

Regional policies : convergence, trade, and the allocation of public capital

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE THESIS

Regional Policies: Convergence, Trade, and the Allocation of Public Capital

By Mehmet Güney Celbiş

1. The Turkish economic geography is defined by a clear core-periphery pattern: regions with similar per-capita income levels are clustered together. (Chapter 2)
2. Conditional β -convergence of regional per capita income is observed in Turkey during the period 1999-2011. Internet infrastructure has contributed to this convergence process by increasing the convergence speed, positively impacting on income per-capita and contributing to the homogenization of regional economies. (Chapter 2)
3. There is evidence of publication bias in the literature examining the contribution of infrastructure to trade. (Chapter 3)
4. The trade-related infrastructure of a country or region is found to enhance exports more than imports in the literature as shown by meta-analytic results. This has important implications for the external trade balance of an economy. Exporter infrastructure matters more if the exporting economy is a developing country or region. (Chapter 3)
5. Land, air and private maritime transportation infrastructure has contributed to the export performances of Turkish regions during the period 2002-2010. The locations of point infrastructures relative to regional urban centers also matter for exports. (Chapter 4)
6. Eurostat and the OECD have been publishing regional gross value added series for Turkey starting in 1995. Until late 2011 the series

published by Eurostat were incorrect, and so were those published by the OECD until March 2013. (Chapter 5)

7. The political affiliation of regions to the central government has played a significant role in the allocation of transportation and communication public investments across the regions of Turkey during the period 1999-2011. (Chapter 5)
8. Economic space does not necessarily correspond to the actual territory of a country. Therefore, the relevant question is not whether economic activity should be concentrated or distributed in a balanced manner over space; it is about making the transition between activity centers - or hotspots - and periphery areas as smooth as possible.
9. Compared to areas such as monetary policy and finance, regional economic policy-making receives much less emphasis both academically and non-academically. However, space has been perhaps the strongest determinant of the distribution of populations and economic activity, acting as a constraint on economic outcomes.
10. The most important revival of spatial economics is likely to happen in the age of space colonization. The current two-dimensional models will be extended to three dimensions. Planets, asteroids, stars as the new “regions” and resource locations will be mobile as opposed to geographical regions which are currently considered as static.
11. Regions of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your borders!