Urban and Regional Economics

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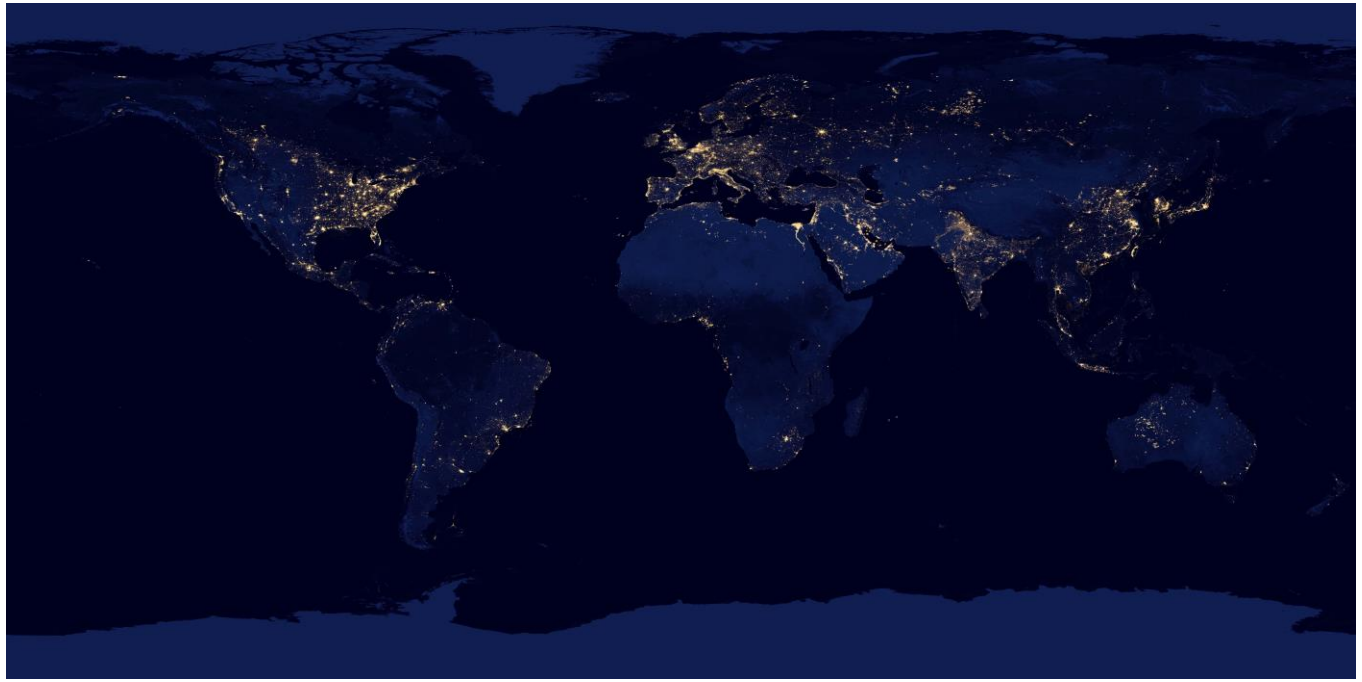
Space and economics

- Economic activity does not take place on top of the head of a pin
- The cost of overcoming space as barrier to profit generation -> investment in physical infrastructure -> overcoming spatial barriers
- Transportation, IT, ….
- „Second nature“ geography

Space and economics

- Production of place to generate profits –> cities,…
- Cities as geographic concentrations of economic activity
- Spatial differentiation and regional development
- (Uneven) accessibility



Source: NASA and DMSP.

4 courses – 20 ECTS

- Course I: Introduction to Economic Geography (Jürgen Essletzbichler)
- Course II: Applied Economic Geography and Case Studies (Jürgen Essletzbichler, Linda Li)
- Course III: Regional Economics I (Stefanie Peer)
- Course IV: Regional Economics II (Stefanie Peer)

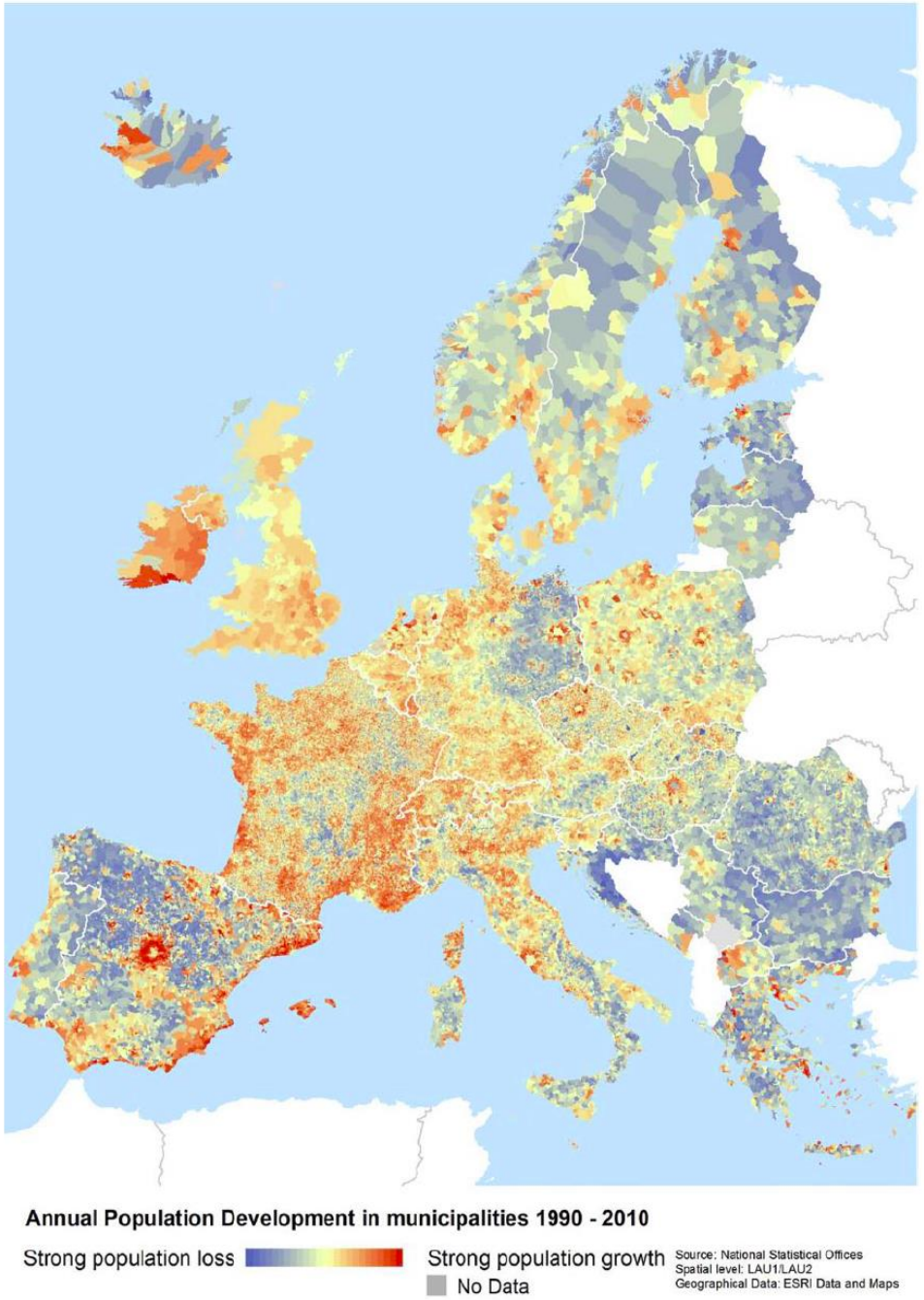
- Courses I+II take place in the summer semester
- Course III+IV take place in the winter semester

Course I: Introduction to Economic Geography

- Basic spatial concepts: location, proxmity, territory, place, scale (eg. example facebook)
- The need to „eradicate“ distance -> Globalization
- Despite globalization -> urbanization (geographic concentration of people, firms, money, ….)
- Agglomeration economies
  - Matching, sharing, learning

Course II: Applied Economic Geography and Case Studies

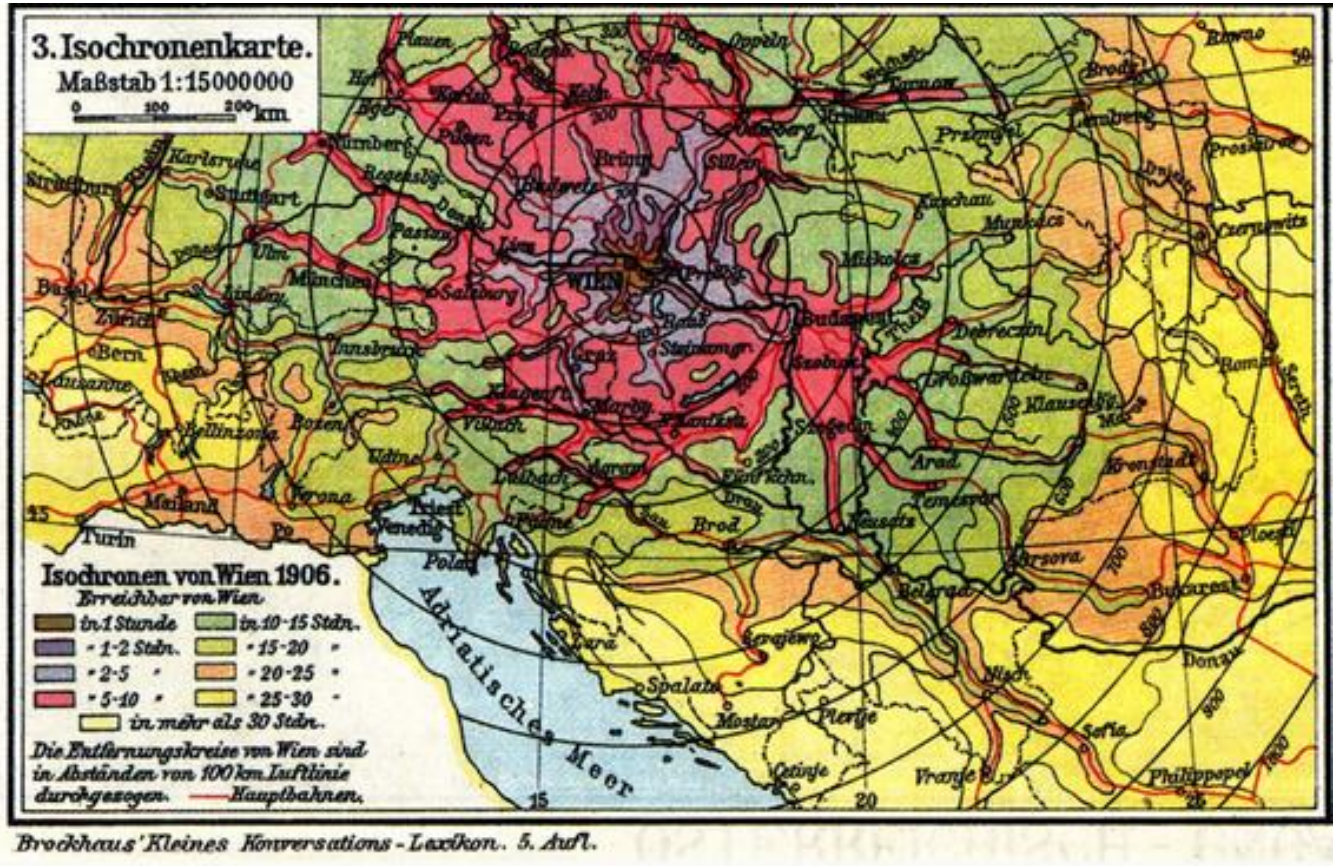
- Theoretical approaches to regional economic development (how and why do cities and regions change over time)
  - Regional growth theory; Polariziation theory; New Geographical Economics, Evolutionary Economic Geography;
- Doing empirical research
  - Work with spatially referenced data (Eurostat);
  - Geographic data analysis;
    - Mapping, describing, analyzing (spatial regressions)
    - Software: GeoDa
- How to read and analyze academic papers?
- How to write a research report?
  - Accession to EU and regional economic growth/decline in Eastern European regions
  - What explains regional unemployment?
  - Why do migrants move to particular regions?...



Source: Wolff and Wiechmann 2018

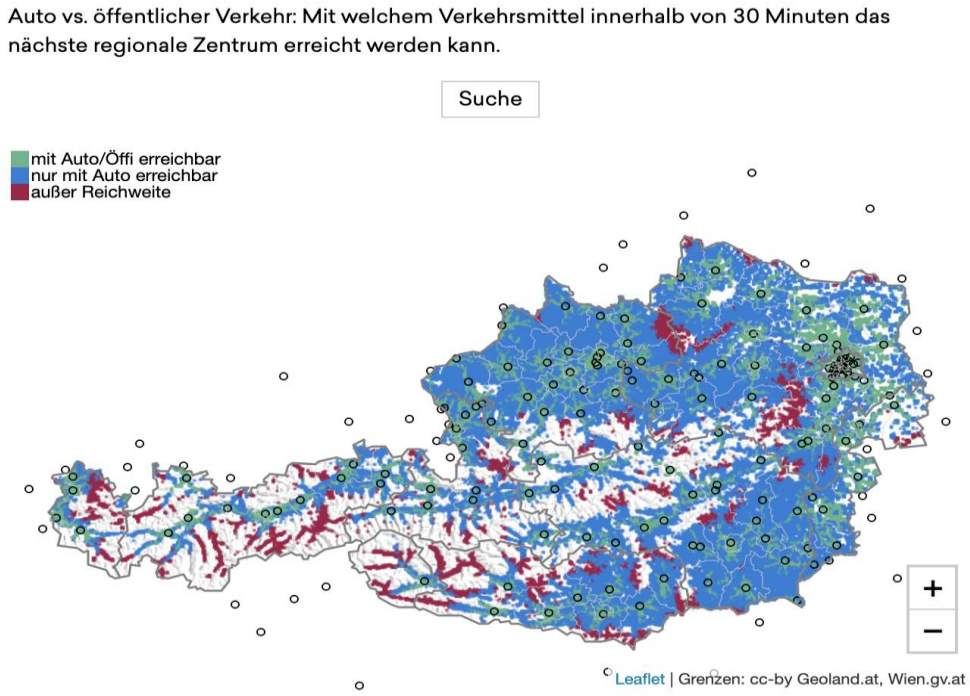
Regional Economics I & II

- Centered around the topic of **accessibility**
- Regional Economics I → Focus on **theory**
- Regional Economics II → Focus on **empirical applications**
- Only offered in English in the **fall/winter semester**
  - Recommended to follow both courses in the same semester



Regional Economics I – Main topics

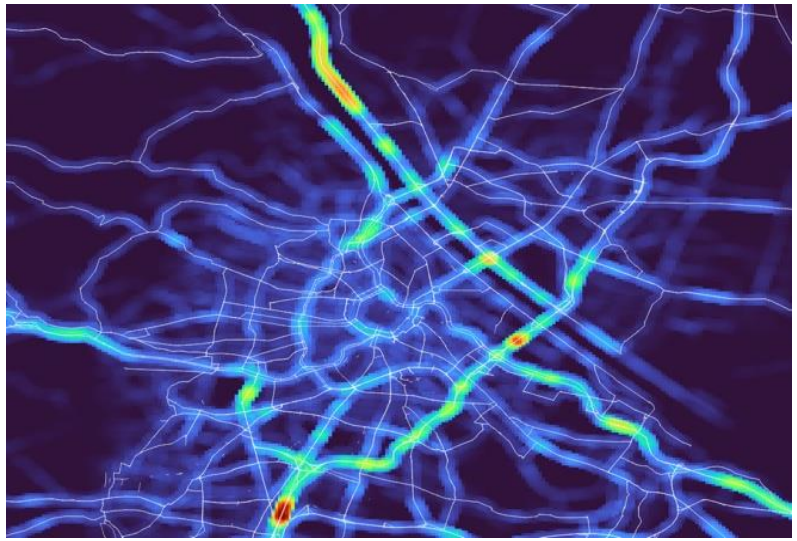
- What is **accessibility**? How can it be measured?
- The role of accessibility for **location choices of households and firms**
- The trade-off between agglomeration economies and negative transport-related **externalities (congestion, noise, pollution)**
- **Regional, urban & transport policies**: place-based vs. space-blind
- How to **assess infrastructure investments** and their regional impacts?
- **Political economy** aspects related to regional & transport policies



Source: Addendum

Regional Economics II – Main topics

- **Empirical methods and applications** in the field of regional and transport economics, including:
  - How to measure the **impacts of changes in infrastructure and accessibility**?
  - What factors **determine travel demand**? How do people decide whether to travel, where to travel, which transport mode and route to use?
  - What are the **social and private costs of transport** and how can they be derived?
  - **Empirical methods** (in particular, regression analysis and discrete decision models using STATA)
  - Application of the **methods to current topics**: financing of public transport, parking management, sustainable mobility, (tele)commuting, autonomous driving, car- & ride-sharing, e-mobility, etc.



MANY THANKS!!!

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