

Measuring Advanced Producer Services in a Global CBD: Sydney 2001-2011

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The rise of advanced producer services as a driver of urban economies is inextricably linked to globalization (Taylor, 2011). In this study, we report on the concentration of advanced producer services in the CBD of Sydney, Australia's leading global city. This study is underpinned by the global city thesis that a global city's status is determined by its capacity to provide advanced producer services, and that the activities of these services tend to be concentrated in central business districts (CBD) (Sassen, 2001). This global city thesis, together with the information technology facilitated "space of flows" (Castells, 2000), has informed what might be called an "exogenous" approach that focuses on inter-city connectivity through globalised economic activities (Taylor, 2004). This exogenous approach has dominated the global city literature that maps out a global city network within which individual cities are interlinked, including Sydney (Taylor, 2004; Taylor et al., 2011; Taylor, et al., 2014;). Such studies have revealed Sydney's increasingly established position in the global city network, and its growing role as the gateway city of Australia's economy and an important urban node of the integrated global economy.

In this study, we take a different approach by employing an "endogenous" approach that focuses on the concentration of advanced producer services inside Sydney to offer a more localised and nuanced understanding of the city's global capacity. The findings inform an appreciation of the city's response to global economic forces and in particular an appreciation of how the planning system steers development forces into a mediation of private and public interest.

Empirically, the notion of a global Sydney is testified by a diversity of economic indicators. Sydney's rise as a global city has been reflected by its economic

restructuring towards global command and control functions, a burgeoning finance sector, and international economic connections (Searle, 1996); by its industrial shift from manufacturing to a post-industrial information economy (Fagan, 2000); and by the emergence of a knowledge-based economy and being a regional headquarters of multinationals, producer services, and financial services (Stein, 2002). Among these economic transformations, the prominent one is the financialisation of economic activities in Sydney (O'Neill & McGuirk, 2002, 2005). These transformations are most imprinted in the CBD area. The Sydney CBD has experienced a growing concentration of the knowledge-based economy in relation to its metropolitan region (Hu, 2012). This concentration is manifested in the formation of industry clusters, including advanced producer services and higher-order business (Searle & Pritchard, 2005), and multimedia industries (Searle & Valence, 2005). The concentration of these activities, and the recalibration of the city's response through strategic policy and development controls, has reshaped the land use in the Sydney CBD including growing space for amenity activities to support the business workforce (Hu, 2014).

This study builds upon but extends the existing global Sydney literature that has addressed Sydney's integration with the global economy and the financialization of its economic base. We measure the concentration of advanced producer services in the Sydney CBD in 2001-2011, and further dissect them by industry sectors (financial services, legal services, accountancy, management consultancy, media, and advertising) and by occupations (managers and professionals), utilising Australian Census 2001 and 2011 data structured by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) and by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) respectively. We analyse the time-series changes and spatial shifts of these industry sectors and occupations to obtain a holistic picture as well as a detailed appreciation trends in advanced producer services allied to Sydney's growing role as a global city. The findings translate into a better understanding of the forces, impacts and governance implications of development processes in a global CBD at the beginning of the 21st century.

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