

WEBINAR Global Forum #1/2023

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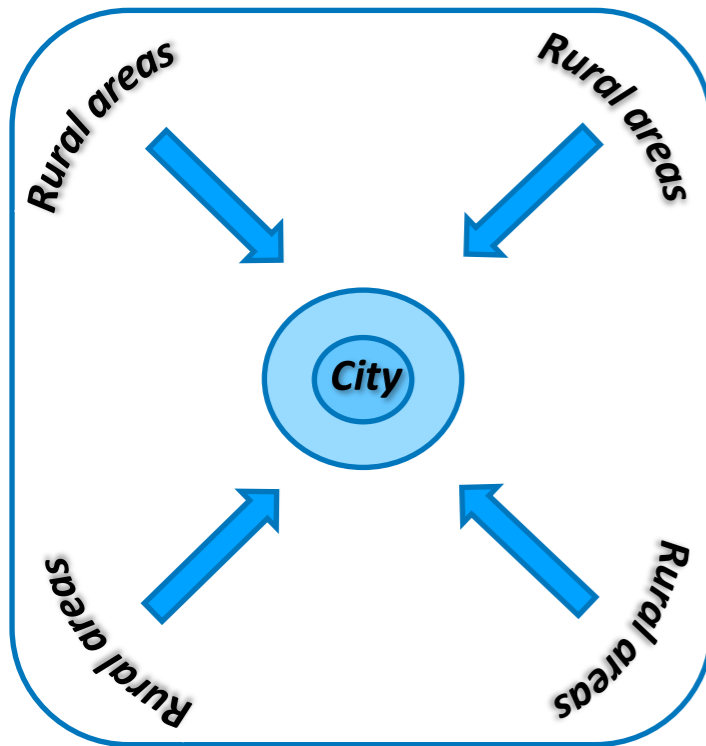
*The new localism: changing geographies
and the role of technology*

Jeremy Millard
Third Millennium Governance



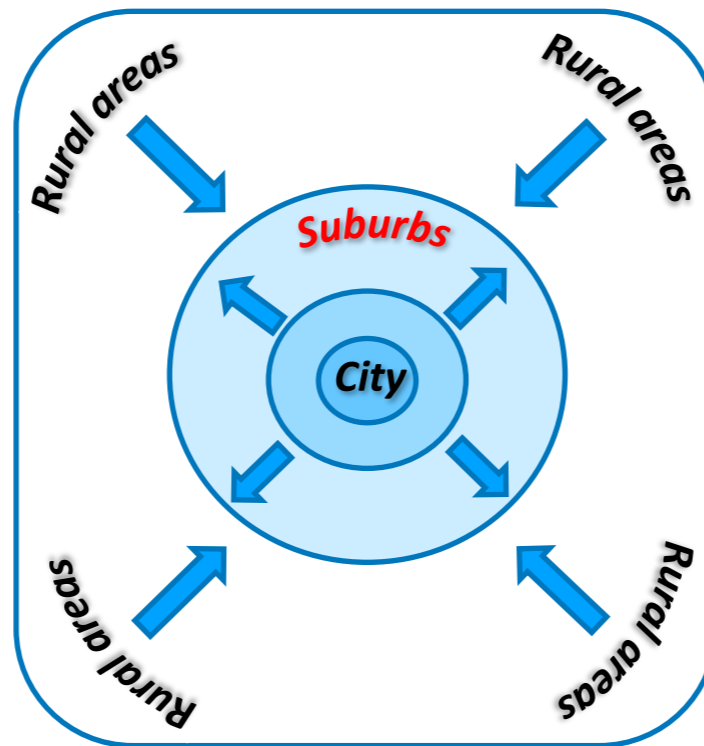
Three stages of urbanisation – in the most ‘advanced’ economies

1) Initial urbanisation



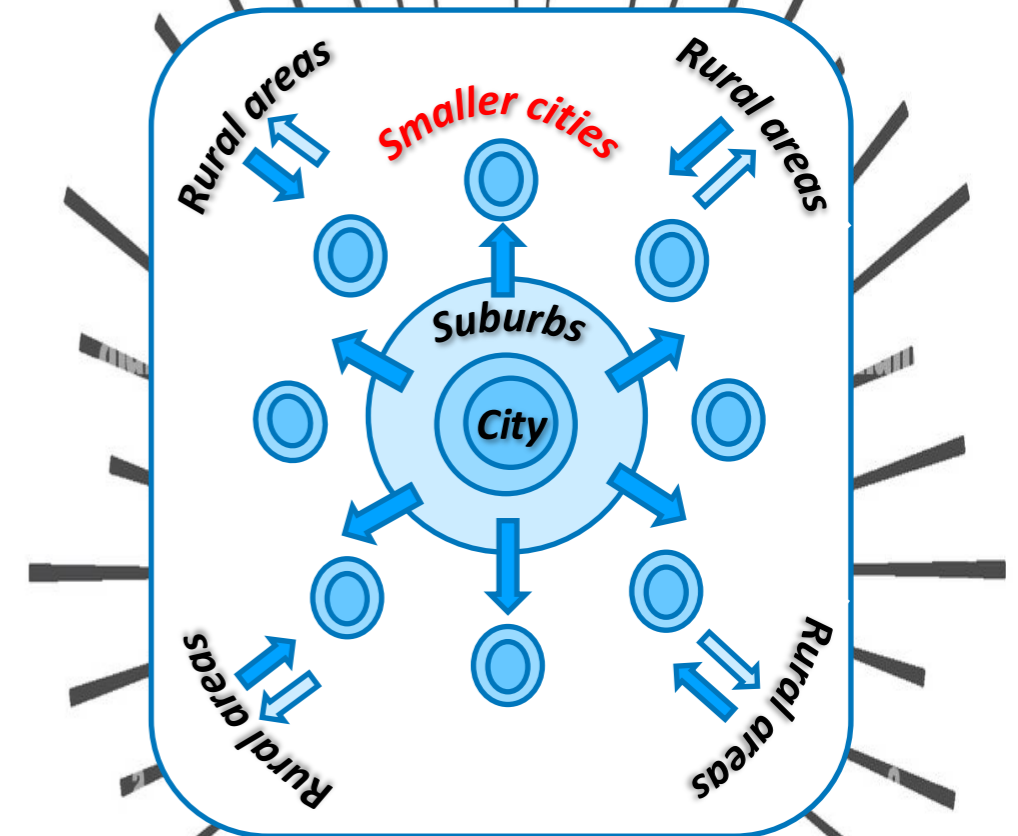
Factory agglomeration
STEAM technology

2) Suburbanisation



Office commuting
ELECTRIC technology

3) Counter-urbanisation



Hybrid life -- deglomeration
DIGITAL technology

**Now TURBO-CHARGED
by COVID, Ukraine, etc.**

NEW LOCALISM
decentralisation to retain as much
as possible of the value generated
locally within the locality

‘New localism’

21ST CENTURY TURBULENCE & SHOCK

- 2008: financial crisis
- 2020: pandemic
- 2022: Ukraine
- Ongoing: nature near collapse

GLOBAL SCALE: recent and, since 2020, significant de-globalisation, fragmentation & re-localisation

- COVID: massive supply-side recession
- Shortening value chains
- New on-shoring & friend-shoring
- EU’s trade and investment policy review June 2020: ‘Open Strategic Autonomy’
- Increase in local and regional jobs rather than out-sourcing
- More domestic and regional markets
- Huge rise in extreme & relative poverty & inequality
- WEF’s ‘great reset’: greater role for government & cities; re-localise supply for more sovereignty; more digital everywhere



SUB-NATIONAL SCALE: recent and, since 2020, turbo-charged decentralisation

- Cities are at the ‘sweet-spot’ as engines of innovation & enterprise with increased power & resources plus closeness to inhabitants, easier to break down silos & partner with all city actors
- Smart cities, smart neighbourhoods
- Community wealth-building: ‘anchor’ institutions, local currencies, value re-circulation, tackling poverty & disadvantage, local identities, ‘everyday’ / ‘foundational economy’, as well as specialised sectors.

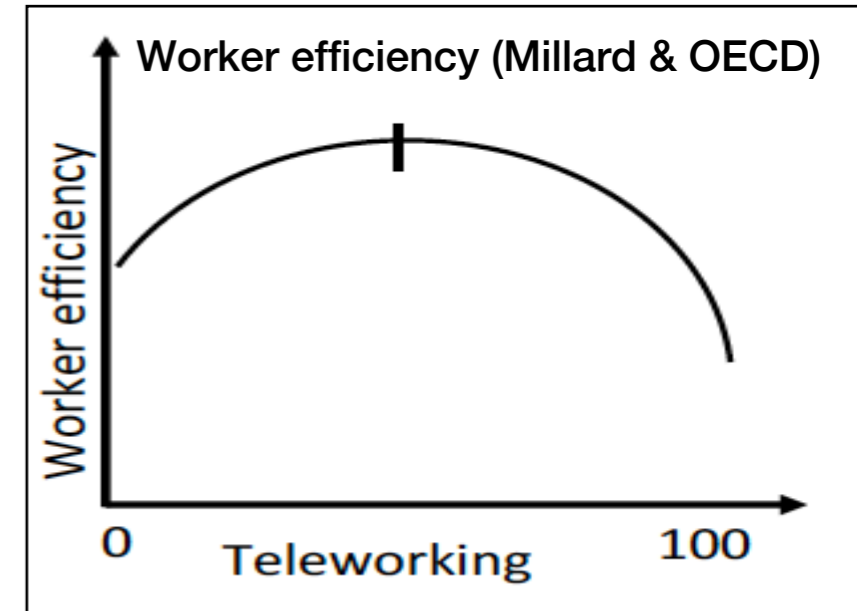
Everything has changed



2020: 'Zoomshock' transformation

HYBRID WORKING (EU employees) 2009-2022

- 2009: occasional: **8%** EU
- 2019: regular: **11%**
- 2020: full-time: **40%**
- 2022: hybrid: **28%** (16% full-time, 40% regularly)
- In general: worker efficiency increases up to 2-3 days/week but decreases thereafter, with large job & country differences
- In general: already 'advantaged' get most benefits, already 'disadvantaged' become more exploited

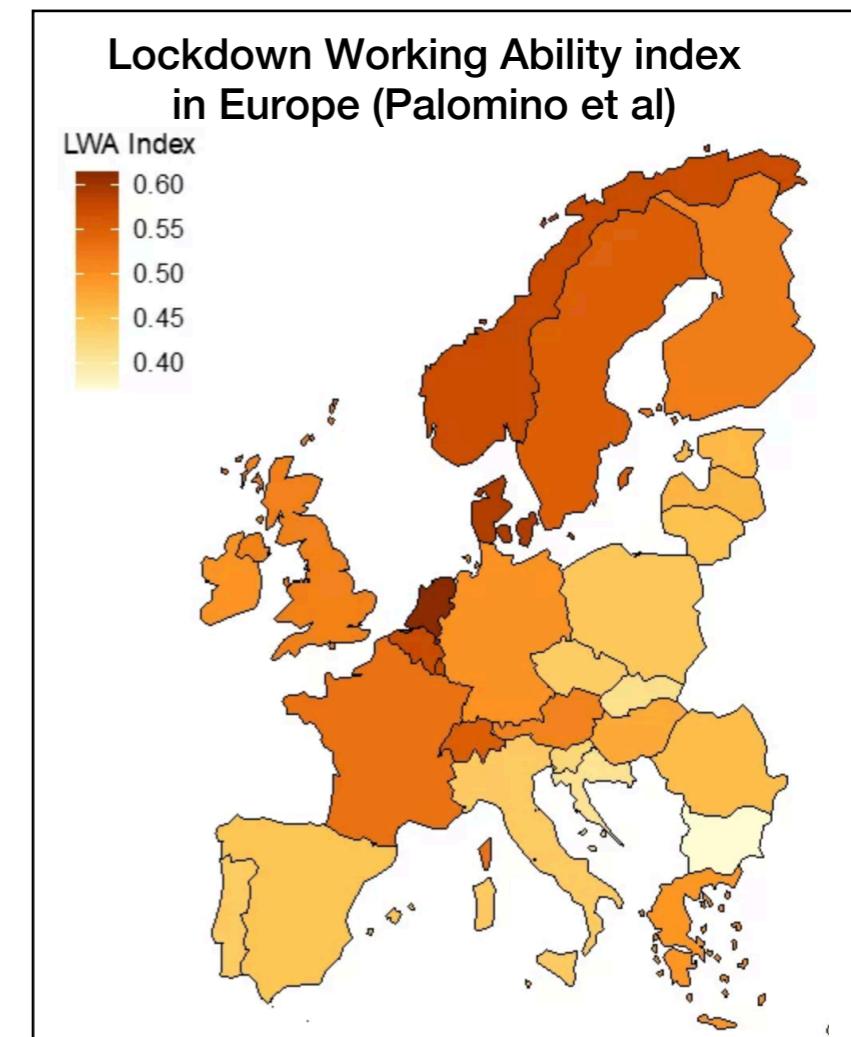


HUGE IMPACT ON CITIES

- Cities without good governance & diverse economic structure fare badly during COVID and increasing de-globalisation
- Digital work, shopping, leisure, nomads, etc., in very large cities leads to less commuting, less foot-fall & less population
- Small cities growing most in population & prosperity: better housing, amenities, life-styles (overall urban population still growing)

ROLE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: NECESSARY BUT NOT SUFFICIENT TO EXPLAIN RESENT CHANGE

- **Increasingly necessary** by enabling, providing and driving what is possible
- **Decreasingly sufficient** on its own compared to political, governance, social, economic, environmental, cultural and behavioural factors



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THANK YOU!

Jeremy Millard

Email: jeremy.millard@3mg.org

