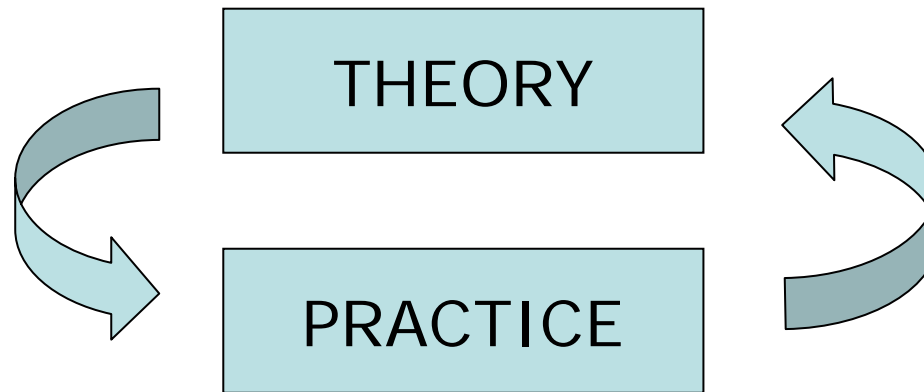


Werner Breitung, Matthias Becker, Sonia Schoon

**Analysis of Governance Modes  
in the Chinese Context -  
On the Adaptation of a Western Concept**

## Theory and Practice



- Theory generalises the experiences of practice
- Practice applies and adapts theories to reality

**How big should the gap between theory and practice be?**

Aim of the German Research Foundation's Priority Programme 1233:

**Better understanding of the reorganisation of spatial, social and institutional relationships in mega cities**

**Mega cities:** defined by size

**Characteristics of mega cities:**

- **Size**
- **Dynamic**
- **Diversity**



**Problem of governability**

Infrastructure provision, urban services, security, housing, development control, law and order,...

**Is there a point from which on size reduces efficiency of the city as a system?**

# Case study: Pearl River Delta



**LEGEND**

- Railway
- Main road
- Secondary road
- Built-up area / Cultivation
- Airport / Major port
- Power station
- Peak (in metres)
- Contours (vertical interval 200 metres with supplementary contour at 100 metres)
- Sea depth in metres

NOTE: Data compiled from different sources. The publisher cannot guarantee absolute accuracy of all data shown herein.

# Pearl River Delta: Spatially differentiated governance

## ❑ Special Administrative Regions

Photo:  
HK SAR boundary

## ❑ Special Economic Zones

## ❑ Export Processing and Development Zones

## ❑ Fenced factory compounds

Photo:  
Fence of a factory compound

# Pearl River Delta: Spatially differentiated governance

## ❑ Commodity housing estates

Photo: Gate of a commodity housing estate in Panyu (Guangzhou)



## ❑ So-called “urban villages”

Photo:  
Gate between urban village and Sun Yatsen University



## Spatial differentiation of governance modes

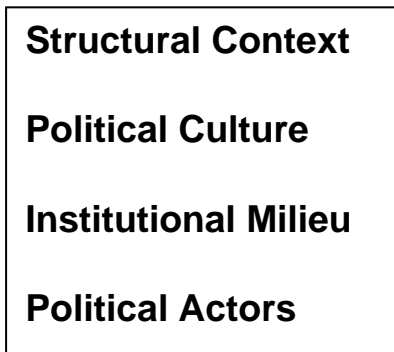
- ❑ Different rules, laws and regulations are applied.
- ❑ Different policies are implemented.
- ❑ Power is divided differently among all the levels of state, the private sector and public.
- ❑ The extent to which self-organisation and informality are tolerated or used differs.

**Aims: Identification of governance modes, analyses of purposes and of (unintended) consequences of differentiated governance**

# Urban governance interaction model

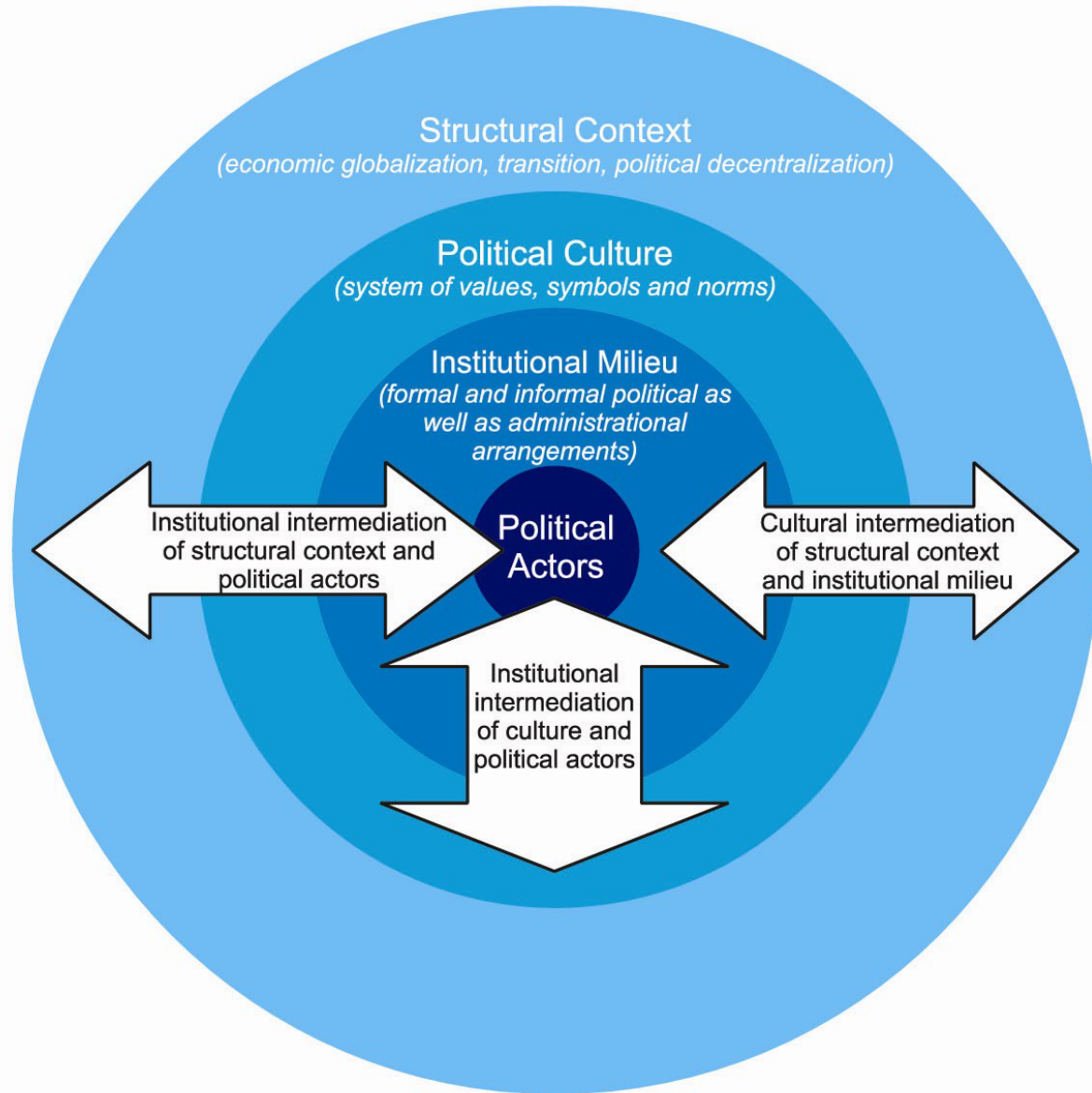
(DiGaetano/Strom 2003)

**Integrates structural, cultural and actor-oriented approaches**



**Best understood in the context of institutional change**

Figure:  
DiGaetano/Strom 2003  
p. 372 (modified)





## Application of the concept in China

The Chinese context is to be considered, concerning e.g.:

- understanding of governance;
- concept of informality;
  
- importance of the Communist Party of China;
- socialism with Chinese characteristics.

## Case study

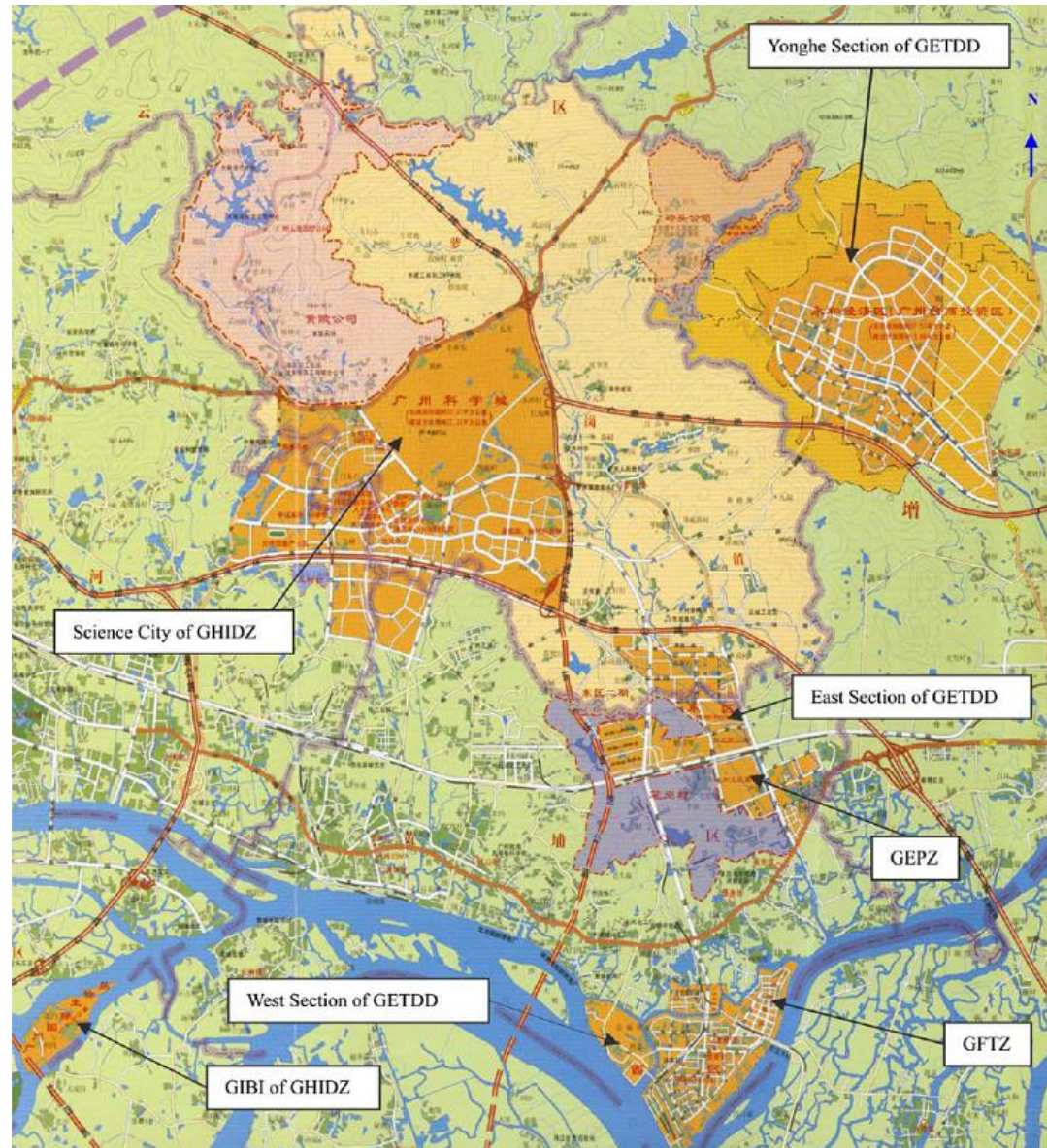
### Guangzhou Development District (GDD)



## Case study

### GDD's Development

- Sectoral Establishment
- Differentiation
- Management Reform
- Administrative Reform
- Comprehensive Urban Management Approach



## Identification of governance modes

### Structural Context

- general context: reform measures towards market-oriented economy;
- case study: competition between zones is increasing.

### Political Culture

- Cantonese culture to be considered;
- socialism with Chinese characteristics.

### Actors / Stakeholders

- Guangzhou Municipality, Administrative Committee of the GDD;
- Companies, Developers;
- Workers, Villagers.

## Identification of governance modes

### Preliminary findings for the GDD

- Rather growth-oriented modes of governance can be found – as expected.
- Besides, the co-existence of different modes and fast changes in the modes can be identified.  
E.g. from case-to-case decisions towards managerialism.
- These changes in the modes also reflect the changes in the structural context.