The future of smaller cities in a shrinking world: Can small cities thrive without growth?

Major global trends, including declining population and economic growth, aging populations, climate change, global instability and the decline of neoliberal globalization, pose an existential challenge to small, peripheral cities. In this lecture, I will explore how global urbanism in the future will increasingly be characterized by shrinkage rather than growth, how the trajectories of small, peripheral (and increasingly shrinking) cities will be driven by these global trends, and above all, what opportunities may exist for these cities and their residents to thrive in a world where established models of economic growth are no longer meaningful.

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