

VU Research Portal

The Internal Structure of Cities:

Koster, H.R.A.

2013

document version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in VU Research Portal](#)

citation for published version (APA)

Koster, H. R. A. (2013). *The Internal Structure of Cities: The Economics of Agglomeration, Amenities and Accessibility*. Tinbergen Institute.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal ?

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

E-mail address:

vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl



The Internal Structure of Cities

The Economics of Agglomeration, Amenities and Accessibility

Hans Koster

A majority of the world population currently lives in cities, and this number is still rising. An open question is why people flock to cities and how cities are formed. Economists only recently became interested in what forces shape the internal structure of cities. In this thesis we analyse three, arguably the most important, economic forces that may have an impact on the structure of contemporary cities: agglomeration, amenities and accessibility. Using empirical data from the Netherlands, these economic forces are all found to be relevant and tend to shape the urban spatial structure. Despite the vast decrease in transportation costs of goods in the last century and the dramatic reduction in communication costs, agglomeration economies still seem to be a main driver of firms' location choices, likely caused by the need for costly face-to-face contacts that are crucial in deal-making, relationship adjustments and exchanging ideas. Consumer amenities are an important driver of location choices of households, and seem to increasingly shape the urban spatial structure. Likely because of the excellent accessibility of Dutch cities by car and public transport, we find limited effects of increased public transport accessibility.

Hans Koster (1987) obtained his bachelor's degree in Economics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and his master's degree (cum laude) in Spatial Economics at the VU University Amsterdam. He is currently working as an assistant professor at the Department of Spatial Economics, VU University Amsterdam. Hans is also affiliated with the Tinbergen Institute and the Spatial Economics Research Centre at the London School of Economics.

The Internal Structure of Cities

Hans Koster

