

2. 'the more globalised the economy becomes, the higher the agglomeration of central functions in...global cities' (Sassen, 2001)

Networked approach

- Spaces of flows = dominant spatial logic of the informational society
- Spaces of flows connects places with specific functions [nodes]
- Not just cities at the top of the hierarchy but many cities, all with different functions to play - can't only focus on the global cities
- Sometime she work on global cities can be idealistic (almost like a brand, sweeps social/environmental issues under the carpet)

Global cities and inequality

- All three theories challenge the idea that globalisation:
 1. Enables economic activity to become placeless and hyper-mobile - APS activity becomes embedded in place BECAUSE of the economy globalising not in spite of it
 2. That this hyper-mobile economic activity benefits everyone equally:
 - Dual City (Castells)
 - Polarisation (Sassen)
 - Uneven globalisation (GaWC)
 - All three argue that as cities globalise, levels of inequality increase

Polarisation

- 'Almost half the jobs in the producer services are lower-income jobs and half are in the two highest earnings classes. In contrast, a large share of manufacturing workers were in the middle earnings jobs during the post-war period of high growth in these industries in the United States and United Kingdom.' (Sassen, 2001)
- So we have moved from a large proportion of middle-income jobs to extreme highs and lows of income
- The service industry needs highly educated staff and is willing to pay for it
 - Growth in part-time and temporary contracts and other forms of insecure work
 - The service sector and demand for low-paid, low-skilled service work
- Gentrified and Super-gentrified and spatial concentration of poverty are often 'cheek by jowl', sitting side by side

'World Cities'?

- It is a view that:
 - Foregrounds financial and corporate activity
 - Emphasised hierarchy and competition
 - Makes globalisation look very Western
 - And focuses on specific cities and on specific districts within those cities (such as Canary Wharf within London)
- By foregrounding this view, other possible understandings of what constitutes world or global 'cityness' are obscured

'World of cities'?

- Peck (2015) highlights two main reactions to this hierarchical, competition focused approach:
 - The reintroduction of the 'ordinary city' into urban theory
 - e.g. Amin A. and Graham S. (1997)
 - Postcolonial turn - realisation that the global south is incredibly important in all this