

Research Interests

The role of producer services in the economic restructuring of 'advanced economies' is the focus for my research. Within this broad remit particular attention is given to the global aspects of service production, especially the activities of service transnational corporations, foreign direct investment and international trade in services. I am also interested in the relationship between the rise of services and uneven development with particular reference to metropolitan areas and the urban system more generally. A very recent interest is the robustness of the services-manufacturing 'divide' for understanding the organisation and location of production in knowledge-based and information intensive economies.

Current and Planned Research Activities

- Export of Services or Servicing Exports?

This research is based on an analysis of the patterns of international trade and foreign direct investment by services during the last decade. This suggests that relative to trade in goods, few economies can rely on direct services trade to sustain economic growth and international competitiveness. It could make more sense to concentrate on facilitating the indirect use of the knowledge and expertise provided by services to enhance national or local/regional export performance.

- Producer Services and Economic Development in the Asia-Pacific

This ongoing research is part of a collaborative project involving researchers from Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, the US and Japan. There are indications that the growth and diversification of producer services has not kept pace with the emergence of the region as a major source of manufactured goods worldwide. Some possible explanations have been identified and are being examined using primary and secondary information compiled through desk-based and recent field research.

- Services Trade and Producer Service Companies: a comparative analysis of Australian and UK experience in the Asia Pacific region

A planned joint investigation with an Australian colleague of the mechanisms that UK and Australian firms use to interact with host markets when trading services; how these evolve over time and how they shape the types of employment provided. Expected outcomes include new perspectives on the internationalisation of producer service firms.

Publications

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"The locational geography of advanced producer services in the United Kingdom", *Progress in Planning*, 43 (parts 2-3), 123-138 1995

"Services in a shrinking world", *Geography*, 80, 97-110, 1995

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"Business Link, strong ties and the walls of silence", (with J R Bryson) *Environment and Planning C*, 16, 265-280, 1998

"Producer services and the Asia-Pacific Region in a global context", *Asia Pacific Viewpoint*, 39, 145-159, 1998

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