

Doctoral Studies

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How do we define the Zurich Agglomeration?

The Zurich agglomeration has clearly outgrown the boundaries of both Zurich City and Canton. Without relying on these political boundaries, how can we define what areas make up the agglomeration? This picture shows four different ways the agglomeration has been defined. The first identifies areas with “urban character,” a complicated metric based on inhabitants, employees, visitors, commuters and adjacencies that uses a sampling grid to avoid traditional political borders. The second defines the agglomeration by population, including inhabits, commuters, and visitors. The third defines the agglomeration by resident population alone, and the fourth by population density. While no one of these is the “correct” definition of the agglomeration, together these definitions begin to build a more nuanced picture of the Zurich metropolitan area.

Mayank Kaushal

Development of an Urban Quality Index (UQI) for Second-Tier Cities in Europe

With the primary objective to measure and enhance the quality of life and sustainability in the cities, the majority of indices and ranking methods are geared towards first-tier cities as a top-down approach. With an emphasis on first-tier cities, such ranking systems are not equipped to address the challenges of the second-tier cities. There is a considerable gap in sustainability and urban quality assessment concerning development guidelines for second and third-tier cities. The re/calibration of liveability covering the shortfall on second and third-tier cities which offer more development space and opportunities for quality and sustainable living. The steps involve all stakeholders and assessment of indicators and benchmarking techniques specific to selected second-tier cities.