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"Constructing metropolitan political spaces: Contrasting strategies in Montreal and Toronto"

In this paper, we compare city-regionalism in Montreal and Toronto: 1) Is there emergence of a collective actor at the city-regional scale and how is the consensus produced?; 2) Is there a political, territorial, institutional frame at the city-regional scale that enables states to coordinate between economic and social activities, actors and processes and to produce coherent public policies? Looking specifically at policies designed to increase international competitiveness, transportation and environmental policies, we study how different urban-regional cultures are reflected in the creation of city-regional political spaces. Montreal and Toronto operate differently at the city-regional scale, reflecting different configuration of actors, power struggles, historical developments, and political cultures. Moreover, the dynamic relationship between central cities and suburbs, as well as between municipalities and the provincial and federal governments, differ significantly in both city-regions. These empirical differences enable us to engage with the theoretical debate between rescaling/reterritorialization processes and topological/networking logics.