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Title	Can cities and regions shape hydrogen economies?
Authors	Hodson, M and Marvin, S
Publication title	
Publisher	
Type	Conference or Workshop Item
USIR URL	This version is available at: http://usir.salford.ac.uk/id/eprint/17236/
Published Date	2006

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Can Cities and Regions Shape Technological Transitions?

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SURF

2nd June 2006

1. Introduction

- To what extent are cities and regions able to actively shape the development of technological transitions?
- Why does this matter anyway?
 1. Urban and regional scale not addressed within TT...
 2. Devolution of technology, innovation and competitiveness policy to city and regions...
 3. Cities and regions are actively shaping technology through strategic intermediaries...

2. Bringing C/R to TT

- Emergence C/R – ‘hollowing out’ of national state through devolution up and down esp. for technology and innovations:
 1. Dominant discourse of C/R race for competitiveness through technology.
 2. Differential positioning of C/R through economic, social and political relations.
 3. C/R actively shaping relations within and outside to shape TT.

3. Mediating between CR and TT

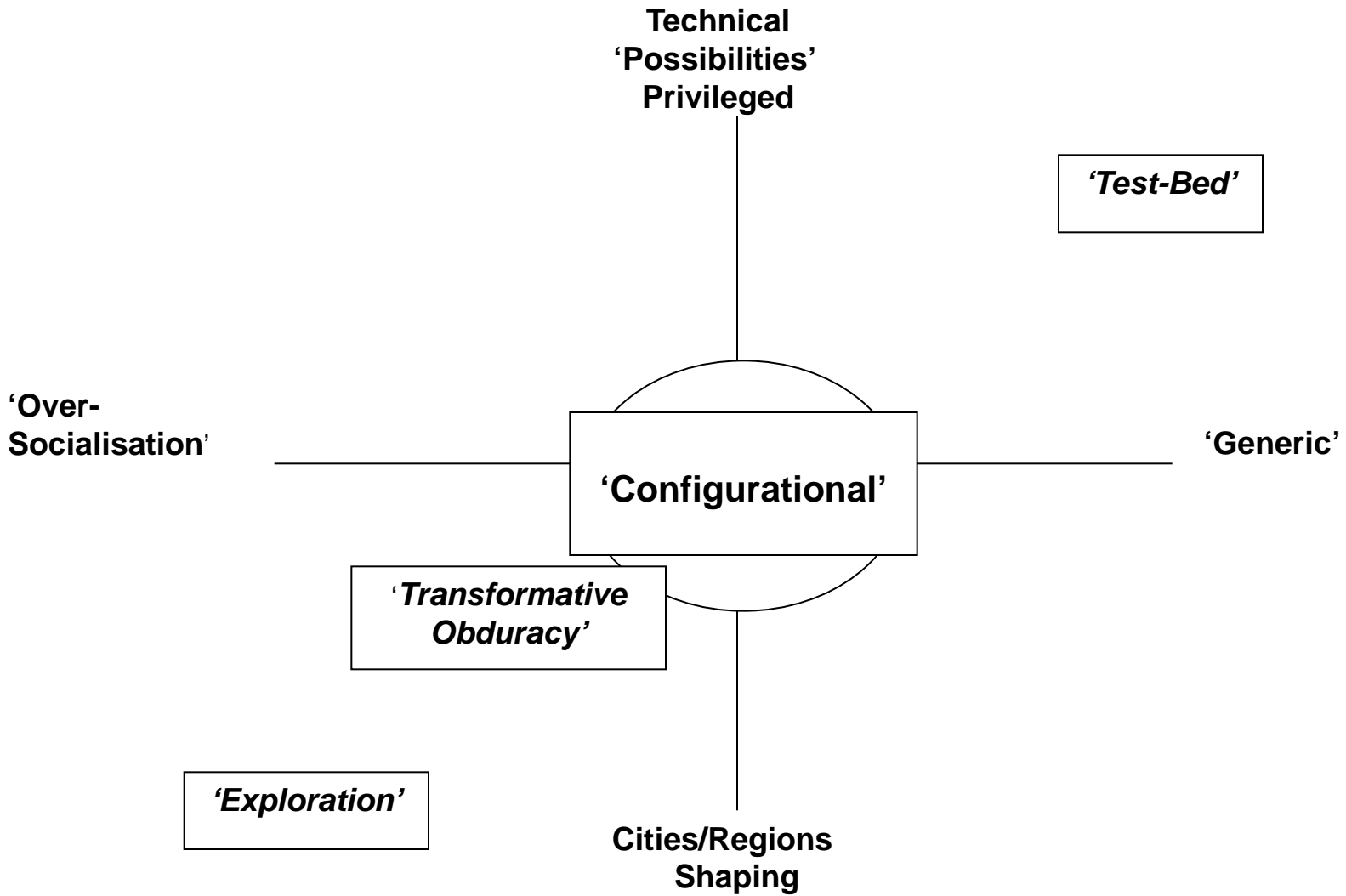
- Strategic intermediaries selectively shape technology - usually cross-sectoral, network based, technology sector - transition managers?
- Develop place based images of TT that manage the production, transmission and reception of a vision through a context.
- Build selective social networks at various scales to manage transition processes within a context.

4. Sensitising TT to CR

- Bring back in politics, power and scale...
- Critical importance of:
 1. Contesting normative visions - instead ask whose visions, whose view inform (and are excluded) from visions?
 2. What interactions take place at which scales?
 3. Producing what consequences?

5. CR Transition Styles

Test bed	Transformative Obduracy	Exploratory
“European public private partnership”	“Tees Valley Hydrogen Project”	H2 Wales and HVI Separate but linked.
Assessing tech-econ-eco acceptability	Adapting skills and industry.	The “Welsh” journey to a Hydrogen economy
Dropping into the city	Stitching together internally	Exploring a Welsh pathway
Local Resistance to demonstration project	‘Experimental Platform’	Building capacity through a visioning



6. Conclusions

- Critical role of strategic intermediaries in C/R working between technological possibilities and the local contexts within which transitions may occur.
- Each style privileged either:
 - an ‘over-socialising’ of the role of C/R in transitions
 - or generic technological understandings and forms of knowledge.
- Finally, challenge of collapsing divide and populating “configurational” understandings of city and regional technological transitions.