

Ronald K. Vogel, Professor

"Rescaling the City: A Comparative Perspective of Metropolitan Reform and Regionalism in Toronto and Tokyo"

The city as a place and a set of institutions fails to comport with the new urban realities. The forces shaping metropolitan cities today include globalization, metropolitanization, decentralization and devolution, and the ascendance of market-based philosophies. Taken together, a rescaling and reterritorialization process is underway in city-regions. This takes the form of redefining the purpose and function of local government and degree of local autonomy. In addition, the desirable and appropriate boundaries to provide public services efficiently and effectively and to compete as a city-region in the world economy are also being redrawn. Who controls the process and the values embedded in the new institutions, jurisdictions, and boundaries has important consequences for the nature of local democracy and social sustainability in the city. In this paper, I compare recent metropolitan reforms in Tokyo and Toronto to explore these themes.