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"Metropolitan Governance, Growth, and Inequality. An International Perspective"

Despite the flowering of interest in governance at the metropolitan level, a prerequisite to systematic inquiry in this area remains the absence of cross nationally comparable indicators of what kinds of governance area taking place. Incorporation of geographic social and spatial data into the institutional analysis would enable a clearer view of the effective nature of any convergence or divergence. Taking US and France as case studies, we will propose a general framework using four questions. What institutional practices of governance are emerging at the metropolitan level, and are these converging or diverging? What differences have institutions, policies and other practices at the national level made for the patterns of metropolitan governance? Have forms of metropolitan governance contributed to stronger economic performance? Have differences in metropolitan governance contributed to disparities in the delivery of social services across metropolitan areas?