Abstract

The purpose of this book is to investigate world cities that are in a network. The network is constituted by the flows of capital, power, and information. The key innovation is ICT and the acknowledgment of human capital as an important economic resource. The research approach combines urban studies, sociology, and information science. Thus, diverse hypotheses have emerged in recent years that are going to describe the knowledge, creative, digital, or smart city. In the work at hand, I will combine the approaches of diverse city types and different research fields into one investigation. According to twelve hypotheses, characteristics and best practice examples of informational world city's development will be identified. The focus is to emphasize on real world examples.

The dominating research method is grounded theory which allows to mix different approaches to gather data, e.g. interviews, field research, and statistics. In total, 31 cities are investigated regarding their digital and cognitive infrastructure, political willingness and cityness. The interviews and field studies have been conducted between June 2010 and May 2014. Literature and secondary data has been updated continuously. The focus of this empirical investigation of 31 informational world cities is to verify actual research approaches based on expert interviews. Do experts with different backgrounds and from different origins agree with general assumptions that explain the success and forecast further growth of cities in the 21st century?

In general, cities in a globalized world become more similar. Moreover, they are following the similar strategies to foster future success. Thus, for instance, city planners develop citywide ubiquitous connectivity through Wi-Fi hotspots, establish science parks and knowledge clusters in an entire neighborhood, introduce bike and car sharing, and finally push entrepreneurship and coworking spaces. All this is happening under the flagship of becoming a knowledge or smart city. But some cities are outstanding in their performance in a special sector. This could be the elite university located in or near the city as wells as an extraordinary stock exchange market. Whether it is money or talent both bring capital into the city. Thus, Boston and San Francisco Bay Area are both attracting knowledge with regard to their elite universities and New York is attracting power in terms of finance and multinational corporations. The results of this investigation present how the diverse cities meet the changing demands of the knowledge society in an increasing digitized environment.