



The economic geography of advanced maritime business services and implications for strategic urban policy

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Résumé

Within research on world cities, much attention has been paid to advanced producer services (APS) and their role within both global urban hierarchies and network formation between cities. What is largely ignored is that these APS (such as insurance, finance, consultancy) provide services to firms operating in a range of different sectors, such as maritime transport and shipping. Does sector-specific specialisation of advanced producer services influence the economic geography of corporate networks between cities? If so, what factors might explain this geographical pattern? This paper investigates these theoretical questions by empirically focusing on those advanced producer services related to the port and maritime sector. The empirical results show that the location of these maritime business services is correlated with maritime localisation economies, expressed in the presence of ship owners and port-related industry as well as business services in general, but not by throughput flows of ports. In addition to these more quantitative analyses, case study findings from Rotterdam and Amsterdam are provided, with a more specific focus on commodity trading activity. Based upon the findings, policy recommendations are addressed.

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Biographie

Wouter Jacobs is Assistant Professor at Institute of Transport and Maritime Management Antwerp (ITMMA) at University of Antwerp, Belgium. He holds a doctorate in management sciences from the Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and he worked previously as postdoctoral researcher at Erasmus University Rotterdam (Port and Transport Economics) and Utrecht University (Economic Geography). His research examines the interface between economic geography and transport economics, in particular in the context of globalization and urban governance. His research related to ports has been published in edited volumes and academic journals including *Maritime Policy and Management*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Urban Studies*, *Regional Studies*, *GeoJournal*, and *Journal of Transport Geography*. In addition Wouter has been involved in contract research for the Port of Rotterdam Authority, the OECD, Port of Amsterdam Authority, City Development Corporation Rotterdam and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs & Innovation.