

You are kindly invited to attend the public defense of the doctoral dissertation of

Yuting Yang

Navigating Polycentric Urban Regions: Economic Consequences and Methodological Insights

Monday 15 January 2024 at 10:00 (CEST)

Kapittelzaal, Sint-Pietersabdij Gent or <https://ap.lc/xaiGT>

After the defense, you are warmly invited to the reception in the same room:

Monday 15 January 2024 at 12:00 (CEST)

Please confirm your attendance to the defense and/or reception
before 8 January 2024 via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/vqL2bAmVqn>
or by e-mail: yutiyang.yang@ugent.be



Bicycle parking in Sint-Pietersplein (and Kapittelzaal)
Closest bus stop Sint-Pietersplein (line 5 or 8)
Car parking Sint-Pietersplein





Summary

Polycentric urban regions (PURs), characterised by clusters of proximate and well-connected cities of similar size, have become a prevalent phenomenon across different national and regional contexts. This research aims to enrich ongoing debates on the economic implications of PURs from an empirical, theoretical and methodological perspective. To evaluate the economic performance of polycentricity, this research conducts analyses in two distinct geographical-political contexts: China and Europe. It also explores the underlying dynamics that theoretically support the economic advantages attributed to PURs. Throughout these analyses, this research addresses several methodological issues that have complicated (comparative) evaluations of the polycentricity-economy nexus. The key finding is that a polycentric urban system does not necessarily lead to greater economic competitiveness, both in China and Europe. Various factors, including the distinct development trajectories of PURs in different contexts, and the variations in design and methodology of economic measurements, have contributed to the diversity of empirical results. Based on these findings, this research provides reflections on the strategic priorities of a polycentric spatial layout in urban and regional planning.

About the author

Yuting Yang was born in Mianyang (Sichuan Province, China) on August 10, 1996. In 2017, she obtained her bachelor's diploma in Land Resource Management from the Chinese Agricultural University (China). In 2020, she obtained her Master's diploma in Geography (Natural Resources) from Beijing Normal University (China). In October 2020, Yuting started her doctoral training at the Department of Geography at Ghent University. Her research centres on the impact of urban structure, with a specific focus on polycentric development, on economic growth in urban regions across different geographical contexts (China and Europe). Her research aims to contribute to both scientific discourse and policy debates concerning the economic implications of urban polycentricity. On this topic, she has finished four papers, and some of them have been published in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Regional Studies*.

Supervisors

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