Globalisation and Cities Research Program

Inform, Enhance, Compete:
Propelling Australian cities onto the world stage

The Globalisation and Cities Research Program (GCRP) investigates the social, economic, political and cultural changes of Australia’s major cities and regions, through a range of research initiatives. Our research assists policy formulation by various levels of government and business, to improve the competitiveness of Australian cities and regions in an increasingly competitive and globalised world.

The GCRP has been formed as an arm of the ANZSOG Institute for Governance at the University of Canberra. It seeks to unravel the complexities of globalisation and urbanisation, their contributory and resultant factors, and their associated challenges for policy and planning in Australia’s major cities and regions.

GCRP’s research is of relevance to all Australian cities and regions, particularly as the nation seeks to position itself to take advantage of the Asian Century. Our research is collaborative in focus, and aims to partner with government and business to inform successful and sustainable urban policy.

Our key research issues include urban policy, governance, planning, urban competitiveness, migration, global cities, and space of flows in cities.

The GCRP is currently working with commonwealth, state and local government agencies as well as the business sector. This work is providing cutting-edge research support for evidence-based policy formulation, to strategically position Australian cities and regions in a globalised world.

**GCRP’s key aims**

To investigate the impacts of globalisation and urbanisation on Australia and its major cities and regions.

To show the social, economic, and environmental characteristics of Australia’s major cities and regions, as a means to support the formulation of government policy and boost the appeal of Australia’s major centres abroad.

To uncover the various forms of people movement to, from, and between Australian cities, and the social, economic, and political outcomes of such movement.

To expose how attractive Australia’s cities and regions are to talented, globally mobile workers.

To provide an evidence base for improved urban forms and environments, as a means to support increased innovation, creativity and productivity.

To assist government and business to improve the liveability, sustainability, and social cohesion of Australian cities and regions.

**Contact us**

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GCRP Projects

Social Transformation, Migration and Global Cities

This project, in collaboration with Australia’s Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), is looking at changes in people movement and other social consequences associated with the concepts of globalisation and urbanisation. Using the Sydney region as a case study, the project is looking at the types of people moving to Australia’s major cities and the qualities they bring to their new surroundings. This research also looks at potentially consequential social trends such as gentrification, polarisation, and the clustering of people with particular professional and/or ethnic backgrounds. This research will help inform Australia’s future skilled migration policies, to attract and retain highly skilled workers to Australia’s major cities.

Sydney as a Global Talent Hub

The GCRP is working with the NSW Government to study skilled people movement to the Sydney region. This project aims to understand the types of talent most likely to live and work in the Sydney region, and the potential attractors and barriers standing between them and relocation to the Sydney region. Our findings will assist in targeted policies and marketing, to position the Sydney region as a global hub for talent in a wide range of key industries.

Competitiveness of Australian Cities: Productivity, Sustainability, and Liveability

This project is building a competitiveness index for Australia’s 18 major cities of more than 100,000 residents. The index considers a range of productivity, sustainability and liveability factors, to inform government and business decision makers on the strengths of Australia’s major cities, and areas in need of improvement.

Is Canberra a Global City?

While Australia’s national capital may not be as well-known or as prominent on the international business stage as Sydney or Melbourne, it still has many of the attributes required of a global city. This study looks at Canberra’s unique position as a base of education, innovation, and administration, to assess where it sits in the global city hierarchy. Through this work we aim to provoke thought of the Canberra region as an area with the requisite skill base for greater national and international economic links.

Housing and Sustainable Development in the Canberra Region

The GCRP is partnering local industry to assess the state of housing and sustainable development in the Canberra region. By exploring issues of housing affordability, and the demand for various types, sizes, and locations of housing, our work will assess the need and viability of future residential development in the ACT and its surrounds.

Creative Cities and Migration

Urban competitiveness is becoming increasingly reliant on the ability to create and innovate. Much of this innovation occurs in creative industries, such as architecture and design, advertising, motion picture production, and the creative and performing arts, which attract skilled workers from Australia and abroad. This project intends to uncover the size of creative industries in Australia’s major cities, to assess their ability to compete for greater shares of national and international business.