

Capital city anchoring, intermediary theories and actors: the negotiation between capital spheres

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By intersecting finance capital spheres, at the financial market scale, with real capital spheres at the urban production scale (Harvey 2001; Corpataux and Crevoisier 2014; Halbert and Attuyer 2016), recent debates on political-economical geographies often position cities as the passive receptacle of financialisation, neglecting civil society needs (Aalbers 2015). With the fading of regulation borders and the globalization of capital flows, intermediary actors have emerged, forms of anchoring capital in the city have evolved and entrepreneurial logics have been imposed to governance and institutional structures (Guironnet and Halbert 2014; Weber 2010). However, intermediary theories analysing actors' translations suggest different perspectives, i.e. local actors anchoring “capital more openly, urban value is greater right from the start and can grow over time to the benefit of many actors, including financial actors.”(Theurillat et. al 2016).

Thus, this communication proposes to identify the latest converging and diverging theoretical points on negotiation of capital anchoring in cities. The constant recent contextual changes and the multidisciplinary relations between actors (institutions, real estate developers, community) demand further clarification. This systematic analysis relies on complementary methodologies recently used to build theoretical frames – 'stylized outline', 'future pathways and scenarios' (Brenner et. al 2010) – and 'continuing and comparative quoting' frames (Theurillat et. al 2016).

Therefore, this work intends to contribute towards an evolutionary view on present academic research. Additionally, by identifying inflections in the scientific timeline, it aims for a clearer context overview of the research on city capital, providing empowerment and manoeuvre space to the city during problematics identification.

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