Old centres, new centres, and regional development

Past, present and future of the Amsterdam city-region

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Monocentric → polycentric

- Residential suburbanisation
- New town policies
- Economic suburbanisation, phase 1: functions not fitting in inner cities
- Economic suburbanisation, phase 2: highway locations with retail and offices
- ‘Post-suburbia’: commuter suburbs turn into multifunctional centres
- Scale enlargement and/or merger of city-regions
Fringes become centres

- Airport cities…
- Furniture, home improvement, garden…
- Hypermarkets…
- Malls…
- Entertainment centres…
- Sports and leisure complexes…
- Science and high tech parks…
- …What is left for the historic inner city?
Old centres strike back!

• Shopping streets still attract crowds…
• …just like bars, restaurants, theatres, museums, squares, monuments
• Revival of inner city as residence
• Urban renewal and market-driven gentrification
• Focus of problems has shifted to post-war housing estates and to parts of new towns
City-region Amsterdam = ???

- Administrative borders? (municipalities, provinces)
- Statistical borders? (COROP = NUTS-3)
- Political cooperation? (Amsterdam Metropolitan Area)
- Planning concept? (Randstad)
- Commuting area?
- Housing market area?
- Labour market area?

\textbf{Data availability?}
Three regional definitions

Commuter area

Area of political cooperation

Participants in Regiomonitor (O+S / AMIDSt)
Old and new centres in the Amsterdam city-region

- Alkmaar
- Zaanstad
- Haarlem
- Schiphol/Hoofddorp
- Amsterdam
- Amstelveen
- Almere
## Population size (x 1000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>1960</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>Change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>-127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almere</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>+178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haarlem</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zaanstad</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>+45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haarlemmermeer</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>+92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkmaar</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>+48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amstelveen</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>+38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Shifts in population composition

• Amsterdam remains the most multi-ethnic city…
• …but shares of ethnic minorities increase rapidly in sub-centres and suburbs
• Differences in average disposable incomes between Amsterdam, sub-centres and suburbs have recently declined
• % single households grows, not only in cities, also in suburbs
While migrants from advanced capitalist countries are still very inner-city-oriented...

Source: Regiomonitor Amsterdam (data 2003)
...Non-Western ethnic groups are increasingly moving to city edges, sub-centres and suburbs

Source: Regiomonitor Amsterdam (data 2003)
Economic dynamics

• Deconcentration, but inner city remains economically vital
  • Inner city: tourism, retail, nightlife, small-scale creative and ICT, science
  • City edge: finance, large-scale creative and ICT, science, business services, mall, leisure
  • Sub-centres: business services, ICT
  • Highway: logistics, ‘big box retail’
  • Specialised hubs: Hilversum media, Aalsmeer horticulture, Schiphol airport city
Economic specialisation, 2000

Amsterdam

Sub-centres
Research and policy challenges

• Rethinking urban /regional development theories
• Adapting statistical definitions of city-regions
• How to bring ‘political’ and ‘actual’ city-region closer together?
• Amsterdam city-region: towards a metropolis?
• Sustainable growth? Is polycentric better or worse than monocentric?
• Improving data availability at city-regional level!
Regiomonitor Amsterdam

- Cooperation of O+S (Statistics Amsterdam) and AMIDSt (University of Amsterdam)
- GIS with data from 8 municipalities in Amsterdam city-region
- Topics so far: population composition, jobs, education level, crime, housing
- Shows concentrations at 6-digit postal code level
- Building up time series since 2000
- Hopefully extending further to cover larger parts of city-region
- Similar initiatives in your city-region?