

The creative city in the new urban world

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The creative city – a phenomenon attracting a rapidly growing interest Hits in Google Scholar)

Period	No. of hits	%
1900-1991	41	0.9
1992-1995	45	1.0
1996-1999	91	2.0
2000-2003	319	7.2
2003-2007	1,190	26.8
2008-2011	2,760	62.1
1900-2011	4,446	100

A creative city

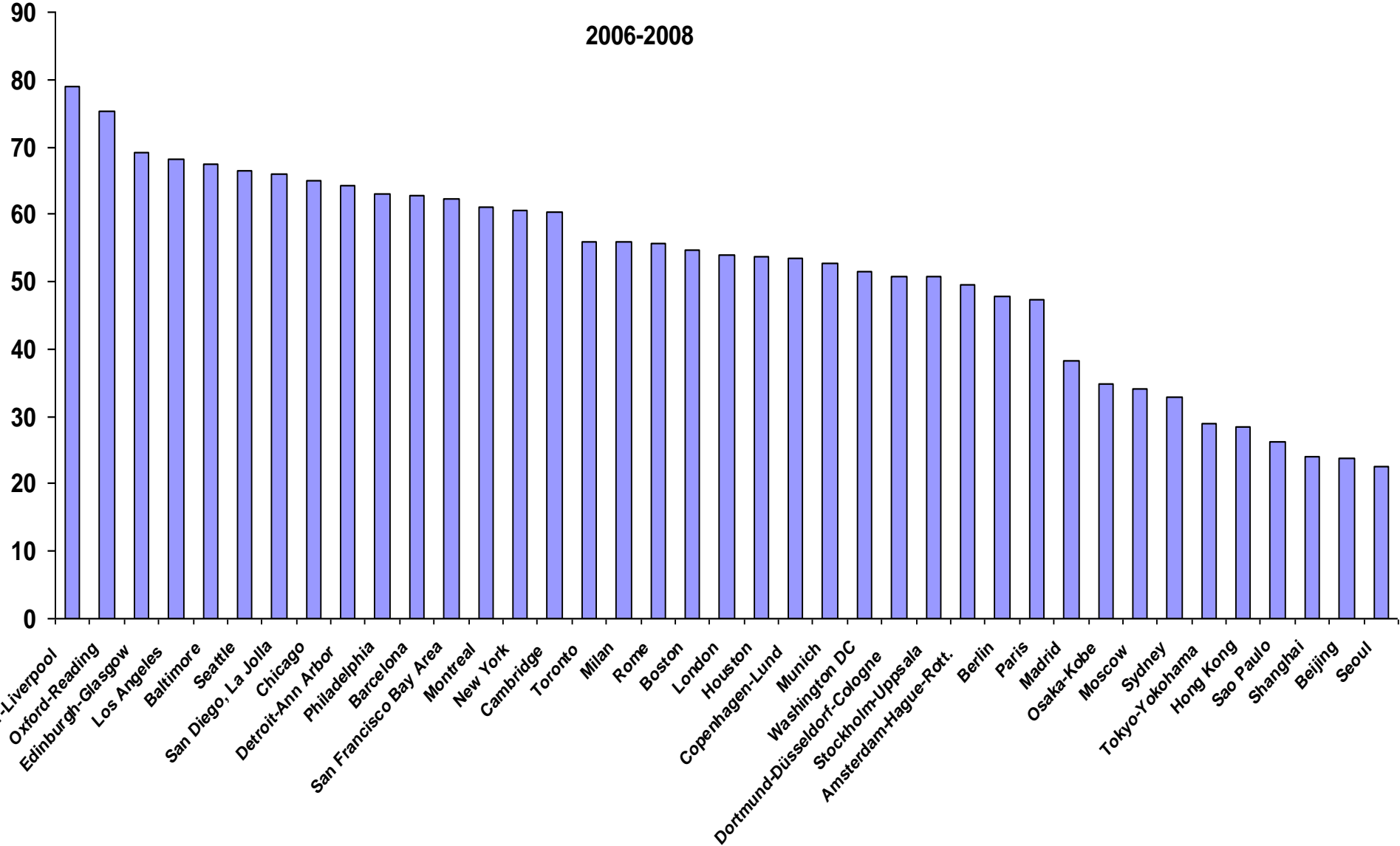
- A city that contains several clusters of creative activities,
- A city characterized by creative industries,
- A city characterized by creative occupations,
- A city that has a production and consumption milieu that is attractive to creative industries, or
- A city with cognitive and creative capacities, communications and contacts and an open and tolerant culture (Åke E Andersson)

Which are the creative cities?

Metropolitan region	Ranking 2006-2008	Ranking 1996-1998
Tokyo-Yokohama	1	2
London	2	1
Beijing	3	-
San Francisco Bay Area	4	3
Paris	5	4
New York	6	8
Boston	7	7
Osaka-Kobe	8	5
Randstadt	9	9
Los Angeles	10	10
Seoul	11	-
Moscow	12	-
Shanghai	13	-
Philadelphia	14	11
Baltimore	15	16
Madrid	16	24
Berlin	17	12
Chicago	18	13
Houston	19	19
Rome	20	29
Toronto	21	27
Copenhagen-Lund	22	15
Milan	23	-
Detroit-Ann Arbor	24	14
Stockholm-Uppsala	25	18
San Diego-La Jolla	26	17
Barcelona	27	-
Montreal	28	30
Sao Paulo	29	-
Manchester-Liverpool	30	23

What are the factors behind the emergence and growth of creative cities?

- Increasing urbanization
- The growth of new communication and contact networks
- Increasing cognitive capacities – increased investments in higher education and R&D
- Dramatically increasing role of creativity in scientific research, design, media, culture, finance and the arts
- International deregulation stimulating international trade, FDIs, and financial and knowledge flows
- The development of an international network of interacting creative cities



1.6: Co-authorships in 40 cities h the other 39 knowledge centres; total number of co-authorships as percentage of output from centre

What do the underlying dynamics look like?

- Increased investments in R&D ->
- Increased scientific creativity ->
- Increased innovation ->
- Increased entrepreneurship ->
- Changing comparative advantages ->
- Faster growth in creative cities ->
- Increased real incomes in creative cities ->
- Increased in-migration of cognitive and creative labour to creative cities ->
- Increased location of knowledge-intensive and creative firms and activities in creative cities ->

Why are creative cities attractive to cognitive and creative labour?

- Higher salaries
- A large labour market with interesting jobs
- Well developed housing infrastructure
- A rich supply of amenities
- Rich opportunities for learning and development of competence, knowledge and skills
- High international accessibility

Why are creative activities attractive to cognitive and creative activities?

- A rich supply of cognitive and creative labour
- A large supply of research universities and other research institutes
- A rich supply of cognitive and creative activities
- High international accessibility
- A rich supply of advanced business and financial services
- A concentration of advanced and demanding customers with strong purchasing power

Which are the general fundamental conditions for creativity?

- Benevolent or tolerant attitudes to experiments
- A versatile composition of knowledge and competences
- A versatile and relatively unregulated financial base for science, entrepreneurship and cultural life
- Good possibilities for spontaneous and informal contacts locally and globally
- Heterogeneity rather than functional division of the social and physical environment
- A feeling that the needs are greater than existing resources and opportunities
- A flexible social and economic organization that sometimes engenders structural stability

Why are creative processes localized in large cities?

- Large cities can provide the facilities, institutions, exposure to ideas and knowledge imported from other regions and embedded knowledge and practices, which are crucial for sustainable creative milieus, since creative processes
 - have a collective character,
 - is dependent upon the development and maintenance of formal and in-formal creative teams with diverse skills, and
 - needs to be coordinated within relatively short and often finite time frames

Why is the import of ideas and knowledge critical for creative cities?

- Irrespective of how strong a creative city is in terms of R&D it will only generate a minor share of all new knowledge developed in the world.
- In order to be creative and generate new knowledge at the research frontier and to avoid lock-ins, creative cities must be connected to in particular other creative cities via a rich flora of information and knowledge networks
- This implies that the gateway function is critical for the success of creative cities

What regional resources and capacities are critical for creative cities?

- A critical mass of wealth and economic growth
- An above level of interpersonal trust
- An above level of openness and social tolerance
- Entrepreneur-friendly laws and regulations
- A large population and a substantial inflow of migrants
- A labour force with a wide variety of cognitive skills
- At least one large research university
- Good accessibility in transport and ICT networks
- Imbalances between perceived public and private needs and their actual provision
- Structural instability and uncertainty in institutions and of philosophical, scientific and artistic paradigms

Why can only large urban regions become creative cities?

- Creative processes are dynamic synergistic processes
- Only large urban regions can offer the necessary synergies between
 - a rich and diverse supply of cognitive and creative labour,
 - higher education, cultural institutions and various amenities,
 - basic and applied research and design activities, and
 - efficient modes of transportation and communication

Concluding comments (1)

- Only a few large urban regions in each R&D-intensive country will be real creative cities, i.e. centres of creativity and innovation
- Their long-term economic development will be determined by their cognitive, communicative, creative and cultural capacity
- Scientific creativity is the central dynamic factor determining the long-term development of creative cities
- Simple recipes, such as attracting more creative industries or more creative class people don't create a creative city

Concluding comments (2)

- Other regions risk facing creative destruction and loss of employment and real incomes
- It is a real policy dilemma to handle the risks of increasing inter-regional inequalities

Thank you for the invitation!