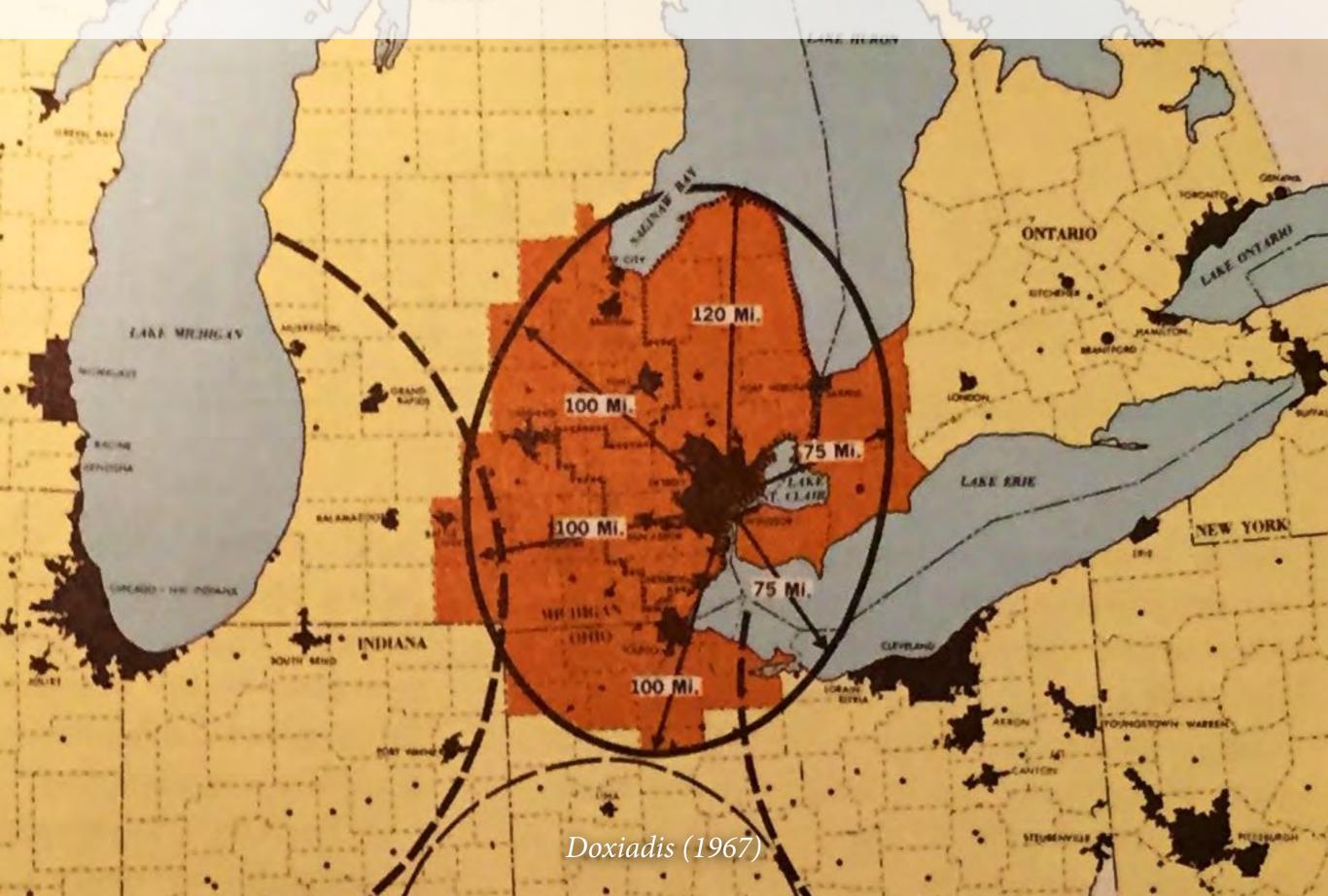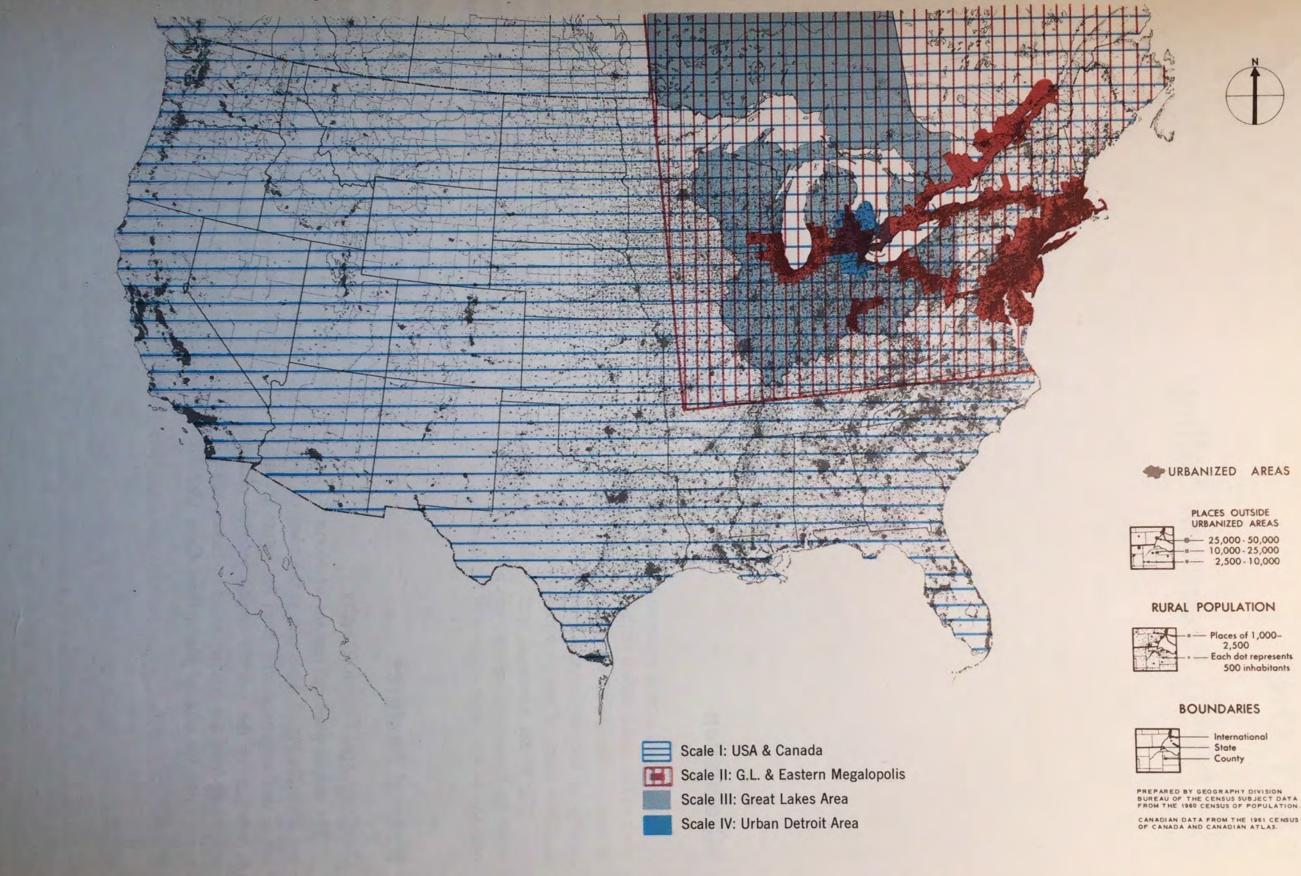
Globalization

(National Fordism-Keynesianism)

MEGALOPOLIS
DENSITY OF POPULATION, 1950
By counties (independent cities excluded)
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61 to 100
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More than 1,000

0   100 MILES

Gottmann (1957)

Doxiadis' plan for Detroit

Urban Detroit Area

Doxiadis (1967)
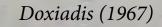
The Four Scales Of Analysis

URBANIZED AREAS

PLACES OUTSIDE URBANIZED AREAS
- 25,000 - 50,000
- 10,000 - 25,000
- 2,500 - 10,000

RURAL POPULATION
- Places of 1,000 - 2,500
- Each dot represents 500 inhabitants

BOUNDARIES
- International
- State
- County

Scale I: USA & Canada
Scale II: G.L. & Eastern Megalopolis
Scale III: Great Lakes Area
Scale IV: Urban Detroit Area

PREPARED BY GEOGRAPHY DIVISION BUREAU OF THE CENSUS SUBJECT DATA FROM THE 1960 CENSUS OF POPULATION.

CANADIAN DATA FROM THE 1961 CENSUS OF CANADA AND CANADIAN ATLAS.

Doxiadis (1967)

Great Lakes Megalopolis

Doxiadis (1967)

Land-use projections

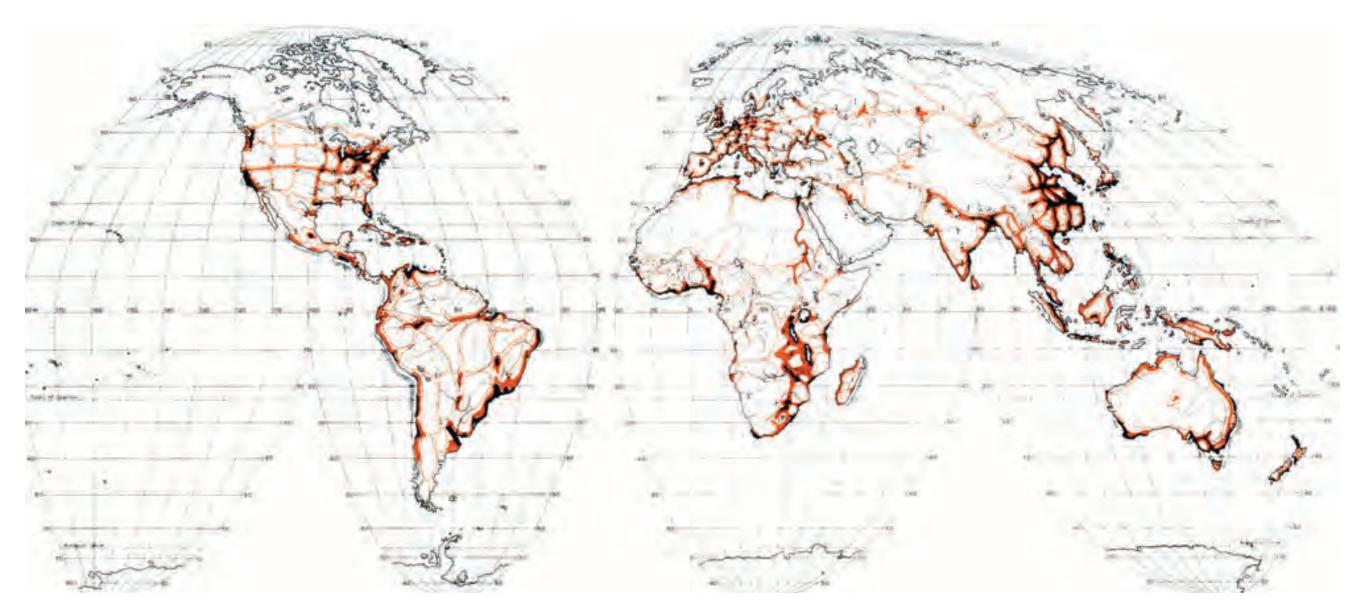*1965*   *2000*   *2100*

Doxiadis and Papaioannou (1974)

A world of megalopolises?

Doxiadis and Papaioannou (1974)

Ecumenopolis

Contemporary megaregions

Cascadia

Northern California

Southern California

Arizona Sun Corridor

Front Range

Texas Triangle

Great Lakes

Gulf Coast

Piedmont Atlantic

Northeast

Regional Plan Association (2008)

Cascadia

Northern
California

Southern
California

Front
Range

Arizona Sun
Corridor

Texas
Triangle

Great
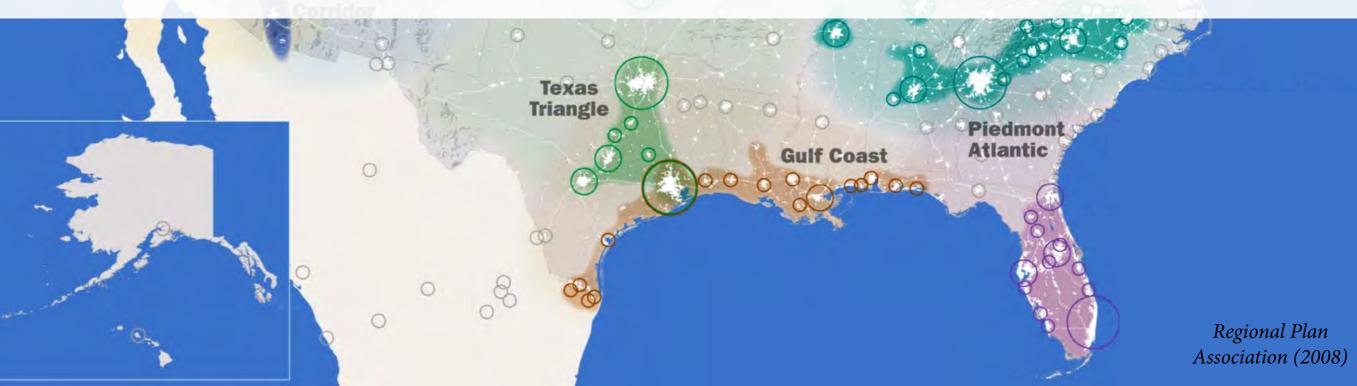Lakes
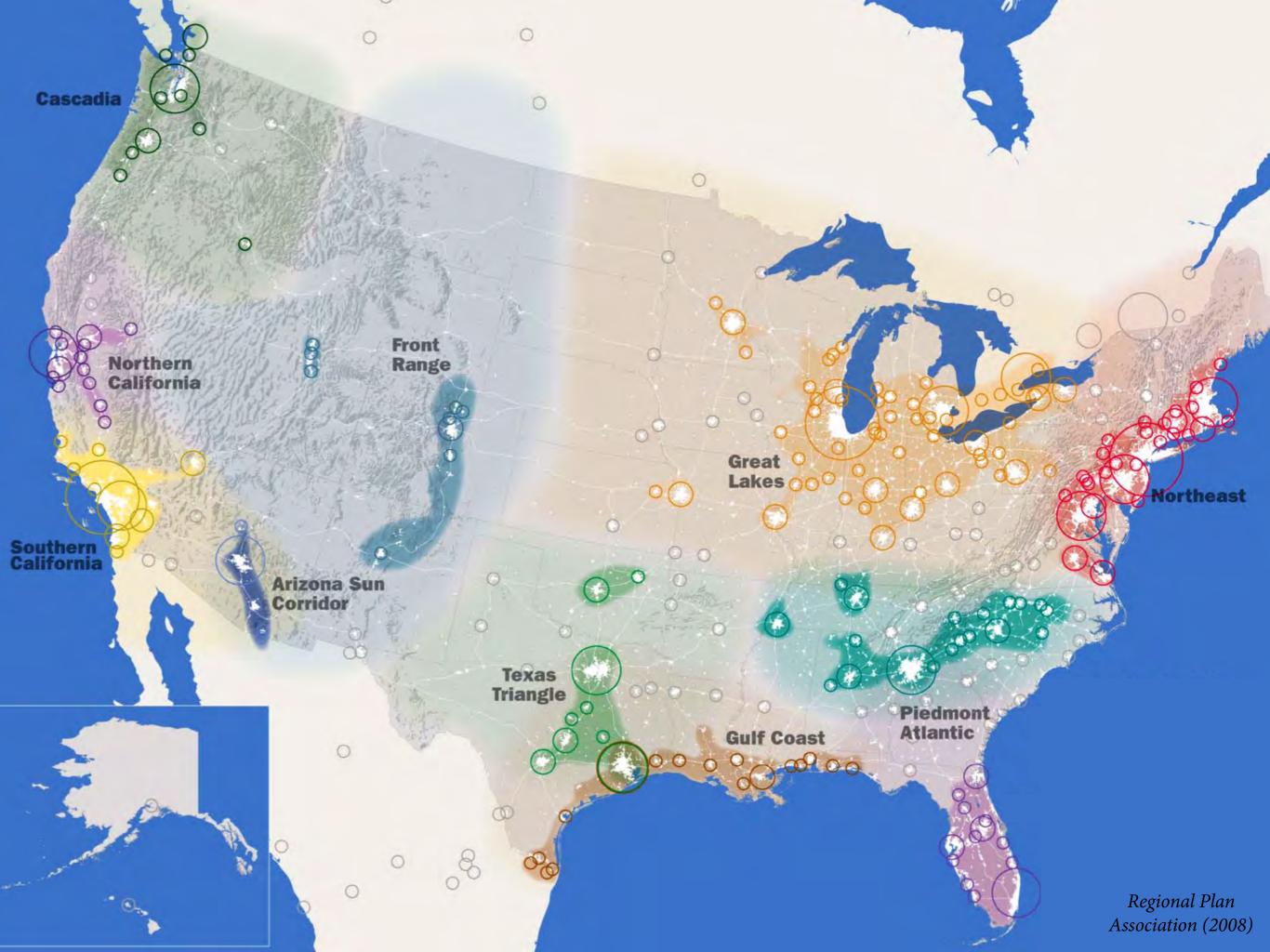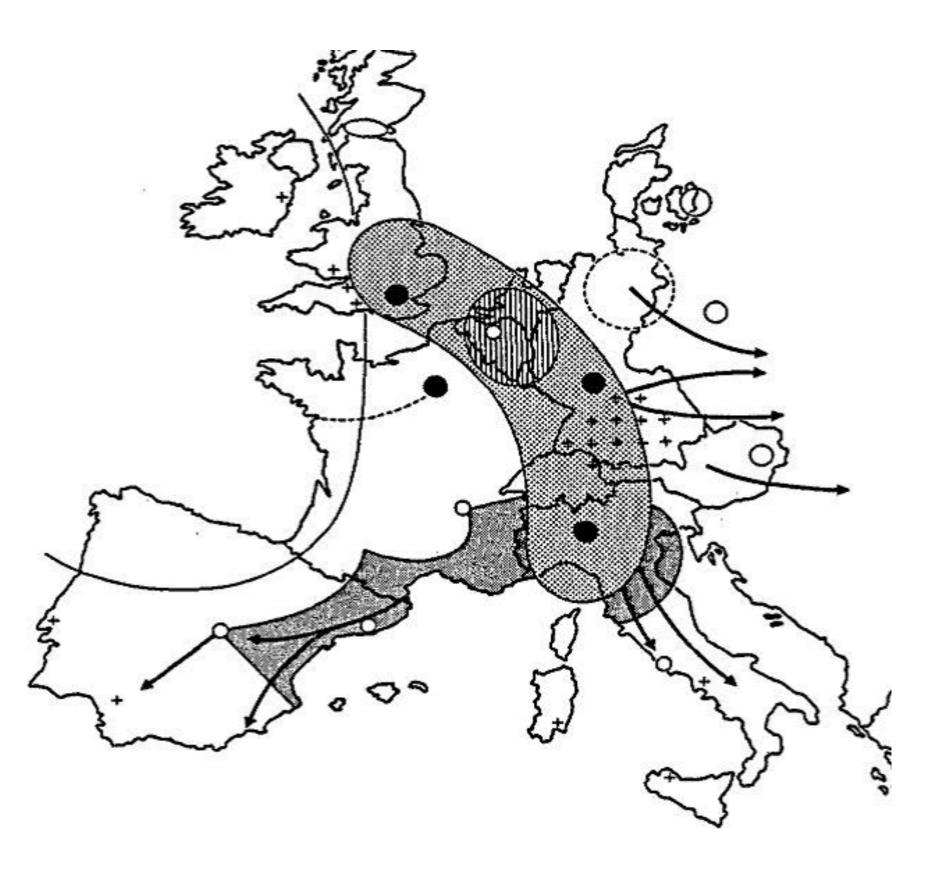
Gulf Coast

Piedmont
Atlantic

Northeast
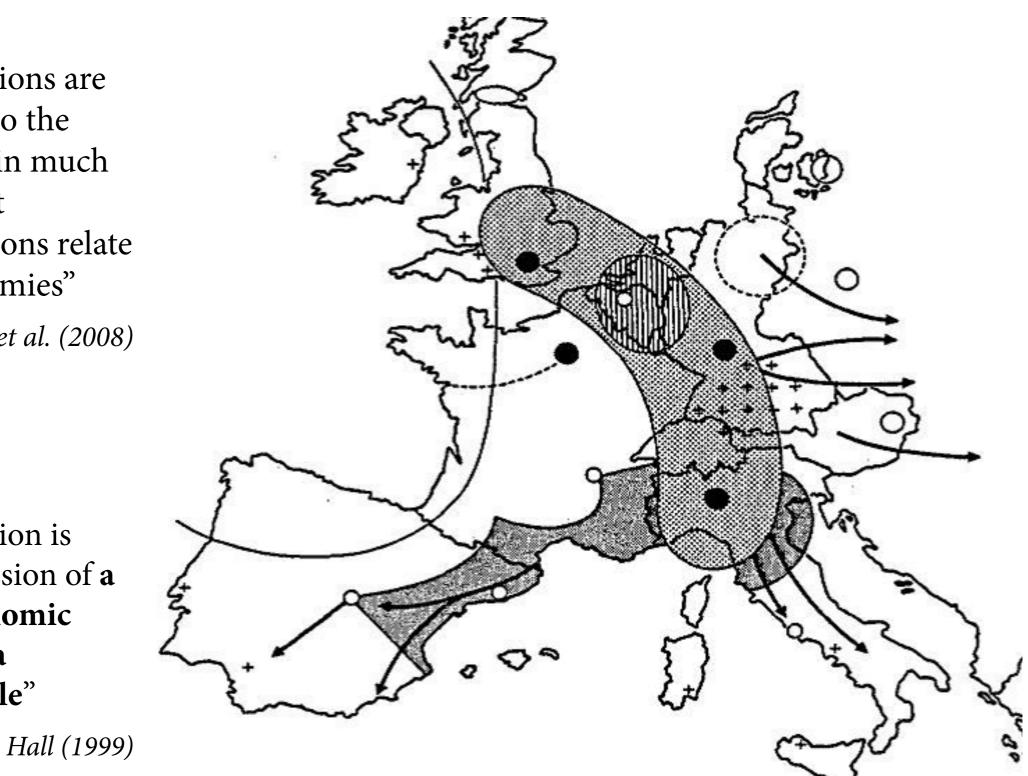
*Regional Plan
Association (2008)*

"Urban mega-regions are coming to relate to the **global economy** in much the same way that metropolitan regions relate to national economies"

Florida et al. (2008)

The mega-city region is "the spatial expression of **a new form of economic development on a transnational scale**"
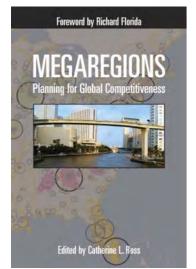
Hall (1999)

Infrastructure

Economic competitiveness

Globalization

Sustainability

(Global urban neoliberalism)

Foreword by Richard Florida

MEGAREGIONS
Planning for Global Competitiveness

Edited by Catherine L. Ross
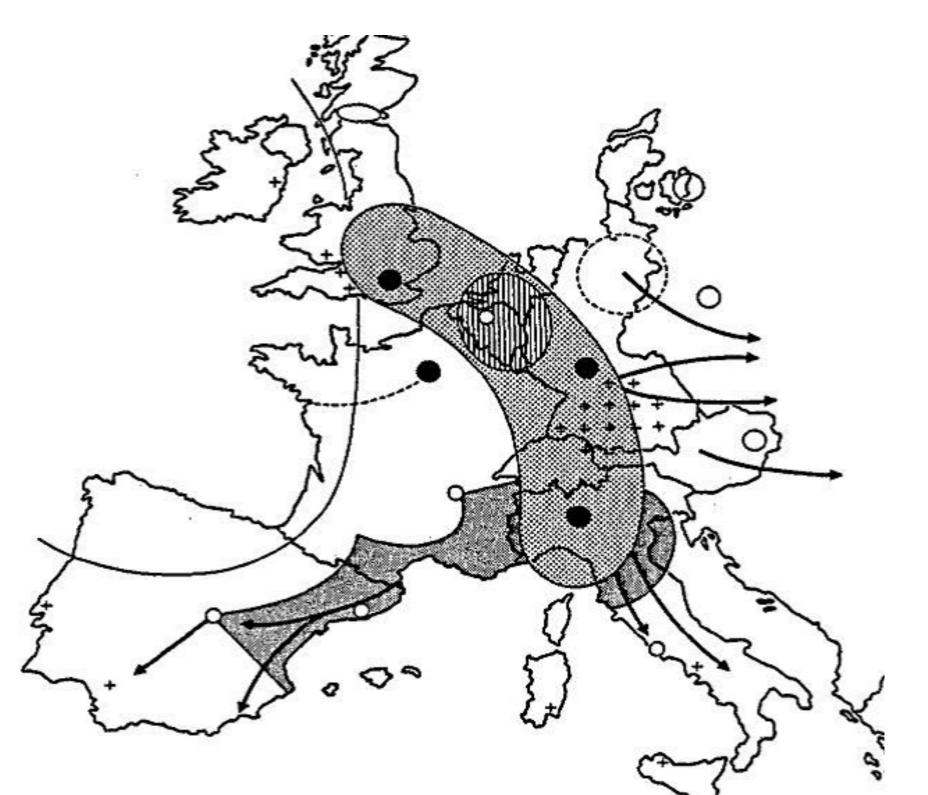
NORDREGIO

EU macro-regions and macro-regional
strategies – A scoping study

Alexandre Dubois, Sigrid Hedin,
Peter Schmitt and José Sterling

NORDREGIO ELECTRONIC WORKING PAPER 2009:4

Great Lakes
Metro Chambers Coalition

Promoting Policy to Grow the Great Lakes Economy.

1 Guangzhou Yuexiu
2 Guangzhou Tianhe
3 Guangzhou Liwan
4 Guangzhou Haizhu
5 Guangzhou Huangpu

N

0 5 10   20   30   40
Km

1 广州越秀区
2 广州天河区
3 广州荔湾区
4 广州海珠区
5 广州黄埔区

广州番禺区
Guangzhou
Panyu

东莞西北部区
Dongguan
Northwest

Guangzhou
Nansha

广州南沙区

Dongguan
Southwest
东莞西南部片区

深圳宝安区
Shenzhen
Baoan

Zhongshan
Central
中山中部组团

中山东部组团
Zhongshan
East

Shenzhen
Nanshan
深圳南山区

Shenzhen
Futian
深圳福田区

New
Territories

Hong Kong
香港

Zhuhai
Xiangzhou
珠海香洲区

Zhuhai
Hengqin
珠海横琴新区

澳门
Macau

Zhuhai
Jinwan
珠海金湾区

桂山群岛

外伶仃岛

万山群岛

列
岛
杆

LEGEND   图例
Area Boundary   规划范围
Existing Urban Areas 现状建成区
Hills and Mountains   山体
Waterways   水体

	Megalopolis	**Megaregion**
Substantive		
Relationship to economy	Globalization	Globalization
Territorial politics	Redistribution, service provision	Economic competitiveness
Mode of regulation	National Fordism-Keynesianism	Global urban neoliberalism

|	**Megalopolis**	**Megaregion**
Substantive		
Relationship to economy	Globalization	Globalization
Territorial politics	Redistribution, service provision	Economic competitiveness
Mode of regulation	National Fordism-Keynesianism	Global urban neoliberalism
Epistemological		
Theoretical signficance	Prototypical	Stereotypical
Relationship to city	Territorial (upscaled city)	Territorial (upscaled city) or networked (system of cities)
Relationship to world	The world as a city	A world of cities
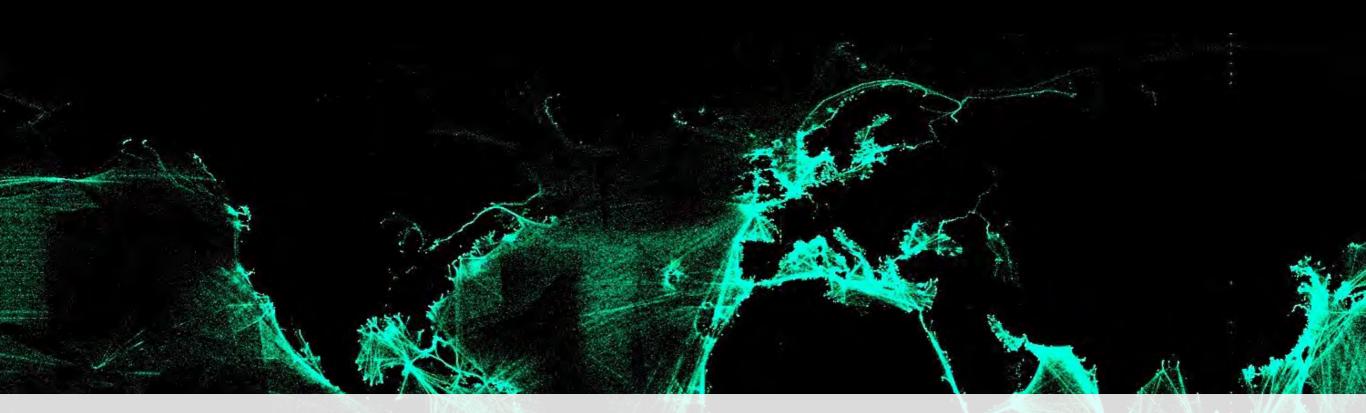
Planetary urbanization
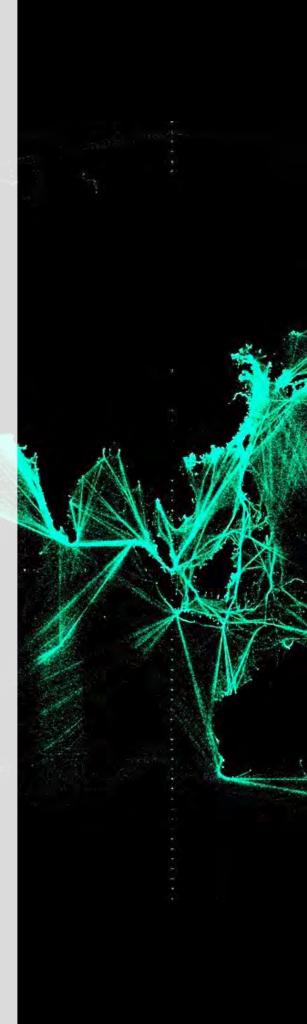
Brenner and Schmid (2015, 2016)

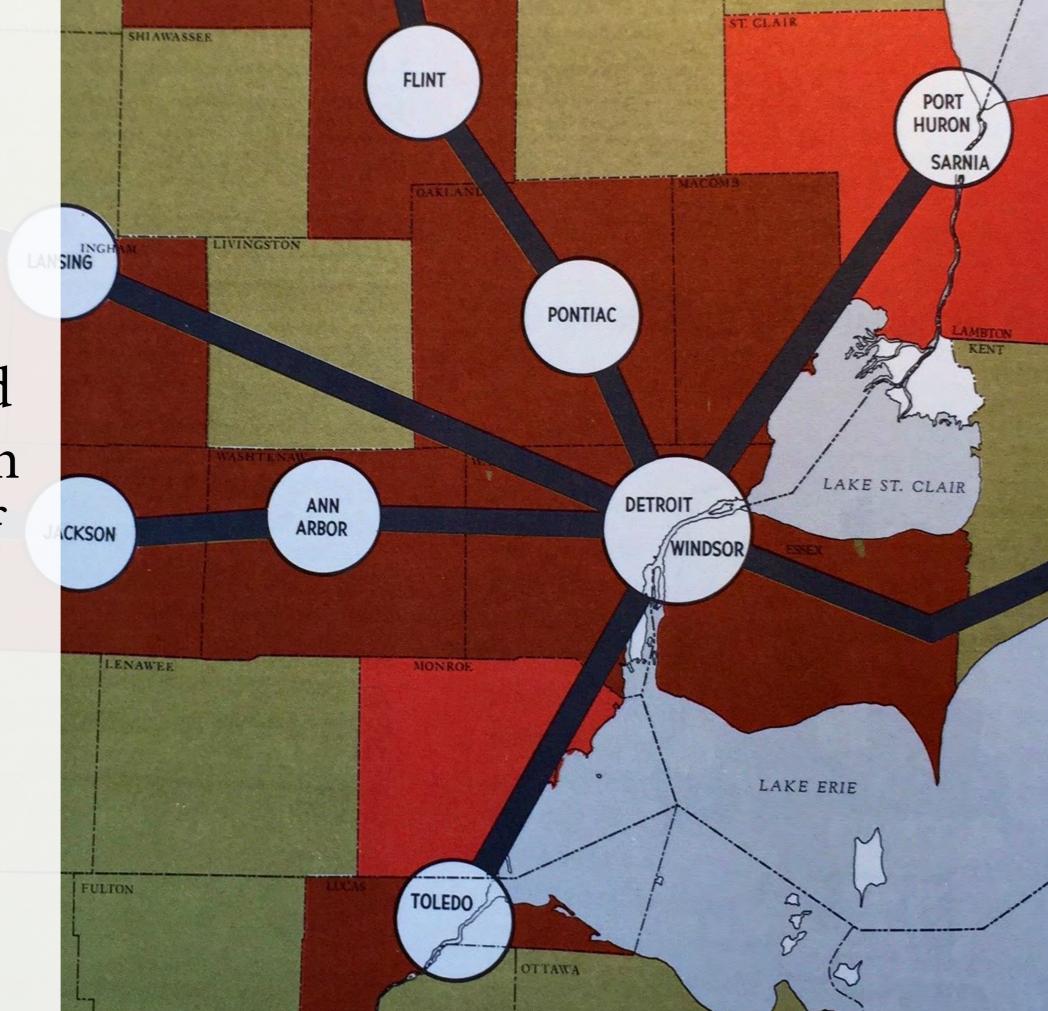# Urbanization has three moments

Concentrated urbanization (agglomeration)

Extended urbanization (hinterlands)

Differential urbanization (creative destruction)
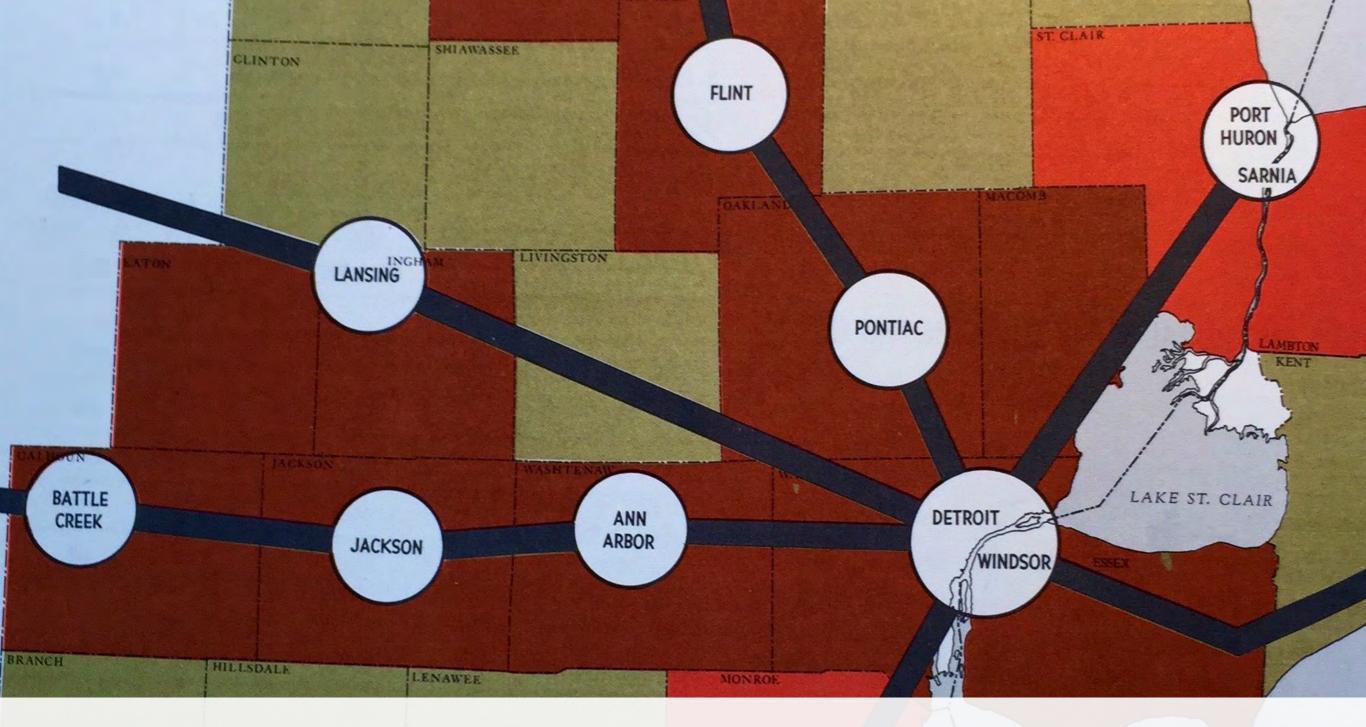
Wachsmuth (2014); Angelo and Wachsmuth (2015)

The city (or any bounded settlement space) is an increasingly inadequate tool for grappling with the complexity of the urban

Territorial megaregion (upscaled city)

1 Guangzhou Yuexiu
2 Guangzhou Tianhe
3 Guangzhou Liwan
4 Guangzhou Haizhu
5 Guangzhou Huangpu

Guangzhou Panyu
Guangzhou Nansha
Dongguan Northwest
Dongguan Southwest
Shenzhen Baoan
Shenzhen Futian
Shenzhen Nanshan
Zhongshan Central
Zhongshan East
New Territories
Zhuhai Xiangzhou
Hong Kong
Zhuhai Hengqin
Macau
Zhuhai Jinwan

LEGEND 图例
Area Boundary 规划范围
Existing Urban Areas 现状建成区
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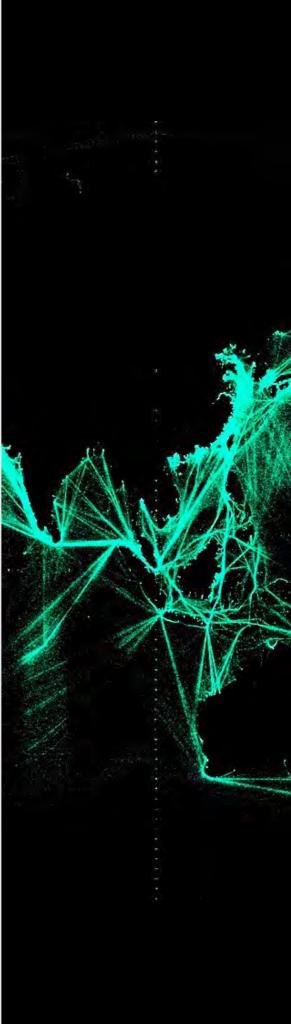Networked megaregion (system of cities)

The megaregion is a city-centric imaginary of the urban
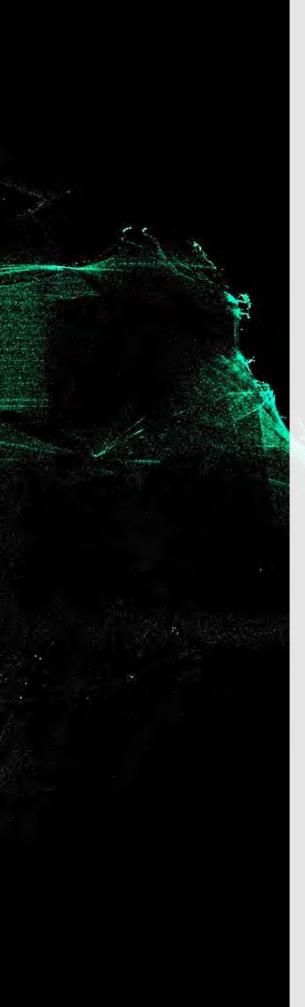
The megalopolis of planetary urbanization

Not (just) an upscaled city,

Not (just) a network of cities

but…

A proliferation of internal
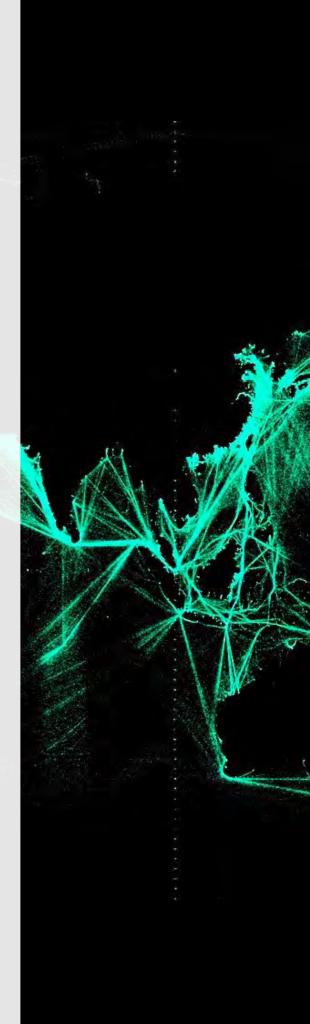and external urban relations
at multiple scales

Defined as much by what is
outside it as what is inside it

Governance challenges

1. Managing territorial competition

2. Local and regional democracy

3. International relations and geopolitics

4. Global environmental crisis

Thank you!