Global Sustainable City-Regions (Policy Report)(2016)

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GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE CITY-REGIONS

Comparing Seven City-Region Case-Studies in Three Research Postgraduate Teams from
Two Methodological Modules:
Global Cities: Sustainability and Society &
Public Policy, Governance and Strategic Change in Cities.
(Msc Global Sustainable Cities 2015-2016)

Dr Igor Calzada MBA, Ed.

Global Southerners
MUMBAI Kirsten MacDonald
SHENZHEN Ning Qiu
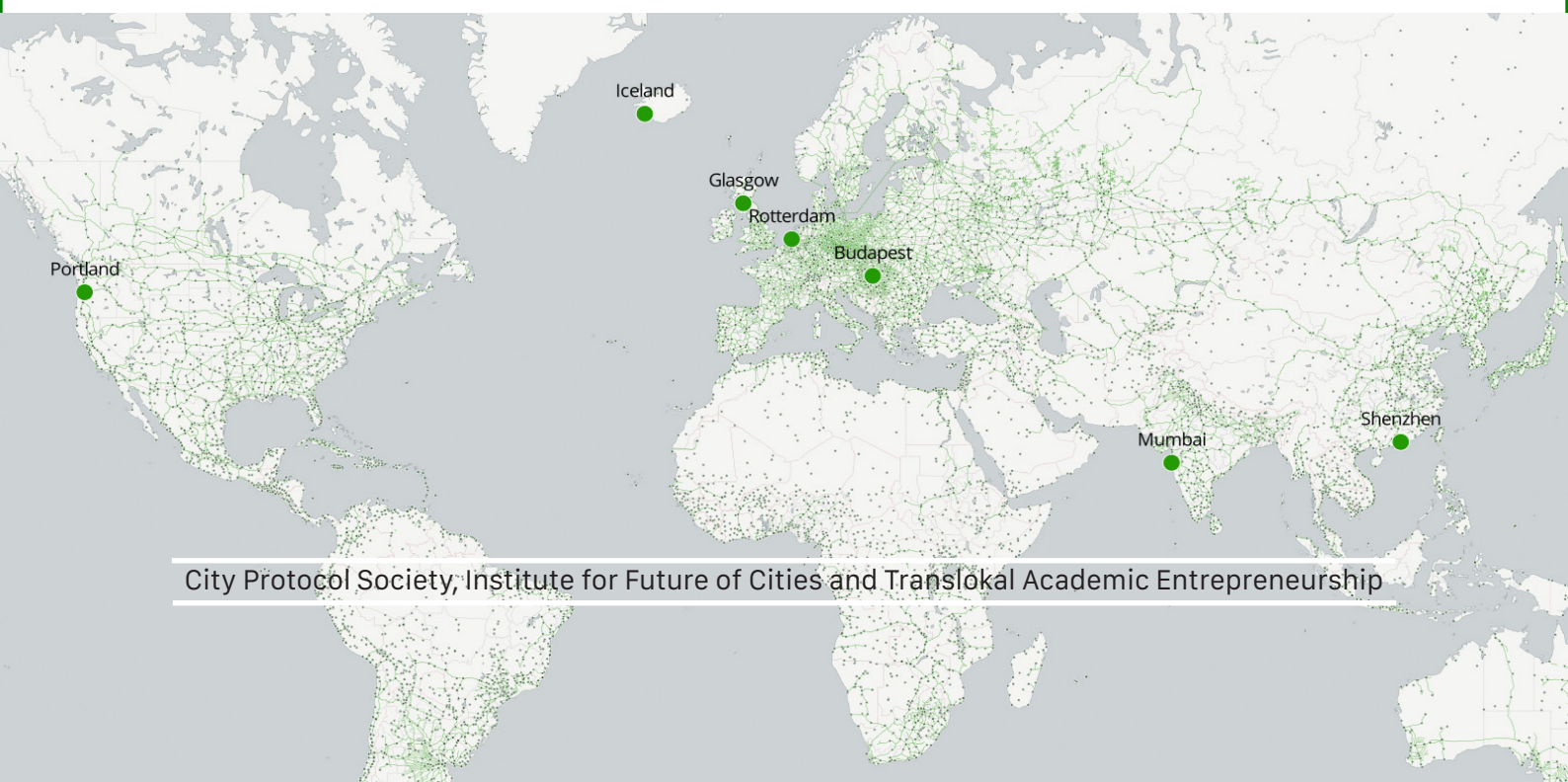Resilient Contradictors
REYKJAVIK Criostoir Dynes
PORTLAND Gemma Murray
BUDAPEST Nikolett Watson-Puskas
Regional Networkers
GLASGOW Gavin McAdam
ROTTERDAM Frankie Barrett

City Protocol Society, Institute for Future of Cities and Translokal Academic Entrepreneurship

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GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE CITY-REGIONS:

MUMBAI, SHENZHEN, REYKJAVIK, PORTLAND, BUDAPEST, GLASGOW AND ROTTERDAM

Comparing Seven City-Region Case-Studies in Three Research Postgraduate Teams
from Two Methodological Modules:
Global Cities: Sustainability and Society &
Public Policy, Governance and Strategic Change in Cities.

MSc Master in Leadership for Global Sustainable Cities

Edited by **Dr Igor Calzada MBA**

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Gemma Murray
Gavin McAdam
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Outline

Figure 1.
Image by @ifuturecities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This policy report, entitled '**Global Sustainable City-Regions**,' covers the work developed by the lecturer, Dr Igor Calzada, MBA, as the editor of the publication and students/participants of the first edition of the New Masters course MSc in Leadership for Global Sustainable Cities from September to December 2015.

Specifically, this policy report follows a two-sequential-module structure:

- The first module, entitled '**Global Cities: Sustainability and Society**,' consists of six methodological units.
- Thereafter, the second module, entitled '**Public Policy, Governance and Strategic Change in Cities**,' consists of five methodological units.

The policy report focuses on three urban global issues in a comparative basis. The MSc was developed in a team-based dynamic by applying qualitative action research methodologies to understand and interpret each case and to benchmark and contrast with other cases that addressed the same global urban issue.

The cases were selected jointly by the lecturer and the students/participants in a dynamic process in order to achieve a suitable selection of cases that would allow them to:

- arrange groups around one specific global urban issue,
- compare cases around the same specific urban issue, and
- produce a full case study by applying the two-sequential-module methodology.

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As a result, the following three global urban issues and seven Global Sustainable City-Region case studies were selected. Each student/participant worked on each of them, as follows:

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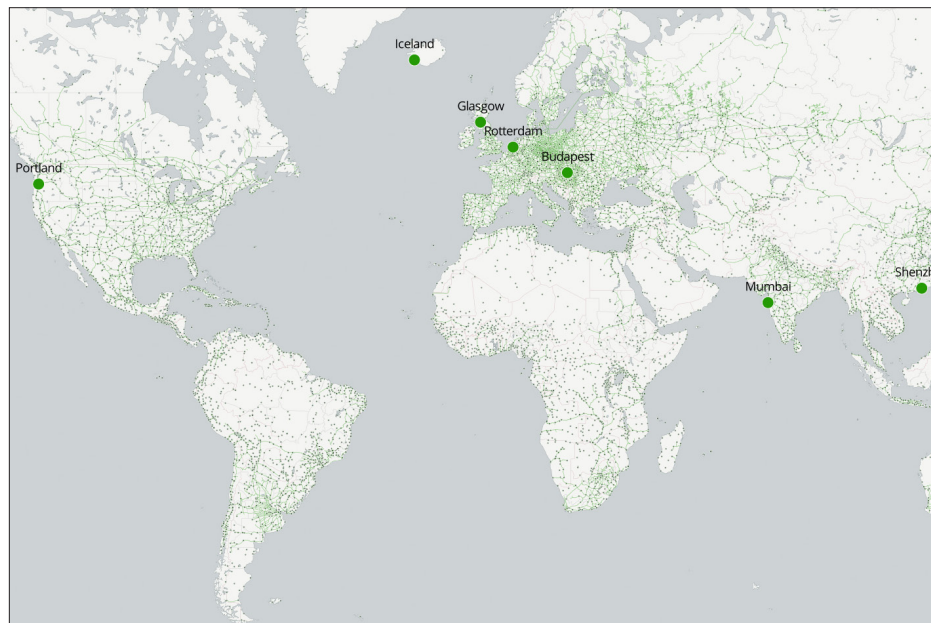

Figure 2.
Global Map wiht cases

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A. INTRODUCTION

A.1.- MSc Global Sustainable City: Two modules

This policy report has been organised in two modules. Indeed, both modules proceeded sequentially.

A.2.- GSC938 > Global Cities: Sustainability & Society.

This first module elaborates a general perspective of the urban issues at present. Two issues are the main pivotal concepts that allow us to understand the urban dimension: sustainability and society.

A.3.- GSC942 > Public Policy, Governance & Strategic Change in Cities.

The first module will be completed with a detailed body of techniques in order to identify public policy, governance and strategic change to the cases studies that students selected.

A.4.- Itinerary and Students/Participants: Action Research Methodology.

This report summarizes the full itinerary made by students/participants that was conducted and mentored by the lecturer, Dr Igor Calzada, MBA. The methodology was based on action research insofar as students/participants and the lecturer work together in the definition and application to the sequential modules.

A.5.- Learning by Doing.

Thus, students/participants gained the ability to learn by doing a case study.

A.6.- Qualitative Research.

Though during the MSc a significant source of secondary information was used, it could be said that case studies followed primarily qualitative methods.

A.7.- Case Studies.

Each case study was produced by one student/participant in collaboration with peers. At the end of the day, everything boiled down to students/participants sharing and learning together.

A.8- City-Regions: Unit of Analysis.

Keeping in mind the selected cases followed a diverse range of cities and regions with very diverse populations, geographical sizes and a composition of factors, the MSc considers the city-region as the most suitable unit of analysis.

A.9.- International/Global Scope.

Finally, the urban perspective encouraged students/participants to compare the international preconditions for each case.

A.10.- Comparative/Benchmarking.

Comparing Global Sustainable City-Regions' Urban Issues.

As the outcome of the MSc Master in Leadership for Global Sustainable Cities, students/participants produced a case study that was organised by the lecturer in three comparative global urban issues. Here is the main definition of each urban global issue, in brief:

- **Global Southerners:**

  The Global South is at the moment a key player, both in its new role of combining radically diverse urbanisation processes and also providing socio, economic and political urban solutions in a rather different way. It is noteworthy that more than half of the world's population is concentrated in the so-called Global South.

  In this MSc, two cases have been produced: Mumbai (India) and Shenzhen (China). Results for both geographical contexts remarkably depict a trend that could be portrayed as 'Global Southerners'. References regarding BRICS countries, emergent economies and smart city initiatives will be mentioned.

- **Resilient Contradictors:**

  Urban issues cannot be understood without the main factor of resilience. Cities in vulnerable areas will have to build up their resilience to events such as storms and floods, and all cities need to have disaster and recovery plans for unforeseen or unpredictable events (e.g., earthquake, fire, volcanic eruption or civil unrest).

  As such, in this MSc, three cases are confronted: the democratic regeneration-based resilience in Reykjavik (Iceland), the environmentally-resilient Portland (Oregon) and finally, politically distrustful context in Budapest (Hungary).

  Results for three geographical settings show that contradictions from such a diverse nature may arise in one or another direction.

- **Regional Networkers:**

  Territorial dynamics have occurred driven by a networked-logic. Nation-states have been trespassing by territorial configurations that could be called 'City-Regions' (Scott, Harrison & Herrschel). However, these reticular logics are based on such diverse political and economic sources. This is the case for the cases of Glasgow (Scotland) and Rotterdam (Randstad). On the one hand, Glasgow should be understood as an engine of the city-regional Scottish configuration, in balance with Edinburgh and the other Scottish cities. On the contrary, Randstad has been referenced as the paradigmatic urban network case.

  Results for both geographical units explain how a city-regional configuration could follow one or the other networked-dynamic.
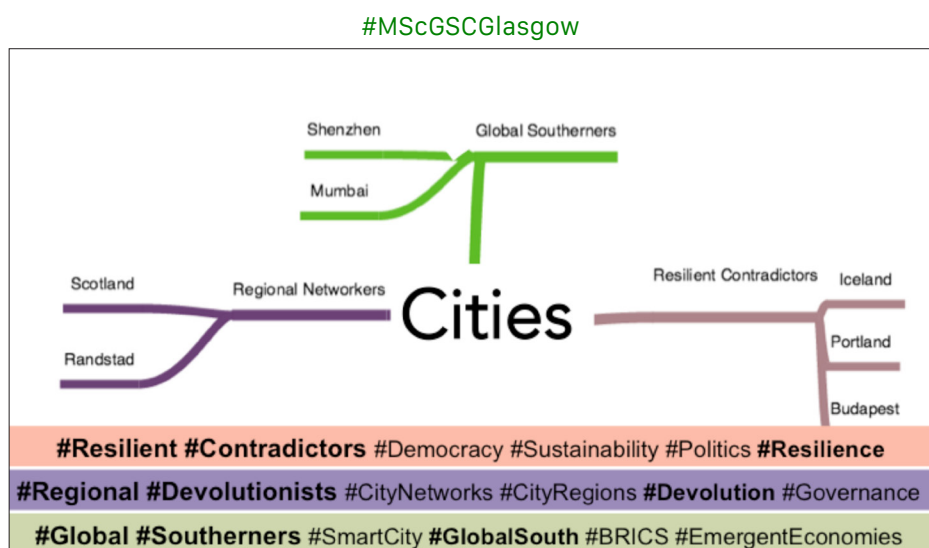
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Figure 3.
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