Sharing perplexity about CITTA MEDIE

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Vi ringrazio per l’invitazione

Mi dispiace per non parlare la lingua ma ci sono in Piemont, posso parlare in francese
Non lavoro più, a questo punto, sul città medie in Italia e in europea

Italia: an exceptional case,
Learning process
WHAT HAPPENS TO CITTE MEDIE IN EUROPE?

• Classic story, state modernisation, large industrial cities, an English/american story
• Surprise: industrial districts local economic development piccole citte medie in Italy, medium sized cities in Europe
• difficult times for città medie but they will find new models
• Relational argument: what happens to città medie is related to what is going on in large metropolis or urban regions
• More interdependence: vertically and horizontally
A DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT FOR THE OLD QUESTION : LOST IN SPACE

- Globalization processes, rescaling
- Mobilities, demography, ageing
- State restructuring, in debt, fiscal crisis of the state (Streeck), slow growth
- Globalised financialised capitalism : very large firms
- Technological transformation, innovation, internet and proximity
- Neo liberalism ideology, pressure towards a market society
- Cities : des lieux et des liens, disconnections
SEVERAL INTERPRETATIONS

- Carnage, decline of citte medie, market logics, concentration, London
- Stability of the urban structure within a framework of general slow decline of Europe
- Differentiation: citta medie versus metropolitan areas
- A different model, citte medie, networks innovation,
- A globalised, post metropolitan world?
- Different types of urban regions, an Italian model/exception
- Corridor cities? Nobody stops, logic of hubs and spokes
A GENERAL EUROPEAN QUESTION

• Despite transformation and resistance, will the European model resist the pressure of a more globalised financial capitalism
• Diversity of case:
  • Italy: figures from PIN
  • But the general trend is reconcentration in the centre, including in the US
• Worrying political reactions: fear of the outside
THE MODEL OF EUROPEAN CITTÀ MEDIE DOES NOT WORK SO WELL

• Public investment
• Productivity: slow growth or flat rate
• Concentration of wealth production (Storper, Keys to the city)
• Ageing population
• Where do young people go? Global imaginations
• A more competitive world: education, tax, hospitals: quality, welcome in ranking world
• Forced competition?
• Limits of strategic vision: vision? Implementation
RESCALING : MASSIVE TRANSFORMATION

• Citta medie grandi versus medie piccole

• Francia : decline of medium sized cities (50.000) le monde des préfectures versus the triumph of regional capitals (beyond 250.000) : the quality of services

• Social, economic, demographic, cultural decline….with some exceptions

• What capacity to go beyond the logic of gentle decline (UK)
• A major resource
• But: elective belonging (M. Savage)
• Selective belonging
• Transnational mobility and social segregation as slow incremental long term major filtering processes
GLOBAL MEGACITIES?

- Megacities Giga cities? (sup à 20 millions)
- Urban, corridors?, 100 millions: US (East and West), Pearl Delta, Osaka Tokyo, Paris London?
- World cities: hierarchies, networks
- New Global cities: Sassen, advanced services and polarization: A difference of nature or a difference of degree? Concentration and dispersion (employment)
- New Megacities: Castells, nodes of networks
- Global city regions: innovation, social formations, political actors
- Post metropolis, post cities: fractal city and simcity
Impossibile visualizzare l’immagine. La memoria del computer potrebbe essere insufficiente per aprirla. L’immagine potrebbe essere danneggiata. Riavviare il computer e aprire di nuovo il file. Se viene visualizzata di nuovo la x rosso, potrebbe essere necessario eliminare l’immagine e inserirla di nuovo.
BRENNER : BEYOND PLANETARY’S URBANISATION
II HOWEVER

- Never one best way
- Strong resources of citte medie
- Diffusion of urbanisation: more or less related to metropolitan areas
- Governance capacity, Meloni: capacity to produce and deliver collective goods
- India, Africa: urbanisation is the rise of medium size cities
- Size does not always matter: Tokyo Yokohama and the stagnation of the Japanese economy
GOVERNANCE FAILURE

- Functional integration
- Serendipitous coordination
- Governance failure
- Aggregation, direction, capacity to mobilise, to exercise authority, to deliver policies, services, equipment, health, education
• Climate change
• Social order
• Housing instability, house prices (london the storage city)
• Limits to mobility
• Various understandings of quality of life
  Illusion of citta medie….in France
AIRPOCALYPSE
Hurricane Sandy
Over New York City
10.29.12
2000 GHOST ESTATES DUBLIN
EU

- Barroso’s years
- Mainstreaming and marginalisation of EU urban policy
- Rise and fall of urban policy
- New opportunity?
- Too little too late?
NATIONAL POLICIES

• Rise and fall of urban policy
• Support for national champions
• A new form of capital….ism in centralised countries in particular but also in Berlin, Madrid…think about Scotland
• Fiscal crisis of the states
Leviathan, Thomas Hobbes [1651]
Compagnon de Kerka, Publius Tacitus 2005
RISK FOR CITTÀ MEDIE BEYOND AN URBAN REGION: GENTLE DECLINE WITH EXCEPTIONS

- Period of accelerated change? Or Slow incremental large scale long term processes
- Fragmentation versus collective action capacity: organizing urban regions, or large scale networks of città medi with metropolitan areas
- What should be governed? Innovation in public policy mayors, transport, social services, education
- Productivity, economic development: not just national network (silicon Valley Bangalore Taiwan)
• Democracy: les rentiers, political elites, networks, dependence upon more scarce public sector funds
• Firms strategies: utilities, premium spaces, low quality services Utilities: EU regulations
• Social differentiation, rich enclaves, versus poor, old migrants, citta medie for lower middle classes
• Smart opened networked democratic strategic, coherent, competitive, resilient, sustainable.....