

ENGLISH ABSTRACTS

SPECIAL SECTION: Regionalism in the Strategic Spatial Plan 2050 –
Alternative Approaches to Creating Affinity Areas in Regional Planning

Gravitation and Regionalism: Contradiction or Complementarity

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ABSTRACT

The gravity model establishes a theoretical and practical framework for identifying significant economic growth poles that are secondary to major metropolitan centers. These sub-centers possess substantial economic development potential outside of core metropolitan areas, thereby fostering sustainable and balanced regional growth. Preliminary findings indicate robust economic development across Israel's four primary metropolitan areas (Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Beer Sheva, and Haifa). According to gravity model calculations, each of these centers accounts for over 8% of the nation's economic growth poles, collectively commanding 46.9% of all income-producing areas. Alongside these primary metropolitan areas, the model identifies six aggregate economic sub-centers that operate independently within their respective regions. Each sub-center encompasses approximately 5% of Israel's economic growth poles, representing a cumulative 43.3% of total income-producing areas: Nazareth–Nof HaGalil–Afula; Ashdod–Ashkelon–Kiryat Gat; Petah Tikva; Karmiel–Acre–Nahariya; Netanya–Hadera; and Rishon LeZion. Ultimately, gravity analysis enables the characterization and evaluation of each center's resilience against the pull of surrounding hubs, as well as its growth potential through the attraction of employment areas and the expansion of its economic mass.

Keywords: Gravity Model, Metropolitan Centers, Employment floorspace, Growth Poles.

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