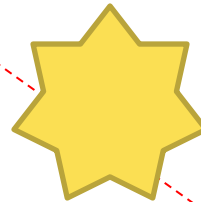


Border cities with a truncated hinterland

The role of Szczecin as a central place in the German-Polish borderland

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Series of lectures "Changing borders: from separation to interface?"

Centre for Population, Poverty and Public Policy Studies (CEPS/INSTEAD) Luxembourg

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What influences the sociopolitical landscape?

- Nature – as a law and a physical reality : Space and time: "Geography and history"
- Biology
- Demography
- Technology > infrastructure
- Market – commodities and services
- Authority – political regulation
- Culture – value systems
- Communication – mediated messages
- Individual actions in a time-space framework

Boundary

- Line of cessation
- Structuration and direction
- Delimitation of action space
- State territory >< market space
- Communication – language and more
- Technology – created infrastructure
- Culture – state indoctrination, symbolification
- Ubiquitous intra-state >< trans-boundary nearness

Friedrich Ratzel, 1897

The cultural states of Europe definitely recognize each other as members of a circle in which exchange is necessary and where neighbouring states have to work together, even if they are hostile to each other, so that they only use enclosures against dangerous plagues

(Rough translation from German: Thomas Lundén)

Attraction factors are points of availability of supplies: Household goods and services, family and friendship relations, points of tourism interest etc. The situation can be described as a landscape of uneven opportunities, where the state boundary often marks a sharp change or disjuncture in the values (positive or negative).

Boundary barrier functions include crossing restrictions (passport and visa requirements, customs regulations, inspection time delays etc.). In addition to this, the physical infrastructure (roads, railways, bridges, and natural openings in the boundary, as well as distance itself) obviously influences cross-border accessibility.

The influence of political territorial hierarchies on local communication and contacts

Connecting European regions



- Project leaders: Thomas Lundén, Anders Mellbourn
- Researcher: Joachim von Wedel
- Research assistant: Péter Balogh

A security-policy division since 1945



1945 - 1989

- Border stations closed
- Population changes, forced migrations and settling
- New and 'absolute' language boundary
- Mutual distrust in socialist camp; Socialist state territorial economy on both sides without local contacts

The history of boundary crossing regulations between Germany and Poland

1945-46 Restrictions for boundary crossing while the German population east of the boundary are being expelled

1946 Boundary impermeable to the “average inhabitant of the border area“ until 1972.

1950 Agreement between Poland and GDR on the boundary.

1972 Opening of boundary for crossing with identification cards

1980 Closing of boundary except for emergencies, crossing by invitation etc.’

1989 Opening of GDR-Poland boundary, passports required

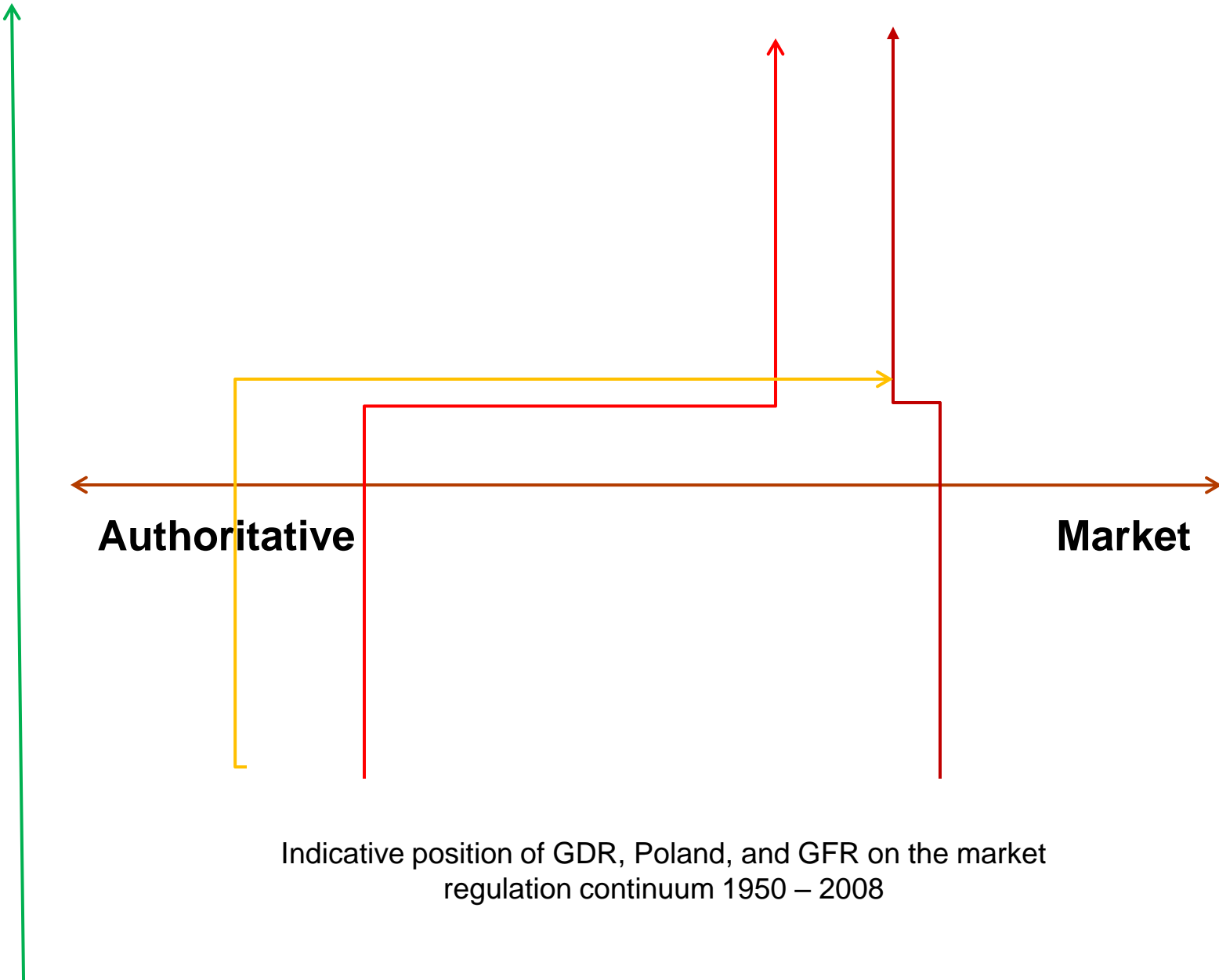
1991 Opening of Poland-GFR boundary. Passport requirements (EU external boundary).

2004 May 1st. Poland joining EU, easing of border restrictions, “one-stop controls” introduced

2004 Germany: Restrictions for Polish workforce valid 7 years.

2007, Dec. 21: Poland joining the Schengen regime. Boundary controls cancelled and old road crossings opened.

- Immediate German integration/co-optation into the Bundesrepublik, Nato and the EU
- Federal German social economy with “welfare stagnation” on the German borderland
- Dramatic/heroic rebirth in Poland; Market economy booms with crises

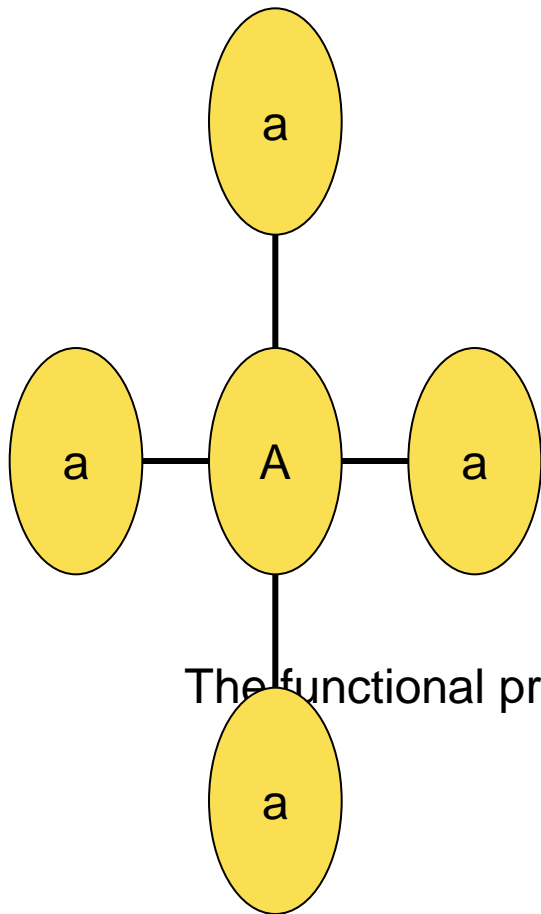




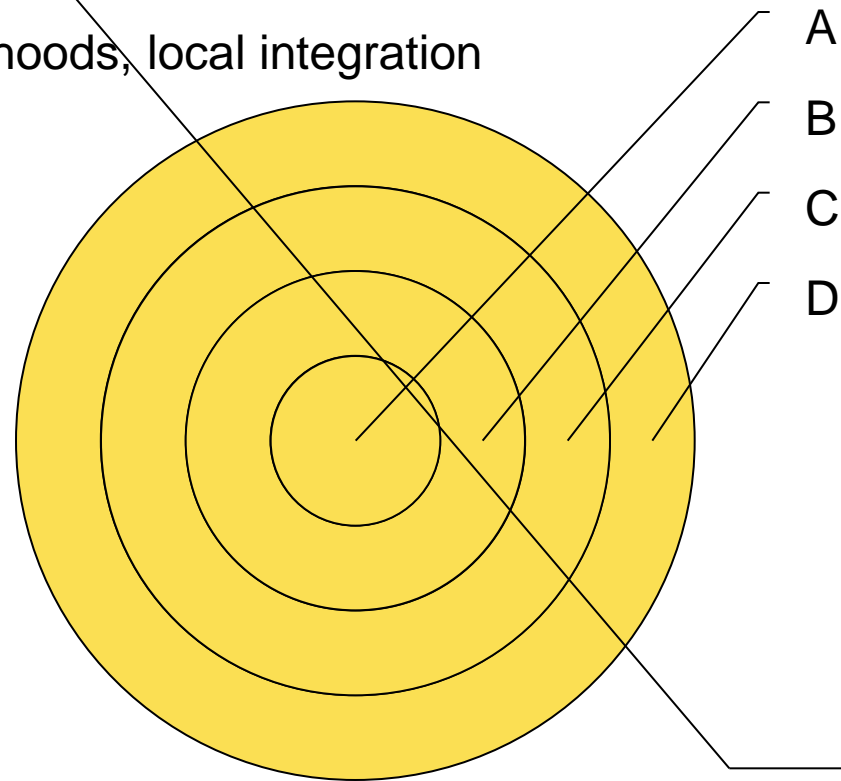
State

- **Individual**

The territorial principle: Proximity, neighbourhoods, local integration



The functional principle: Similarity, locally unconnected





Super- state ("international") regulation (EU, UN, NATO)

Intra-state regulation

Territorial ("nation-") state regulation

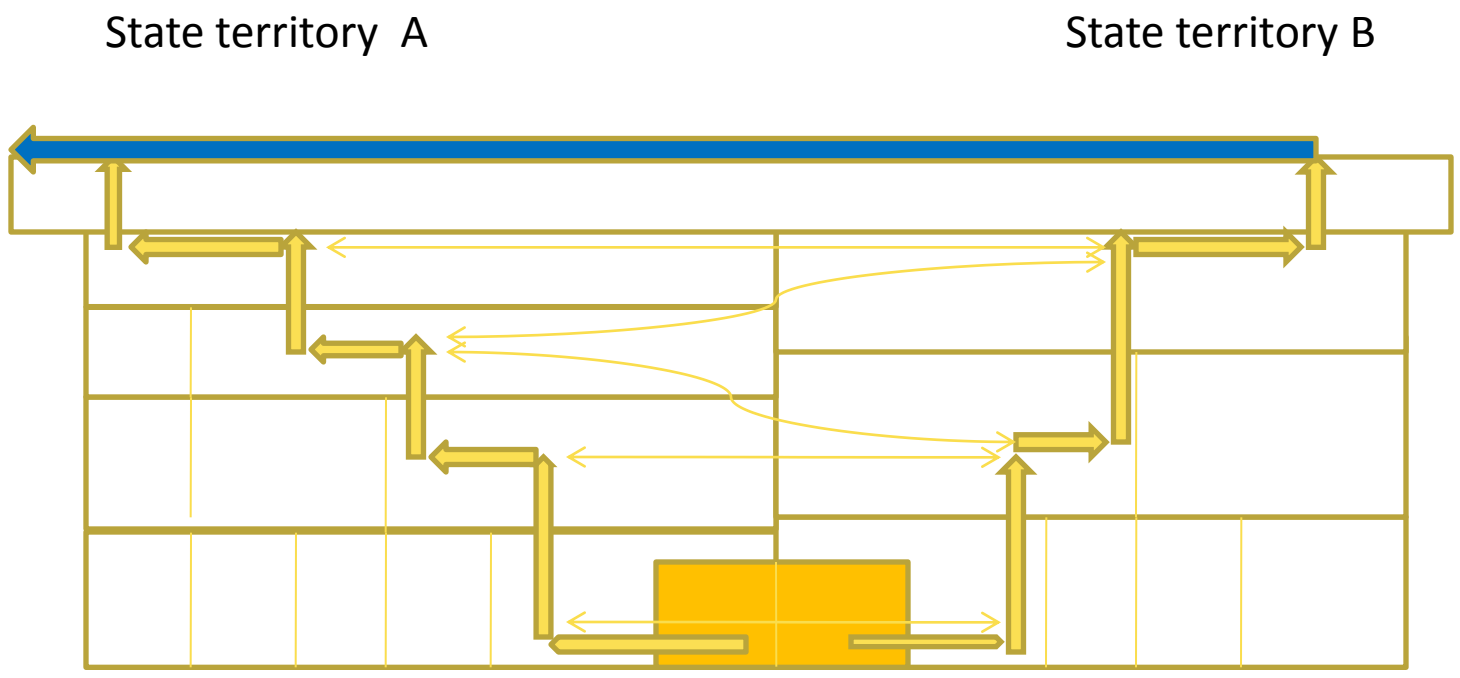
Intermediary level regulation

Local regulation

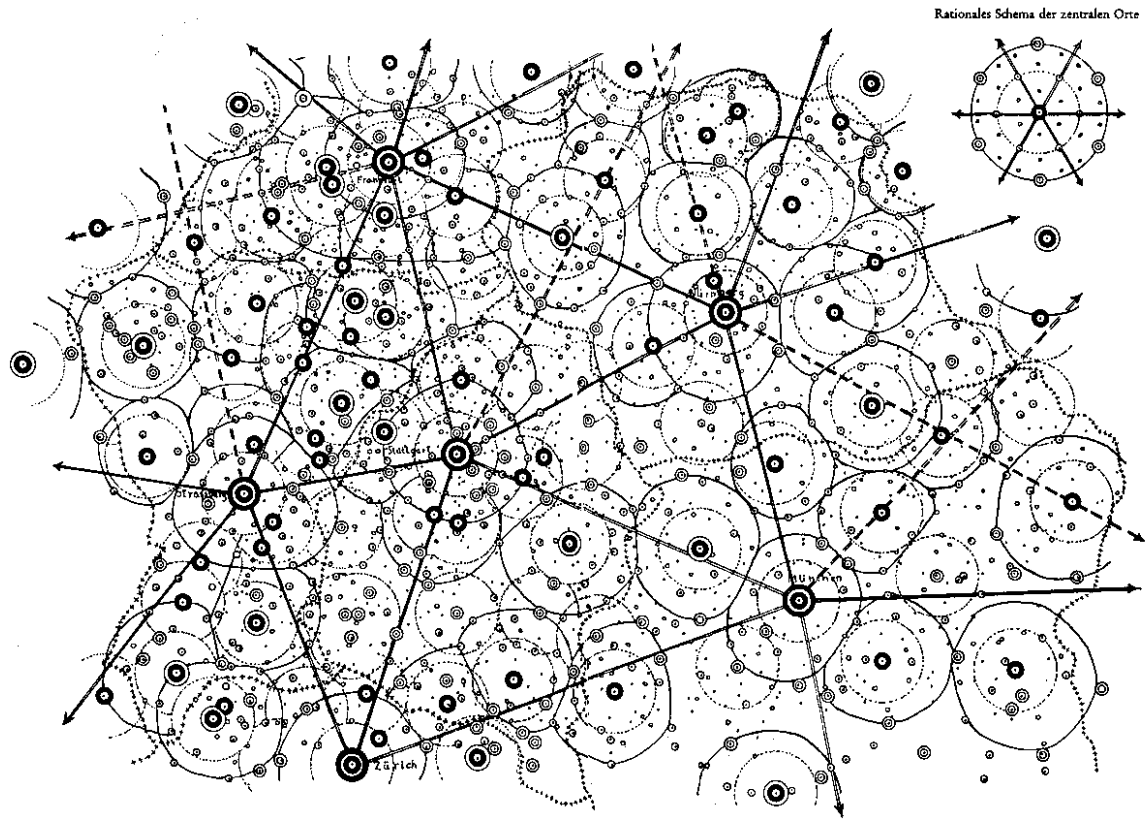
Individual "regulation"

Hierarchical asymmetry

The political treatment of a local trans-boundary problem
from local (bottom) to European Union (top)
(based on Lundén, 1973, p. 191)



Central place theory



- | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---|-------|-------|--------------------------------|
| ⊙ | L-Ort | • | K-Ort | | 21 km-K-Ring (schematisch) |
| ⊖ | P-Ort | • | A-Ort | — | Ring der B-Orte (normal 36 km) |
| ⊙ | G-Ort | • | M-Ort | +++++ | Grenzen der L-Systeme |
| • | B-Ort | | | ==== | L-Richtungen 1. Grades |
| | | | | ==== | L-Richtungen 2. Grades |

Karte 4
Das System der zentralen Orte in Süddeutschland

Theory (Christaller)

- Central place with super-territorial dominance (= Berlin)
- Central place with potential regional dominance (=Szczecin)
- Central place with potential local dominance (= Świnoujście)
- Boundary as barrier ("Market inconsistency")

- Weakest and poorest part of Bundesrepublik with population decrease; emerging but peripheral city on Polish side
- Natural barriers, north-south easier than east-west
- Natural protection versus tourism
- Natural protection and tourism against development of infrastructure using the boundary as protection
- Szczecin must grow beyond the boundary Warsaw is far, Berlin near
- Vorpommern can only grow through cooperation with Poland

Strengths

- Historical unity
- PL & DE both EU- and Schengen-countries
- New governments in the two countries now both committed to reconciliation
- Strong polity in DE, recent economic growth in Western PL
- Low labour costs in PL, low housing costs in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (DE)
- Szczecin's proximity to Berlin
- Infrastructure: Autobahn Szczecin-Berlin, Ostseeautobahn (Szczecin-Lübeck/Hamburg)

Opportunities

- Improved macroeconomics through increased labour migration and tourism(?)
- Improved microeconomics by more efficient use of labour, land and resources(?)
- Improving communications, infrastructure and services through commuting
- German experiences from other, successful euroregions transplanted to Pomerania
- Increased understanding for each other (decreasing extremism in M-V) → spin-off effect for the rests of the two countries?

Threats

- Strong historical awareness → distrust of each other → low level of interest in cooperation remains?
- Continuing restrictions on the free movement of labour? (German concerns for the 'Polish plumber' dumping salaries and contributing to unemployment)
- Environmental concerns remain as an excuse for not cooperating?
- → the region remains isolated and divided, dissatisfaction in M-V keeps growing and Szczecin's potential as a regional centre remains hampered

Weaknesses: a region of high imbalances

- Polish side: dense population, recent (multi)ethnic settlement, industrialised urbanisation, religious, periphery in relation to the state capital
- German side: sparse population, agricultural and recreational, unemployment, extremism, secular, relative proximity to the national capital
- → cooperation has been limited to emergency services, coastal observation and water purification
- Different administrative structures in the two countries (→ different capabilities)

Spatial relations

- Szczecin and Vorpommern need to develop in connection with Brandenburg and Berlin
- Mecklenburg will grow in relation to Hamburg



Slut, Ende, Koniec,
Kraj, Fin
The End

Thomas Lundén
Anders Mellbourn
Joachim von Wedel
Péter Balogh