European Urban Research
in Global Context

Robin Hambleton

Dean
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs,
University of Illinois at Chicago
European Urban Research in Global Context

- Prelude: Positive Urban Images
- Part 1: Global Urban Trends
- Part 2: Urban Challenges – Pointers for Research
- Part 3: Exploring the Nature of Urban Research
PRELUDE

Positive Urban Images
Bombay (Mumbai)

Chicago

Sources: Getty Images

London
Melbourne  

Milan

Sources: Getty Images
São Paulo

Sources: Estação Metrópole; http://www.estacaometropole.bravehost.com/ and Getty Images

Shanghai
Tokyo

Warsaw

PART 1

Global Urban Trends
World Population Growth

- Total world population is projected to grow from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 8.2 billion in 2030.

The world goes urban in 2007

• In 2007, for the first time ever, more people will live in urban areas than in rural areas.

The future is largely urban

• By 2030, there will be 5 billion people living in urban areas (61% of the estimated world population of 8.2 billion).

Urbanized populations by continent

- The population is urbanizing at different rates in different continents

Country population projections

- Projections for 2000 – 2050 suggest some countries will grow at a spectacular rate, while some will actually decline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population increase (top nine)</th>
<th>Population decline (top nine)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 India 572</td>
<td>1 Russian Federation - 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Pakistan 162</td>
<td>2 Ukraine - 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Nigeria 141</td>
<td>3 Japan - 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Congo 127</td>
<td>4 Italy - 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 China 118</td>
<td>5 Poland - 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Bangladesh 114</td>
<td>6 Romania - 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 USA 111</td>
<td>7 Germany - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Uganda 103</td>
<td>8 Belarus - 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Ethiopia 102</td>
<td>9 Bulgaria - 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Largest urban agglomerations

- Some of the biggest mega-cities used to be in Europe
- But not anymore…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1950 (population, millions)</th>
<th>2015 (population, millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 New York 12.3</td>
<td>1  Tokyo 36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 London 8.7</td>
<td>2  Mumbai (Bombay) 22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Tokyo 6.9</td>
<td>3  Delhi 20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Paris 5.4</td>
<td>4  Mexico City 20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Moscow 5.4</td>
<td>5  São Paulo 20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Shanghai 5.3</td>
<td>6  New York 19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Rhine-Ruhr North 5.2</td>
<td>7  Dhaka 17.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Buenos Aires 5.0</td>
<td>8  Jakarta 17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Chicago 4.9</td>
<td>9  Lagos 17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Calcutta 4.4</td>
<td>10 Calcutta 16.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

World urban population (%): 1950

World urban population (%): 2000

World urban population (%): 2050

PART 2

Urban Challenges – Pointers for Research
The big picture

- The world is both globalizing and urbanizing
- Economic functions of cities and city regions are changing rapidly: growth of the ‘knowledge economy’
- Horizontal connectivity aided by new information and communication technologies in transforming societies
- New opportunities arise in a ‘flat world’*
- But there is great danger of a growing ‘digital divide’

Globalization and uneven development

‘Cities present some of the starkest…contrasts: homeless people living in cardboard boxes, next to skyscrapers…; growing gaps between [salaries and housing costs]…; enormous levels of consumption alongside great pyramids of waste…; and hitherto unseen patterns of segregation…’

Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations, 2001

Mapping the challenges

• Caution – cities and localities vary
• Overarching challenge – creating sustainable cities and city regions
• Cross-cutting themes:
  1) Economic restructuring
  2) Social needs
  3) Urban environmentalism
  4) City leadership, management and local democracy
  5) Intergovernmental relations

Source: Themes reflect papers submitted to the City Futures International Conference, 2004: www.uic.edu/cuppa/cityfutures
Theme 1) Economic restructuring

- Re-examining theories of economic development
- From manufacturing to services
- Impact of information and communication technologies
- Changing role of human and social capital
- Significance of the ‘creative class’
- Challenge of the ‘dual labour market’ and the ‘digital divide’
- City as an entertainment machine
Theme 2) Social needs

- Affordable housing
- Access to jobs
- Transport to serve all residents
- Settlement patterns: geographical segregation
- Urban education
- Urban health
- Crime, policing and community safety
- Embracing the multi-cultural city
Theme 3) Urban environmentalism

• City planning for unprecedented rapid urban growth in some continents
• Urban transport – the access/environment tradeoff
• Energy demands and consumption
• Water supply and sanitation
• Mixed use urban development
• Urban design and green buildings
• Balancing mega-projects and neighborhood renewal
Theme 4) City leadership, management and local democracy

- Innovation in city leadership
- Rethinking the roles of politicians and officers
- Comparing approaches to metropolitan governance
- Enhancing the legitimacy of government through participation
- Hearing all voices and overcoming gender, class and ethno-religious divides
- Improving public/private collaboration
- A new role for city regions?
Theme 5) Intergovernmental relations

- Multi-level governance to improve competitiveness and social cohesion
- Roles and relationships – from supranational to neighborhood
- Intergovernmental fiscal flows
- Powers of local authorities in relation to tax raising and local action
- Revitalizing democratic accountability at all levels
- New roles for city regions and neighborhoods
PART 3
Exploring the Nature of Urban Research
The meaning of ‘urban’

• A term used to describe towns and cities

• Used here to refer to cities, metropolitan areas, and city regions

• ‘Urban’ can also be used to describe a ‘way of life’ which may exist beyond the boundaries of urban areas*

Research: the traditional model

Traditional definition of research:
‘Original investigation undertaken to gain knowledge and understanding.’*

*UK Research Assessment Exercise. RAE 01/2005. Annex B.
Traditional research process

- Advances in knowledge often raise new questions requiring further research
Social scientific research and the city

- Research on the city
- Research for the city
- Interdisciplinary study to enlighten policy

Engaged urban research: features

• Partnership with urban stakeholders

• Multi-disciplinary

• Lesson drawing for policy and practice

• Strong emphasis on dissemination and policy impact
Engaged urban research:

‘Original investigation undertaken to gain knowledge and understanding and influence policy and practice.’
The changing role of the university

• The traditional ‘European’ model of research and teaching

• The US Land Grant university – research, teaching and service (Morrill Act, 1862)

• The modern urban university – research, teaching, engaged scholarship and a contribution to community leadership
The redefinition of scholarship

- The scholarship of discovery
- The scholarship of integration
- The scholarship of application
- The scholarship of teaching

The triangle of engaged scholarship

Source: Robin Hambleton (2006) Rethinking the role of the modern urban university – insights from the USA. Milan: Politecnico di Milano
Implications for urban research

- Scale of global changes requires a rapid expansion of engaged urban research
- New alliances need to be formed at an international level among universities, governments and cities
- European urban researchers should build bridges with scholars in other continents
- The European Urban Research Association (EURA) should receive ‘core funding’ from the EC to promote comparative urban research
A skills agenda for urban research

• Important to advance the field of comparative urban studies

• Universities should value the four dimensions of scholarship identified by Boyer

• Crucial for urban researchers to become more skilled in engaged research including:
  – Comparative methods
  – Negotiating access/understandings
  – Lesson drawing
  – Dissemination
Further information

Sources: websites

- United Nations World Urbanization Prospects
  http://esa.un.org/unup

- European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)
  http://www.eukn.org

- College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) City Futures International Conference
  http://tigger.uic.edu/cuppa/cityfutures/
Further information

Sources: published


Acknowledgements

Special thanks to ChaNell Marshall and Karla Walter, Research Assistants at CUPPA, for their help in preparing this presentation.

CUPPA website: www.uic.edu/cuppa

College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago