Project:
BORDER-DRAWING AND SPATIAL DIFFERENTIATION OF URBAN GOVERNANCE MODES IN THE PEARL RIVER DELTA WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO INFORMAL DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-ORGANIZATION

PROF. DR.-ING. UWE ALTROCK, UNIVERSITÄT KASSEL
Assoc. PROF. DR. WERNER BREITUNG, SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY GUANGZHOU (CHINA)
Assist. Prof. DR. MICHAEL WAIBEL, UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

Overall Objective :
To identify different governance modes, to understand the role of self-organisation and informal processes for these modes and to link the practice of differentiated governance with the creation of bounded space.
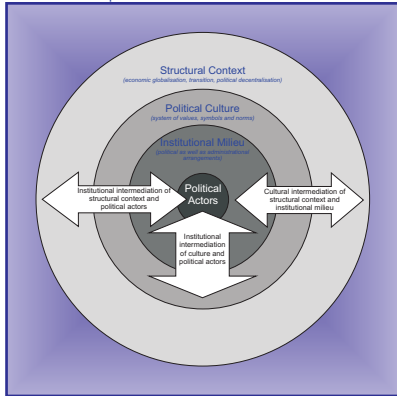
Important Hypotheses:
1) Distinct governance modes co-exist simultaneously in separated spatial units within the Pearl River Delta Region
2) Differentiated urban governance and the creation of borders can facilitate the governability of mega-urban regions
3) The drawing of borders establishes patterns of inclusion and exclusion, which have significant social impacts
4) Informal processes and self-organisation interact in different ways with the different governance modes

Expected Contributions to Theory Building
➡ Identification and explanation of spatially-related governance modes
➡ Analysis of structural power of borders
➡ Explanation of changing formal-informal relationships and economic, political as well as urban development background

Intermediation of political actors and their context

(DIGAETANO/STROM 2003: 372; modified)

Theory of Urban Governance:
In our project we define urban governance as the process of co-ordinating decision-making.

Urban Governance:
▫ is occurring within a nested set of environmental complexes in which political institutions provide the integument;
▫ is constructed as a series of intermediations across three levels of governance: structural, cultural, and rational;
▫ is meant to cover all forces influencing urban politics.

Institutional Milieu:
Political institutions do not act independently in decision-making. They are situated in a complex set of relations, which is called "institutional milieu".
Institutions are e.g.: governmental authorities / bodies and semi-private / private actors such as universities, private enterprises, and non-governmental organisations.

The relationships between the institutions are regulated by formal and non-formal arrangements mediating among the governance levels (structural context, cultural, and political actors):
▫ Formal arrangements (institutional bases) including governmental authorities, political parties, etc. are giving visible form to urban governance through rules and organisation;
▫ Non-formal arrangements (modes of governance) define non-visible governing relationships among and within the institutions.

Structural Context:
The process of political decision-making is not independent from exterior influences. Globalisation and state restructuring (e.g. transition, decentralisation) constitute the contemporary context of urban governance.

The effects of globalisation and state restructuring are influencing the political culture, the institutional milieu, and the political actors. Therefore, the modes of governance are also affected.

Political Culture:
Culture is defined as the system of values, beliefs, and symbols giving meaning to social and political organisation and action.

Culture functions to imbue political and governing institutions and practices with particular meaning and rationality for political actors.

Political Actors:
Political actors attempt to influence decision-making in ways benefitting themselves and the interest that they represent. Their success depends on their abilitiy to co-operate with other actors of different institutional bases.

In addition, the actors can be seen as carriers of culture and their understanding of the structural context and institutional milieu is affected by the values and beliefs they hold.

Urban Governance Modes:
An urban governance mode characterises the relationships among the institutions influencing urban politics in the city.

It describes how a city is being governed by analysing the relationships between the different actors and stakeholders (governing relations), the way decisions are taken (governing logic),
The importance of key decision-makers and the fundamental political objectives.

In developing an integrated framework for comparing urban governance DiGaetano/Strom (2003) identified governance modes in the United States, Canada, France, and Germany.

Modes of Urban Governance

	Clientelistic	Corporatist	Managerial	Pluralist	Populist
Governing relations	Particularistic, personalized, exchange	Exclusionary negotiation	Formal bureau-cratic, or contractual	Brokering/me-diating among competing in-terests	Inclusionary negotiation
Governing logic	Reciprocity	Consensus building	Authoritative decision making	Conflict mana-gement	Mobilization of popular support
Key decision Makers	Politicians and clients	Politicians and powerful civic leaders	Politicians and civil servants	Politicians and organized interests	Politicians and community movement leaders
Political objectives	Material	Purposive	Material	Purposive	Symbolic

(DiGaetano/Strom 2003: 366, modified)

Identification of Governance Modes – Challenge for PRD Region
The identification of urban governance modes is a challenge as decision-making in a highly-dynamic and diverse mega-urban region is a complex process.
In order to allow a manageable and reasonable preoccupation with our research objectives, we will mainly focus on:
▫ Case studies (investigating administrative, residential, and economic entities - government authorities, companies, etc.);
▫ Conducting interviews with key decision-makers and experts (working in the administration, universities, planning bureaus, etc.);
▫ Implementing surveys (addressing workers, residents, etc.);
▫ Collecting and analysing of documents.

More information on the project: http://www.bordersandgovernance.gwdg.de

Central Business District of Guangzhou, Capital of Guangdong Province

(Administrative Committee of the Guangzhou Development District - GDD, 2005)