
ISSP GREP Balanced Regional Development Seminar

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Balanced Regional Development

- Agenda
 - Updates on the Canadian Context
 - General Perspectives on Other International Contexts
 - A Sample of Questions for Discussion
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Balanced Regional Development

- Updates on the Canadian Context
 - Shifts in the Economic Centre of Gravity
 - Ongoing Convergence in Selected Development Indicators - But Core Poverty and Disadvantage Persists
 - Growing Inequality in Canadian Income and Wealth
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Balanced Regional Development

- Updates of the Canadian Context
 - Persistence of Federal Withdrawal from Regional Economic Development
 - Retention of Macro-Regional Business Development Approach (e.g. ACOA, WDF)
 - Diversification of Provincial Regional Economic Development Agencies
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Balanced Regional Development

- Updates on the Canadian Context
 - Expansion of the Community Futures Programme – Swings in Foci
 - Toronto 2005+ - Expanded Region (GGHR), Greenbelt, Regional Agencies (e.g. Transit), “Places to Grow Policy” and Act
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Balanced Regional Development

- Updates on the Canadian Context
 - MRCs (Quebec) Mature and Expand Remit
 - REDBs (N&L) Mature
 - Rural Secretariat Regions (N&L) – The Clutter Syndrome?
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Balanced Regional Development

- Updates on the Canadian Context
 - Ontario - Provincial Catch-Up Investment in Eastern Ontario Region
 - Ontario – Recent Interest in Regional Consolidation for Rural Economic Development
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Balanced Regional Development

- Other International Contexts
 - Poland - “Regions” on the Map
 - Regional Institutional Infrastructure in Place
 - EU Opportunity
 - Food and Regional Opportunities
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Balanced Regional Development

- Other International Contexts
 - Iran – Population Growth, Rural Youth, Migrant Minorities, Economic Vulnerability, and Jihad
 - Metropolitan Primacy
 - Inheritance of Supply-Side Perspectives
 - Finding Endogeneity
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Balanced Regional Development

- Other International Contexts
 - Japan – Macro Agenda (e.g. Population, Rural Depletion)
 - Persistent Lagging Regions
 - Effective Devolution – The Prefectures
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Balanced Regional Development

- Some Questions for Discussion
 - Is the quest for “balance” essentially a question of minimizing the negative externalities of Metro hegemony?
 - Can spatial equalization of opportunities lead to spatial equality of outcomes? Should it be designed to do so?
 - Is the economic focus the optimal focus to precipitate decreases in interregional disparities?
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Balanced Regional Development

- Some Questions for Discussion
 - Is a “Balanced” outcome essentially political clientelism?
 - Is “balanced” achieved through urban-based re-allocations rather than regional interventions? If so, why? If not, why not?
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