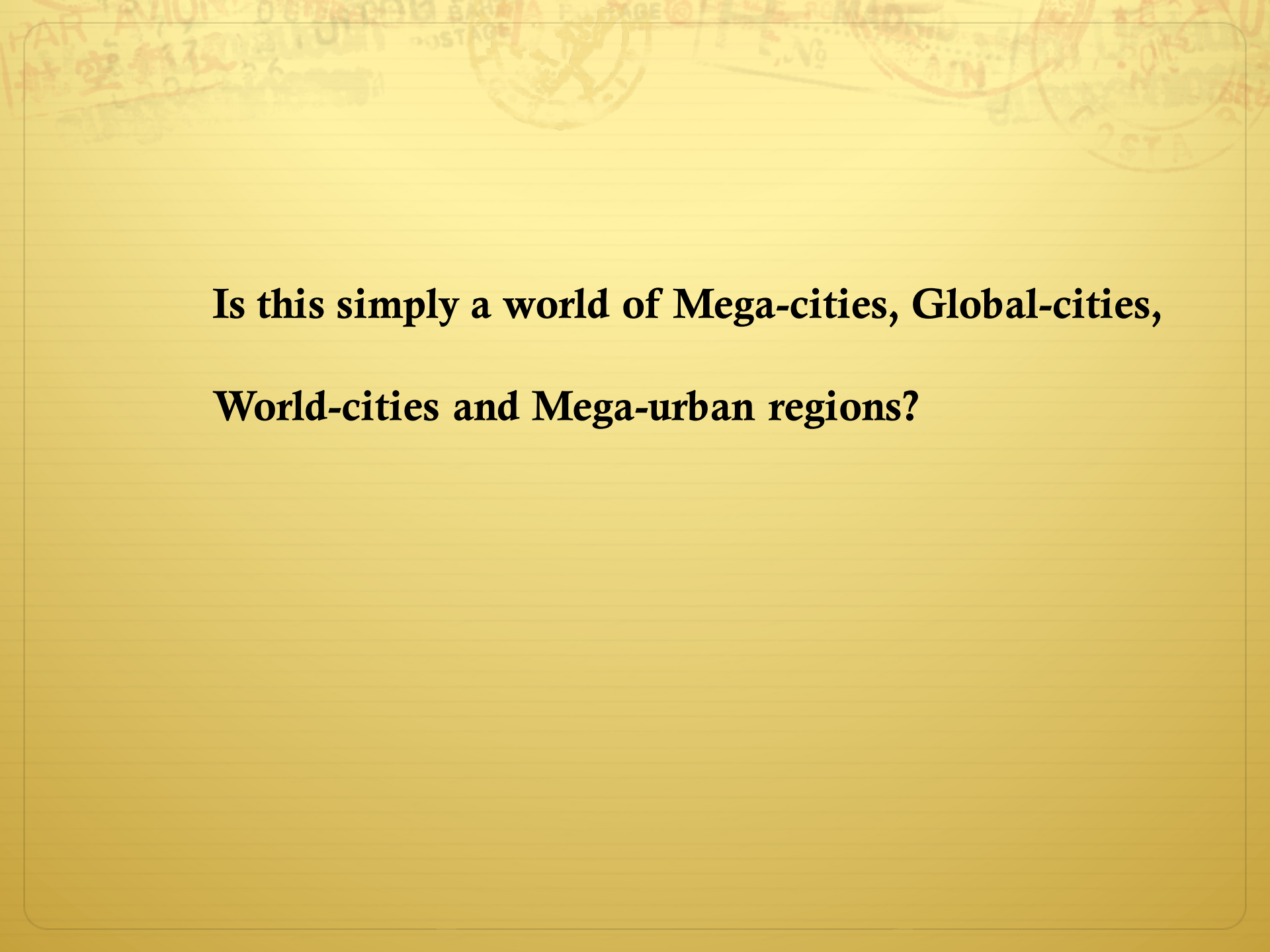


How Technological Innovation has Increased the Engagement of Smaller Cities in the Global Economy.

Peter Karl Kresl

A presentation at the 14th International Forum of the GUCP
Queretaro, Mexico
August 24-25, 2015

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**Is this simply a world of Mega-cities, Global-cities,
World-cities and Mega-urban regions?**

“Given that average costs appear to rise substantially in the largest conurbations there would seem to be a strong case for encouraging a settlement structure of medium-sized towns and cities rather than one involving only a few large cities”

The Economist Intelligence Unit

“The generic features of small and medium-sized cities – particularly their human scale, liveability, the conviviality of their neighbourhoods, and their geographical embeddedness and historical character – in many ways constitute an ideal of sustainable urbanism...Small and medium-sized cities are, therefore, essential for avoiding rural depopulation and urban drift, and are indispensable for...balanced regional development, cohesion and sustainability.”

The European Union

What is a 'smaller city'? What Criterion?

- Population
- The role of the city in the global economy
- The 'reach' of its economy and institutions
- How its residents and leaders think of themselves

Parr's four definitions of a city:

- Built city
- Consumption city
- Employment city
- Workforce city

The Historic roles of smaller cities:

- Peripheral
- Isolated
- Resource extraction and processing
- Universities/colleges and regional health care

Impacts of changes of technology on smaller cities

- Technology of production
- Technology of transportation
- Technology of communication

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The new place of smaller cities

Smaller cities in relation to larger cities (1):

- No positive correlation between city size and competitiveness

Smaller cities in relation to larger cities (2):

- They have advantages with regard to –
 - ambience
 - crime
 - migration
 - population 65 and older
 - owner-occupied housing

Smaller cities in relation to larger cities (3):

- They have disadvantages with regard to –
 - university graduates as a share of the population
 - professional, scientific and technical workers as a share of the work force
 - taxes per capita
 - households with income of \$200,000 or more

The reality of smaller cities

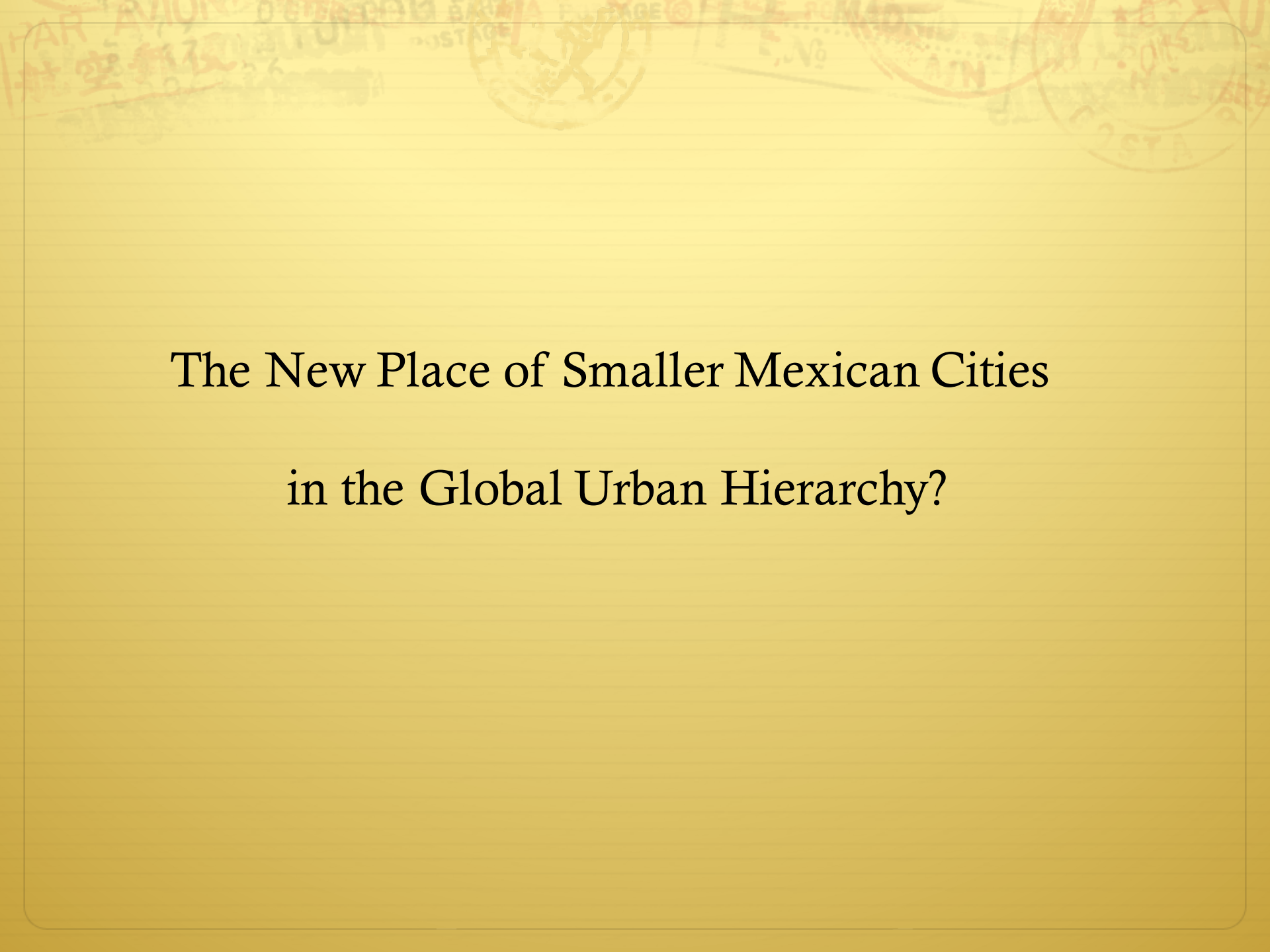
- Universities and colleges
- Strategic planning
- Identity and branding
- Agglomeration economies

Joel Kotkin's alternatives – “Anti-urban impulse”:

- Midopolis
- Nerdistan
- Revenge of the small towns

Final words:

- Smaller cities are different from larger cities
- Many differences benefit smaller cities
- They warrant being studied in and of themselves

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The New Place of Smaller Mexican Cities in the Global Urban Hierarchy?

Population of Mexican cities:

Mexico City – 8.9 million

Over 1 Million – 9 other cities

500,000-1 million -- 21 cities

250,000-500,000 – 32 cities

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