

Peter Hall †

Professor of Planning and Regeneration at the Bartlett School of Planning, University College London; Senior Research Fellow at the Young Foundation

2005 Balzan Prize for The Social and Cultural History of Cities since the Beginning of the 16th Century

For his unique contribution to the history of ideas about urban planning, his acute analysis of the physical, social and economic problems of modern cities and his powerful historical investigations into the cultural creativity of city life.

Institution Administering Research Funds: The Bartlett School of Planning, University College of London

Adviser for the Balzan General Prize Committee: Keith Thomas

New Patterns of Urban Activity

The following projects financed by Sir Peter Hall with the second part of his Balzan Prize were carried out at the Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis at the University College of London. These projects stem from his studies and were carried out under his supervision.

1. Labour Markets and Housing Markets in England

As proposed by Sir Peter Hall, PhD student Basak Demires Ozkul worked on the changing economic structure of the North West of England, one of the cradles of the English Industrial Revolution, which has been impacted by deindustrialization over the last forty years. She also continued to work on her specialist subject of housing, on which she had previously worked with Professor Lawrence Vale at MIT. The outcome was an extremely ambitious attempt to marry two different research streams: labour market modeling and housing market modeling. She examined the simultaneous operation of these two markets within her chosen region – an ideal area for the purpose, comprising two major cities that are successfully making the transition into the knowledge-based service economy, neighbouring industrial towns that are struggling to do so, and an attractive countryside to which many of the workers in the “new economy” are commuting.

Basak Demires Ozkul has also worked as assistant to Sir Peter Hall on research in a related field, which will be published by the UK Government Office for Science as a jointly-authored publication: Government Office for Science, *Long Science Review on the Influence of Significant Drivers on Land Use since 1945*.

2. *Geographical and Temporal Patterns of Information Flows in European Cities*

A very able young American who had been Sir Peter's Master's student, Jonathan Reades, worked on innovative research strategies using mobile phone company data to analyse the geographical and temporal patterns of information flows in European cities. He developed a highly productive working relationship with MIT's SENSEable City Laboratory, the world's leading research group in the field of mapping mobile phone data as a means of analysing urban activity patterns. Here he has contributed to proposals that culminated in SENSEable's installation at the MoMA in New York and in a disaster-planning research project with the Dutch telecommunications company Koninklijke KPN N.V.

3. *European Identity and Recent Immigrants into European Cities*

Dr. Francesca Recchia, who completed her PhD on "Histories, Cultures and Literatures of English speaking Countries" at the Oriental Institute in Naples in 2005, was engaged in postdoctoral studies on "European Identity" with Sir Peter Hall from October 2006 to October 2007. Her focus, stemming from her PhD, was an analysis of this through recent European literature, concentrating on writers with multiple ethnic and cultural identities. She first produced a paper on London as seen through the eyes of contemporary novelists who are either recent immigrants or children of immigrants, and then repeated the exercise for Paris in a published article (Recchia, 2008).

About a tenth of the research sum was allocated to the Young Foundation (formerly the Institute of Community Studies) to finalize and pay for two studies in book form. *London Voices, London Lives* was published in 2007 by Policy Press. It consists of edited transcripts of more than one hundred interviews with Londoners in eight different sample areas in and around the city. *The Polycentric Metropolis: Learning from Mega-City Regions in Europe* was published in 2006 by Earthscan Publications. Fifty copies of this book were donated to the young researchers who participated in the POLYNET project, analyzing and describing flows of information and their geographical patterns in eight regions of North West Europe.

Researchers:

Basak Demires Ozkul
Jonathan Reades
Francesca Recchia

Publications:

- Calabrese, F., J. Reades and C. Ratti. "Eigenplaces: segmenting space through digital signatures". *IEEE Pervasive Computing*, 9.1 (2010): 78-84.
- Andris, C., A. Biderman, F. Calabrese, G. Krings, N. Nabian, C. Ratti, J. Reades and F. Rojas. "City Gravity". *SEED Magazine* (February 2009).
- Calabrese, F., J. Reades and C. Ratti, "Eigenplaces: analyzing cities using the space-time structure of the mobile phone network". *Environment and Planning B: Planning & Design*, 2009, vol. 36 (5): 824-36.
- Reades, J. (in peer review) "People, Places and Privacy: using Finite State Machines to preserve privacy while mining the mobile phone network". *Journal of Urban Technology*. [Note: the above paper has been cited in *Tourist Mobility and Advanced Tracking Technologies*, to be published by Routledge Geography.]
- Recchia, F. "Immigration, Politics and Violence in Urban France: Between Fiction and Facts". *Information, Society and Justice* ISSN 1756-1078 (Online) Vol. No. 1 (December 2008).
- Hall, P. *London Voices, London Lives: Tales from a Working Capital*. London: Policy Press, 2007.
- Hall, P. *The Polycentric Metropolis: Learning from Mega-City Regions in Europe*. London: Earthscan Publications, 2006.