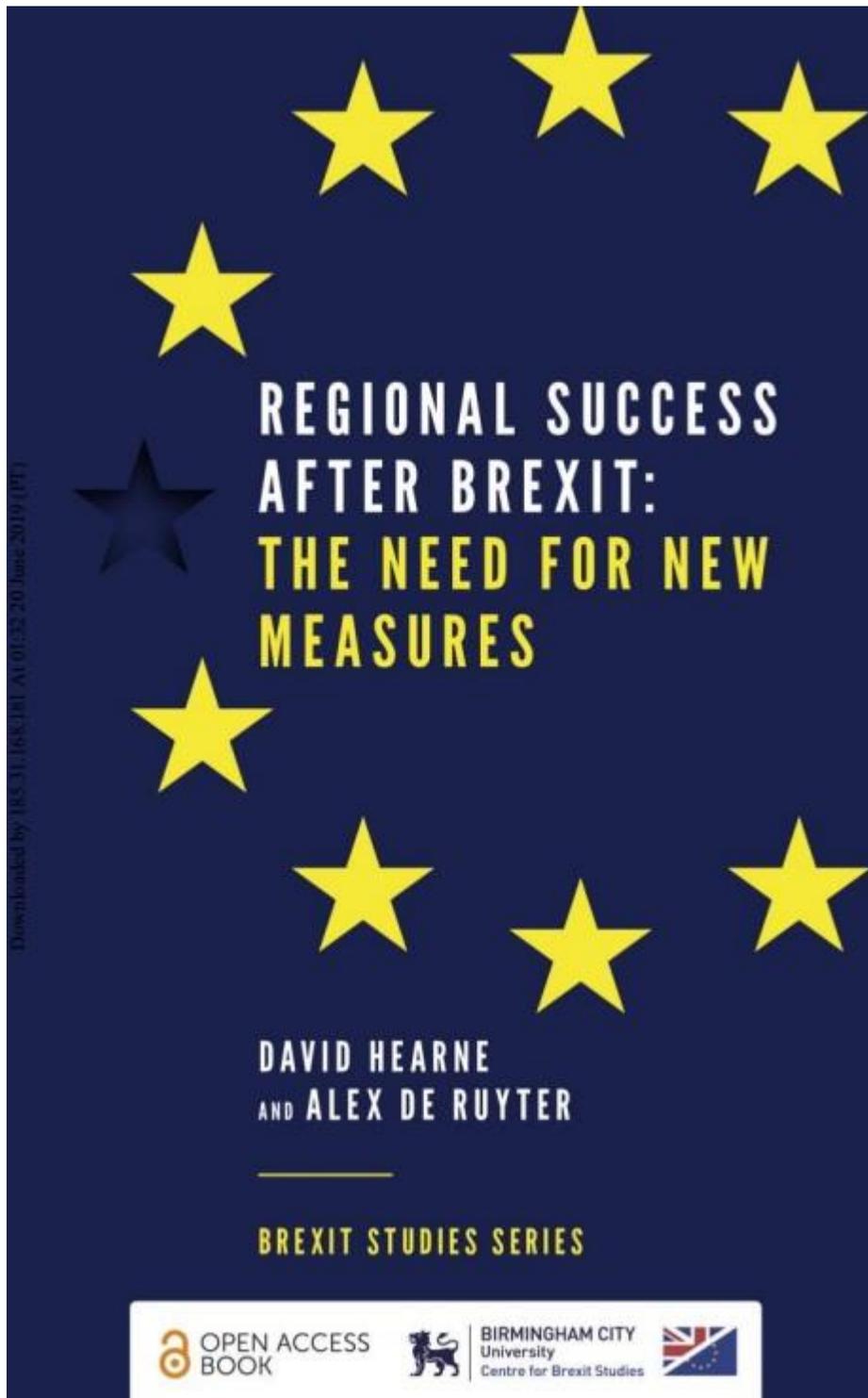


Sneak peek at Centre for Brexit Studies new book 'Regional Success After Brexit: The Need for New Measures'

Two academics from the Centre for Brexit Studies at Birmingham City University have published a book focusing on the regional success after Brexit and why there is such a need for new measures.

Titled "Regional Success After Brexit: The Need for New Measures", the book has been written and edited by Centre for Brexit Studies Director Professor Alex de Ruyter and Researcher David Hearne, as part of Emerald Publishing's Brexit Studies Series, which is bringing together a wide range of the Centre's academics.

'Regional Success After Brexit: The Need for New Measures' includes chapters focused on real living standards, real labour productivity and defining the problem. Scroll down for your sneak peek at the book...



Your sneak peek...

Recent years have seen a growing awareness of the importance of regional differences within the UK. Indeed, even the Chief Economist of the Bank of England has recently acknowledged the importance of regional differences across the UK economy (Haldane, 2018). It is clear that not only is the UK spatially unbalanced in an economic and

social sense, but as continued interest in the so-called 'West Lothian question' shows, there is also a clear political imbalance between the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the English regions.

As noted by Benneworth (2006), there are historical antecedents to the present devolution agenda. Added to this is the need for a distinction between the region as an economic unit and the region as a facet of identity (Roberts & Baker, 2006). Indeed, the rise of a more assertive English identity that the Brexit vote has made clear (Henderson et al., 2016) could be seen as threatening this nascent regionalisation of politics. The overwhelming vote against a regional assembly in the North East of England in 2004 (Wood, Valler, Phelps, Raco, & Shirlow, 2006) might be seen in the same vein. Brexit itself exhibits a significant regional dimension with some recent research finding that regional differences in measured (psychological) character traits might have been important in the referendum (Garretsen, Stoker, Soudis, Martin, & Rentfrow, 2018).

Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that regional identity in Britain remains somewhat inchoate, the fact remains that the region is often the more sensible level on which to carry out economic policy. In fact, identity in the UK is often local more than regional – witness the fierce rivalry between underland and Newcastle (those who 'mackem' vs. those who 'tackem') or Birmingham and the Black Country. This may, in part, be a result of the historic political centralisation of the UK which has seen regional boundaries adjusted numerous times over the past century without adequate study as to what the functional economic geography looks like (Roberts & Baker, 2006).

We are left with three potential ways in which to 'regionalise' the UK.

In practical terms, it is not feasible to use TTWAs as they presently stand. Their major attraction is that they potentially capture the economic geography of an area better than any alternative. Unfortunately, for our purposes the 75% threshold is probably not appropriate, particularly given that mean values can be significantly affected by the commuting patterns of a relatively modest number of high income individuals. Given this, their failure to align with any administrative or political boundary is also a disadvantage.

Fundamentally, however, there is a relative paucity of data (particularly price data) on these areas, making them unusable for our purposes.

The attraction of using city-regions lies in their political salience. The emphasis of the so-called 'New Economic Geography' on agglomeration chimes nicely with this political zeitgeist, even though this may be more relevant to present-day developing countries than the UK (Krugman, 2011). Indeed, although the benefits of agglomeration are considered axiomatic by some in the policy community (Swinney, 2016), the empirical evidence is far from incontrovertible.

For example, Frick and Rodriguez-Pose (2018) find that small cities (up to 3 million inhabitants) are most conducive to rapid economic growth and some French data suggest that agglomeration effects are likely to be modest on a plant level (Martin, Mayer, & Mayneris, 2011). Indeed, although some have found that agglomeration might support productivity growth (Rice, Venables, & Patacchini, 2006), recent work suggests that historical development paths are crucial (Beugelsdijk, Klasing, & Milionis, 2018).

Research suggests that, in the UK at least, the performance of cities and urban areas is intimately linked to the regions in which they are located (McCann, 2016). In addition, choice of residential location within a region (and the associated differences in cost) may in large part be due to differences in amenities offered. This, together with consumer preferences may partly explain differences between urban centres and their associated peri-urban areas and rural fringes. As a result, we initially consider differences at the level of nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) Regions, before reconsidering the impact of our results at a more granular level. In doing so, we find some significant differences from published figures and suggest that this has salience for post-Brexit funding.

[Enjoy the full book now here.](#)

Emerald Publishing's Brexit Studies Series examines a wide range of topics related to Brexit, to examine the challenges withdrawal from the EU brings. The series promotes engagement with the many aspects of both the 'leave' and 'remain' perspectives in order to understand

the consequences for the UK, and for its relationship with the wider world, and aims to suggest measures to counter the challenges faced.

Published Titles

[Alex De Ruyter and Beverley Nielsen, Brexit Negotiations After Article 50: Assessing Process, Progress and Impact](#)

Forthcoming Titles

Arantza Gomez Arana – Brexit and Gibraltar: The Negotiations of a Historically Contentious Region

Stefania Paladini and Ignazio Castellucci – European Security in a Post-Brexit World