



SITUATED KNOWLEDGE ON THE MOVE?

REFLECTIONS ON URBAN POLICY MOBILITIES / IMMOBILITIES

Institute of Australian
Geographers, July 2011

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Outline

- Introduction
- Empirical & conceptual starting points
 - ▣ Harm Reduction
 - ▣ Policy mobilities & mutations
 - ▣ Situated knowledge
- Situated knowledge on the move?
- 'The grip of encounter': Immobilities in the service of mobilities
- Unequal mobilities, immobilities, failures, & exclusions
- Conclusions

INPUD

International Network of People who Use Drugs

We are
the **Drug**
Policy
Alliance.

HARM REDUCTION 2010

IHRA'S 21ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Liverpool



VANDU



Vancouver Area Network
of Drug Users

EURASIAN HARM REDUCTION NETWORK

EHRN



ЕВРАЗИЙСКАЯ СЕТЬ СНИЖЕНИЯ ВРЕДА

ЕСССВ

Евразийская сеть снижения вреда

Войти EN RU



ORRELATION

EUROPEAN NETWORK SOCIAL INCLUSION & HEALTH



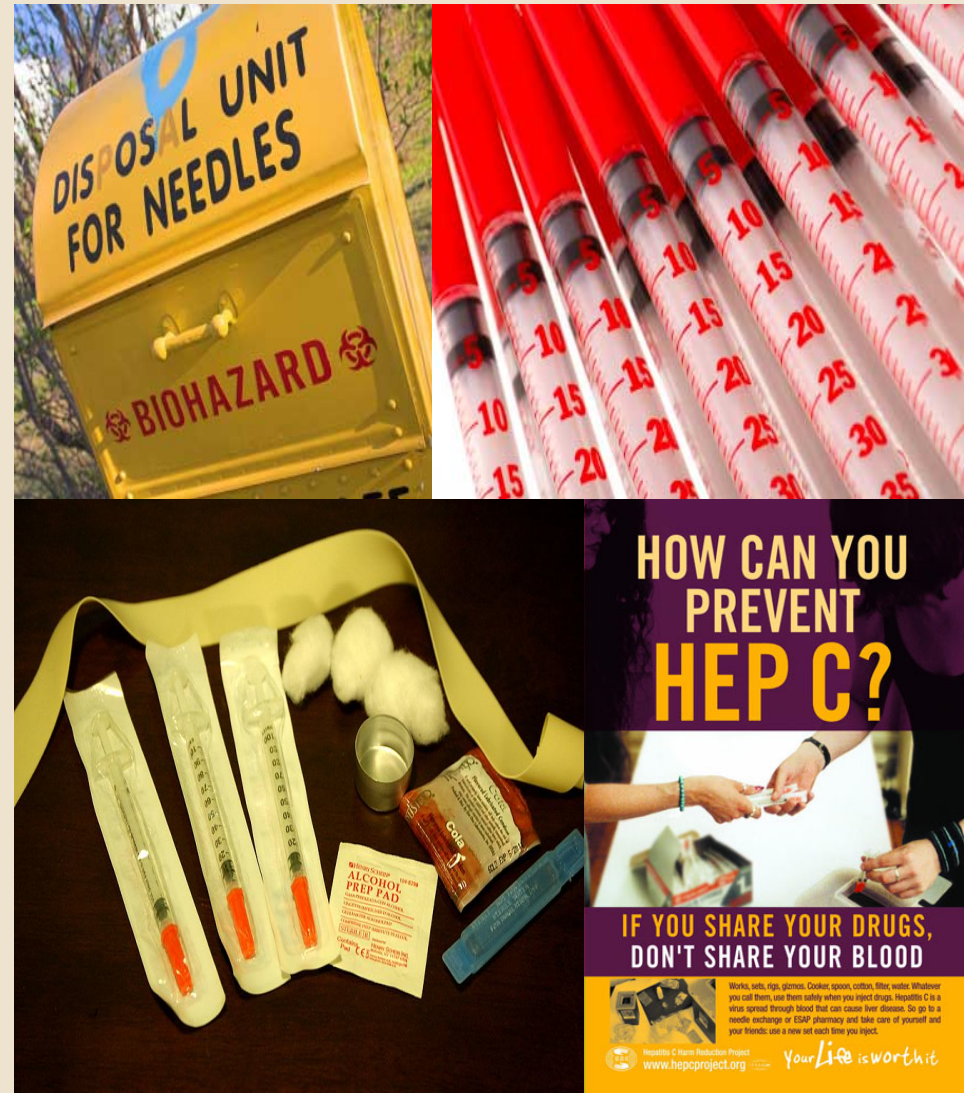
akzept e.V.

Bundesverband für akzeptierende Drogenarbeit
und humane Drogenpolitik

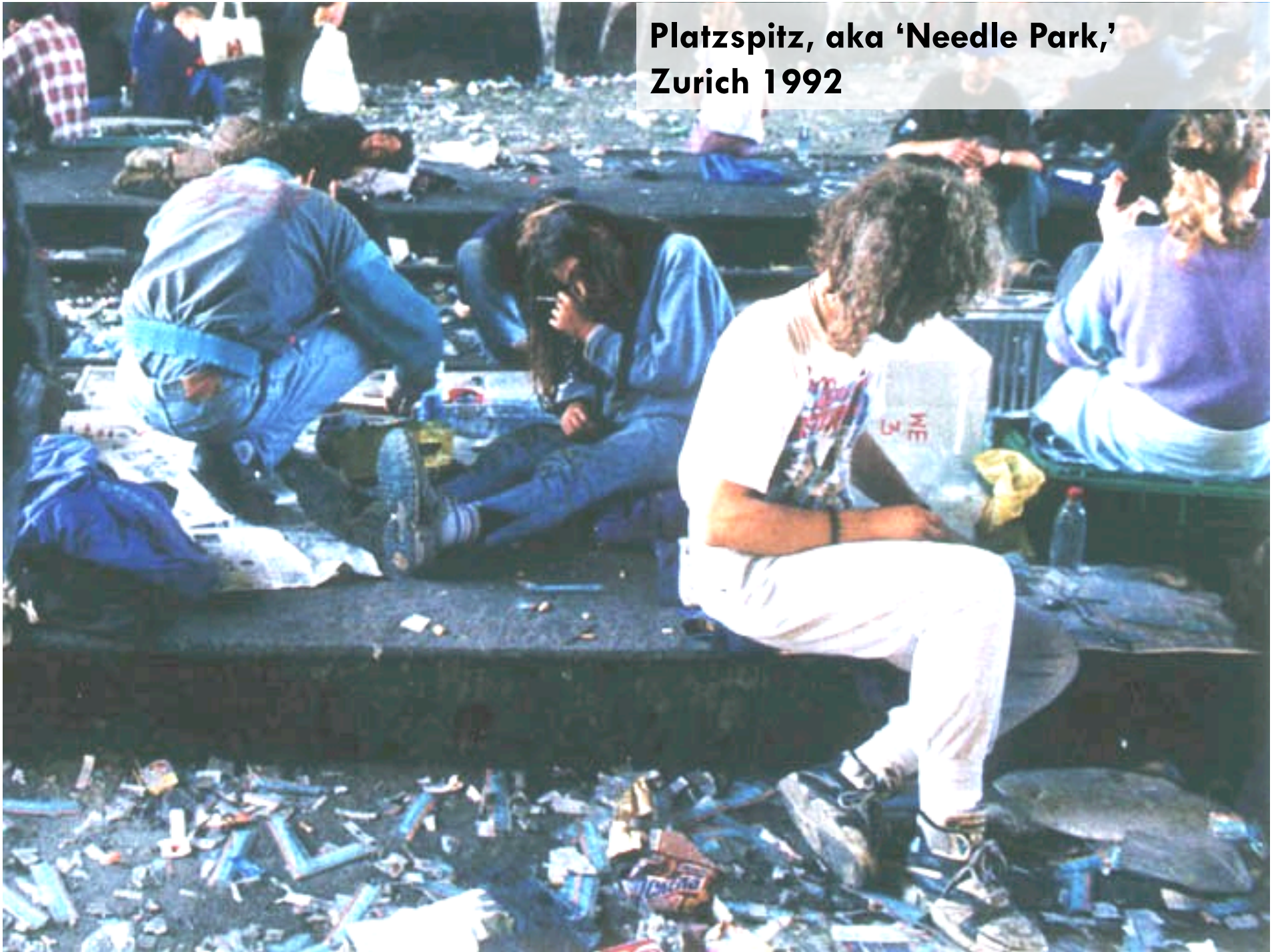
Starting points: Harm Reduction

“Harm Reduction’ refers to policies, programmes and practices that aim primarily to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of legal and illegal psychoactive drugs without necessarily reducing drug consumption.”

International Harm Reduction
Association, 2010



**Platzspitz, aka 'Needle Park,'
Zurich 1992**



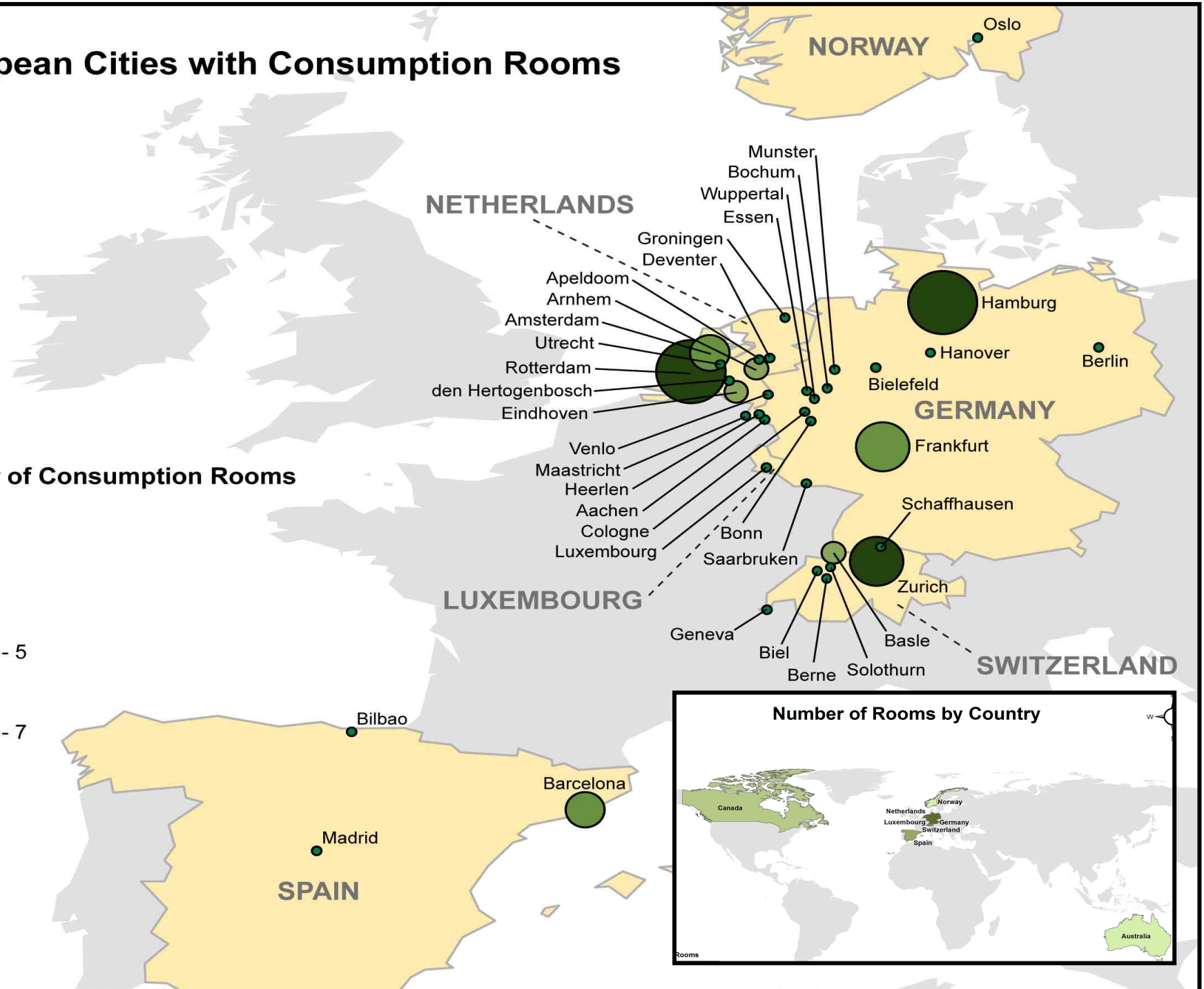
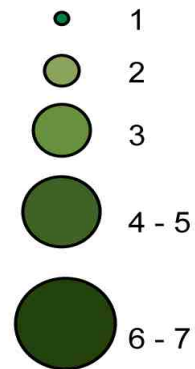
**Platzspitz, no longer 'Needle Park,'
Zurich 2010**



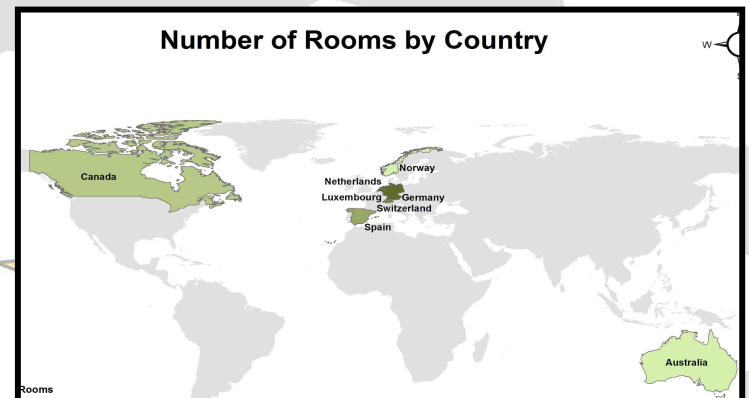
European Cities with Consumption Rooms

Cities

Number of Consumption Rooms



Number of Rooms by Country





MSIC, Sydney

Drug Consumption Rooms (DCRs):
“Protected places for the hygienic consumption of previously obtained drugs, in an non-judging environment & under the supervision of qualified personnel.”

Akzept, 2000



Quai 9, Geneva



Eastside,
Frankfurt

Supervised Drug Consumption Rooms

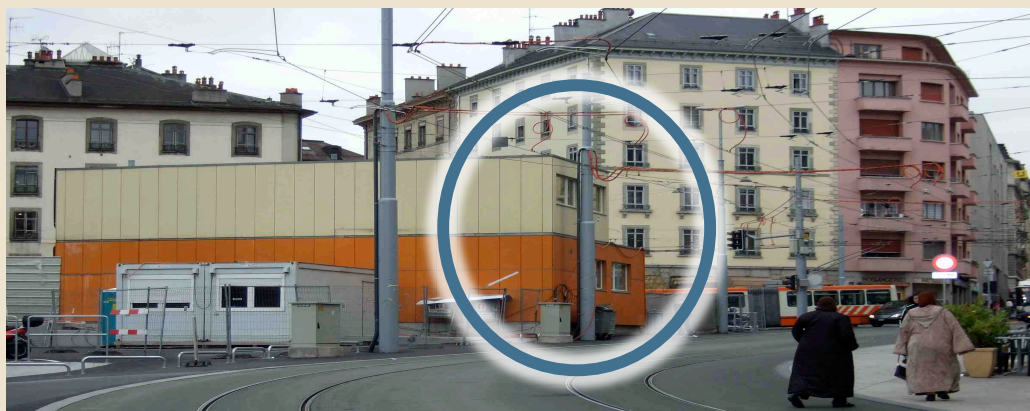
Vancouver



Zürich



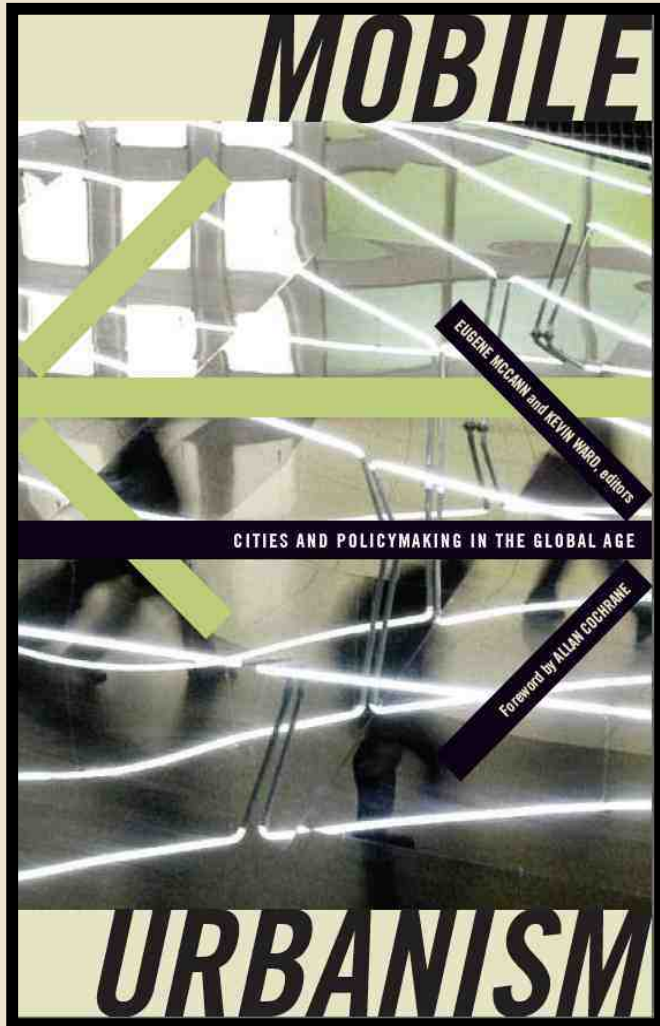
Geneva



Countries (8)	# of Cities (40)	# DCRs (77)
Germany	14	23
Netherlands	12	32 (-3?)
Switzerland	7	12
Spain	3	5 (+6?)
Canada	1	2
Australia	1	1
Luxembourg	1	1
Norway	1	1

DCRs worldwide
(probably an underestimate
of a constantly changing
number)

Starting points: Policy mobilities



McCann & Ward eds. 2011. Minnesota

- 'Policy mobilities:' The social production & circulation of policy knowledge that connects, and shapes various spatial scales, policy communities, & institutions.

Examples ...

Welfare/workfare (Theodore and Peck 2000; Peck and Theodore 2001)

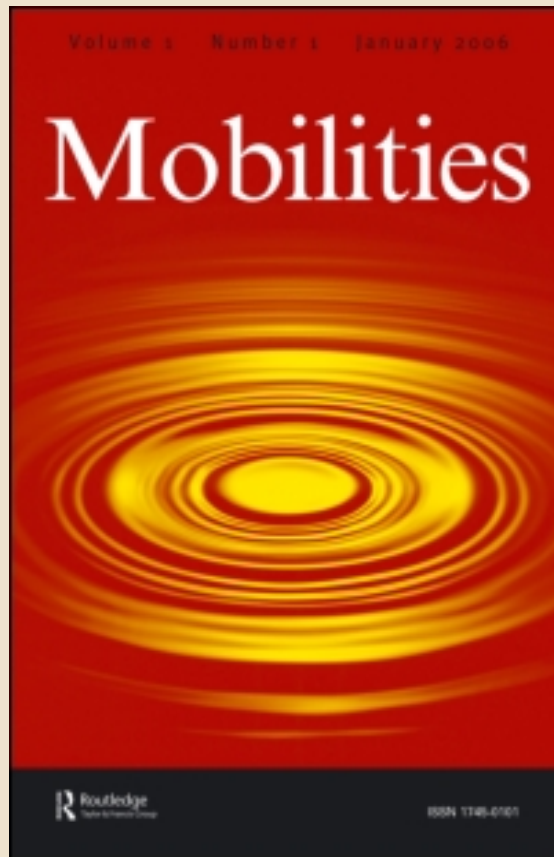
Business Improvement Districts (Cook, 2008; Hoyt, 2006; Peyroux, 2008; Ward, 2006, 2007)

Government services (Massey, 2011)

Planning, design, & development (McCann, 2004, 2011; Guggenheim & Soderstrom, 2010; Robinson, 2011)

'Creative Class / Creative Cities' (Peck, 2011)

Drug policy (McCann, 2008, 2011a, 2011b)



A 'weak' mobilities argument:

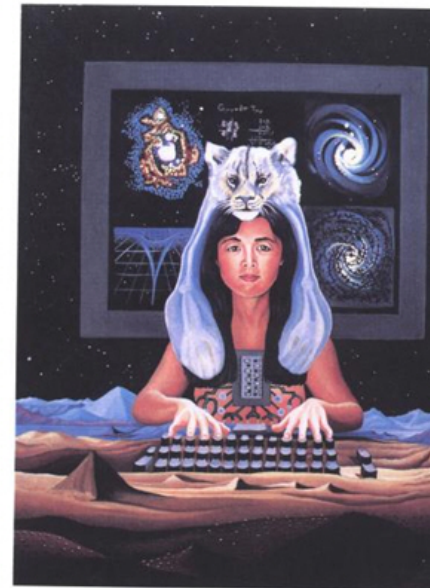
Immobility, while perhaps illusory on a certain time scale is, *for all intents and purposes* real in the context of the politics of policy.

“While everything might be mobile, mobilities are very different, and they also relate and interact with one another in many different ways. This relatedness impacts upon what mobilities mean and how they work” (Adey, 2006, 83).

Starting points: Situated knowledge

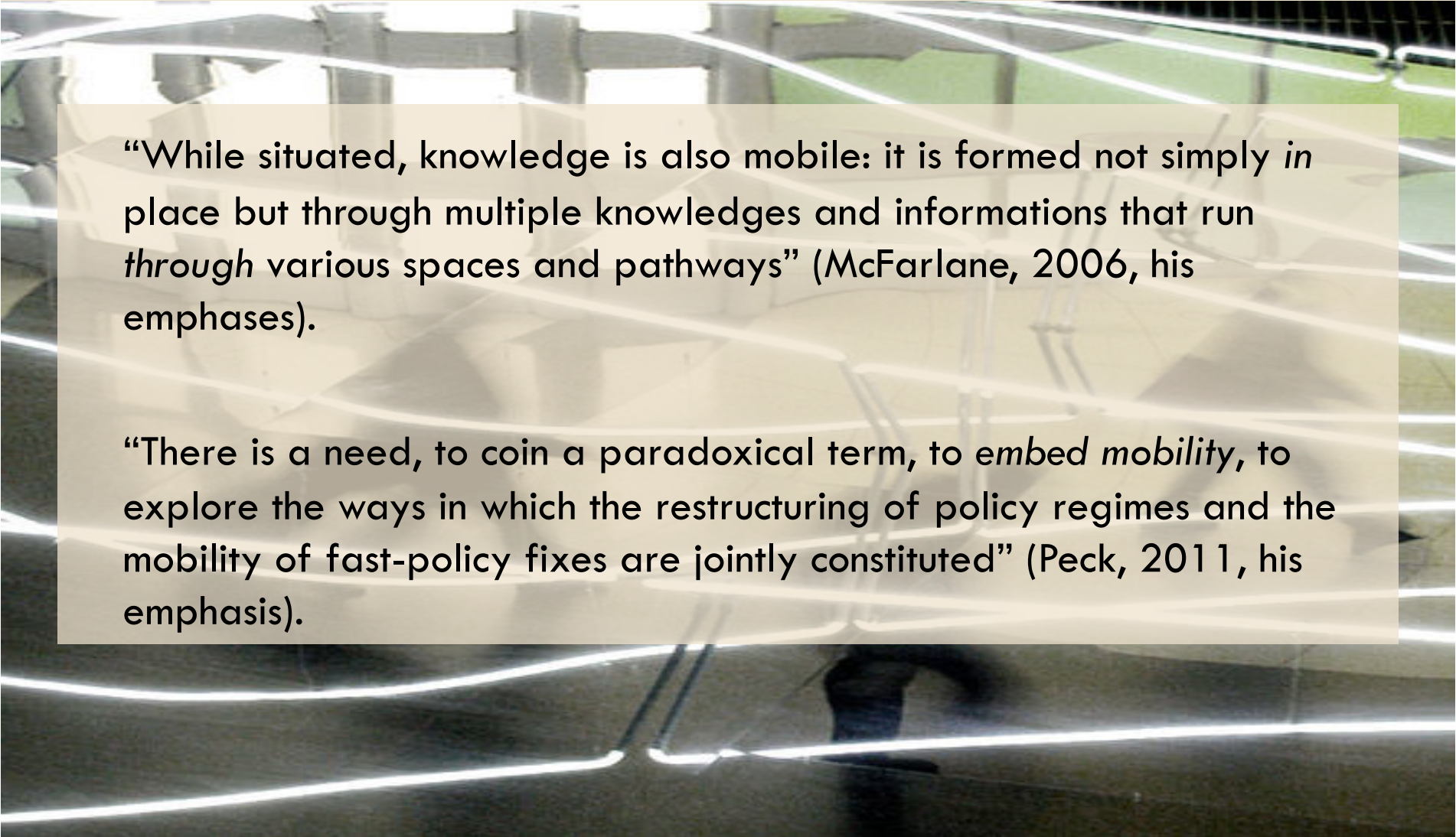
“[Knowledge must be] tuned to difference ... where the tones of extremely localization ... vibrate in the same field with global high tension emissions ... [embodiment] is not about fixed location in a reified body ... but about nodes in fields, inflections in orientations, and responsibility for difference in material-semiotic fields of meaning” (Haraway, 1991, 194-195).

Donna J. Haraway



Simians, Cyborgs, and Women
The Reinvention of Nature

Situated knowledge on the move?



“While situated, knowledge is also mobile: it is formed not simply *in* place but through multiple knowledges and informations that run *through* various spaces and pathways” (McFarlane, 2006, his emphases).

“There is a need, to coin a paradoxical term, to *embed mobility*, to explore the ways in which the restructuring of policy regimes and the mobility of fast-policy fixes are jointly constituted” (Peck, 2011, his emphasis).

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‘The grip of encounter’: Immobilities serving mobilities

“[A] study of global connections shows the grip of encounter: friction. A wheel turns because of its encounter with the road; spinning in the air it goes nowhere. Rubbing two sticks together produces heat and light; one stick alone is just a stick. As a metaphorical image, friction reminds us that heterogeneous and unequal encounters can lead to new arrangements of culture and power” (Tsing 2005, 5).





International Harm Reduction Association: Founded in 1996 to “enable knowledge sharing and communication between conferences and to advocate for health-based approaches to drug policy”

Current mission: to “work to reduce drug related harms by promoting evidence based public health policy and practices and human rights based approaches to drug policy through an integrated programme of research, analysis, advocacy and collaboration with civil society partners.”



“The [international conference] has been held in various locations around the world and has become the focal point for knowledge sharing, networking and promoting evidence-based best practice in the field of harm reduction. The delegates include front line workers, researchers, policy makers, politicians, people from international organisations, people who use drugs and people working in criminal justice. These events have helped to put harm reduction on the map and to coordinate advances, innovations, evidence and advocacy in this field for the last two decades” (IHRA, n.d.)





EXASS Net



Cooperation partners of EXASS Net: EFUS & Correlation Network

EXASS's mission: "[bring] together different stakeholders ... to help respond to drug-related problems more effectively ... [and to] facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences about what is happening at front-line level in individual countries and promote good practice"



**EXASS Net members meeting with
a DCR staff member (right) at La
Strada DCR, Frankfurt, 2008.**



Unequal mobilities, immobilities, failures, & exclusions

“Different social groups and different individuals are placed in very distinct ways in relation to these flows and interconnections. This point concerns not merely who moves and who doesn’t, although that is an important element of it; it is also about power in relation to the flows and the movement. Different social groups have distinct relationships to this anyway-differentiated mobility: some are more in charge of it than others; some initiate flows and movement, others don’t; some are more on the receiving end of it than others; some are effectively imprisoned by it” (Massey, 1991).

Global State of Harm Reduction 2010

Key issues for broadening the response

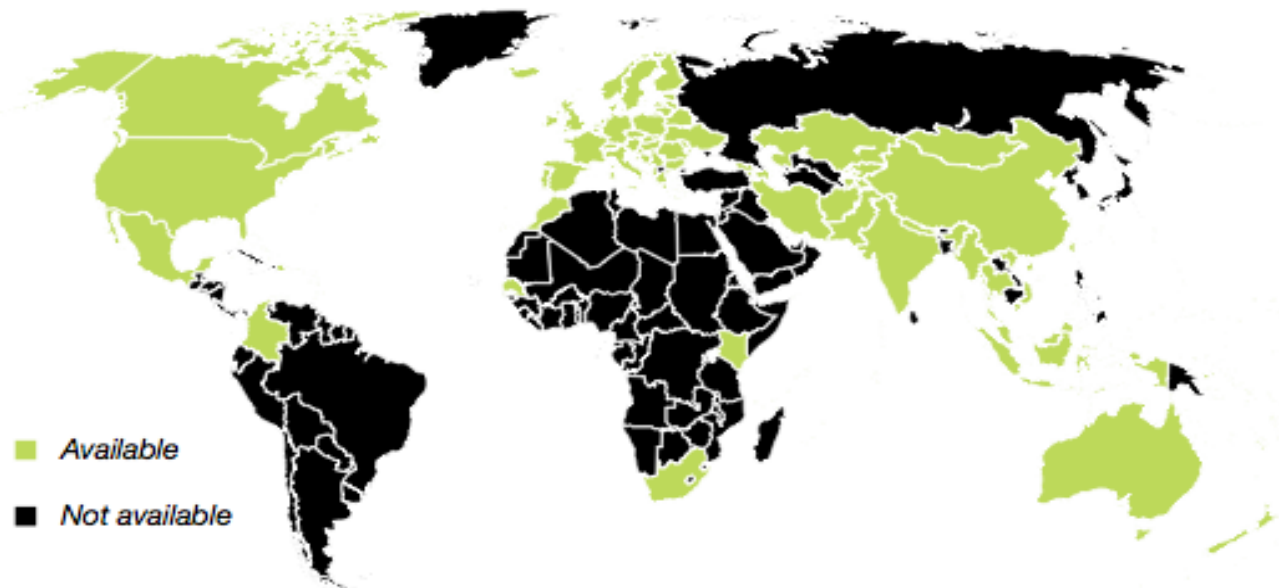
2.2 Regional Update: Eurasia



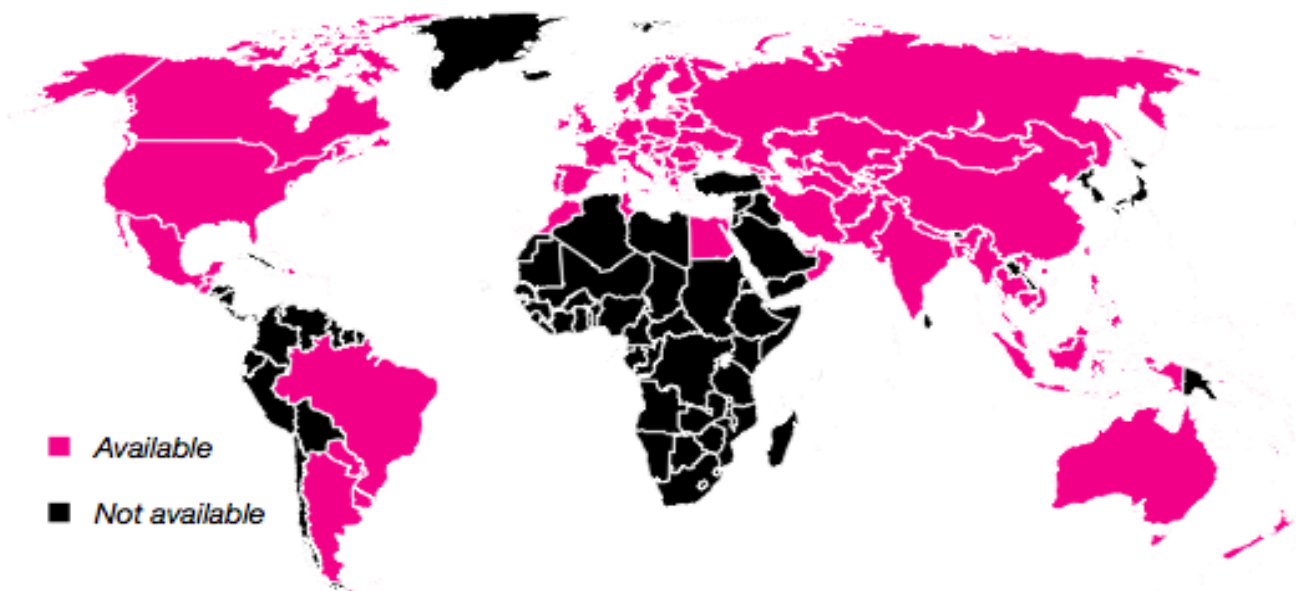


“Political and legal opposition to OST [Opioid Substitution Therapy] remains the biggest obstacle in Russia, the country with the highest number of people who inject drugs in the [Eurasian] region and an HIV prevalence of more than 37% among that population. ... There is an urgent public health need to mobilise government support around the provision of evidence-based NSP [Needle & Syringe Programs] and OST services for people who inject drugs” (IHRA, 2010, 24).

Global availability of opioid substitution therapy



Global availability of needle and syringe programmes



Conclusion

- There's much still to be understood about exclusions in policy mobilities (i.e., I haven't fully answered my colleague's question).
- Methodological moves:
Following people and policies through situations (McCann & Ward, 2011; Baker, 2011).
- One last concept: Hyper-local?



Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC), 2011.