



Public leaders shaping peripheralisation?

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Background

Understanding peripheralisation as a relational process, this project opens the space for an analysis of the leaders of the peripheries and hereby shifts attention to the socio-political dimensions of peripheralisation. Furthermore it seeks to question the dominant trend of emphasising successful leadership cases only, by understanding how locally appointed leaders act for their peripheralising regions.

Objectives

- Analysing the practices and relations of public leaders in processes of socio-political peripheralisation
- Focusing attention on the role of power and politics in these practices and relations
- Providing insight into the way that a territorial and relational notion of place are needed in understanding how leaders shape places

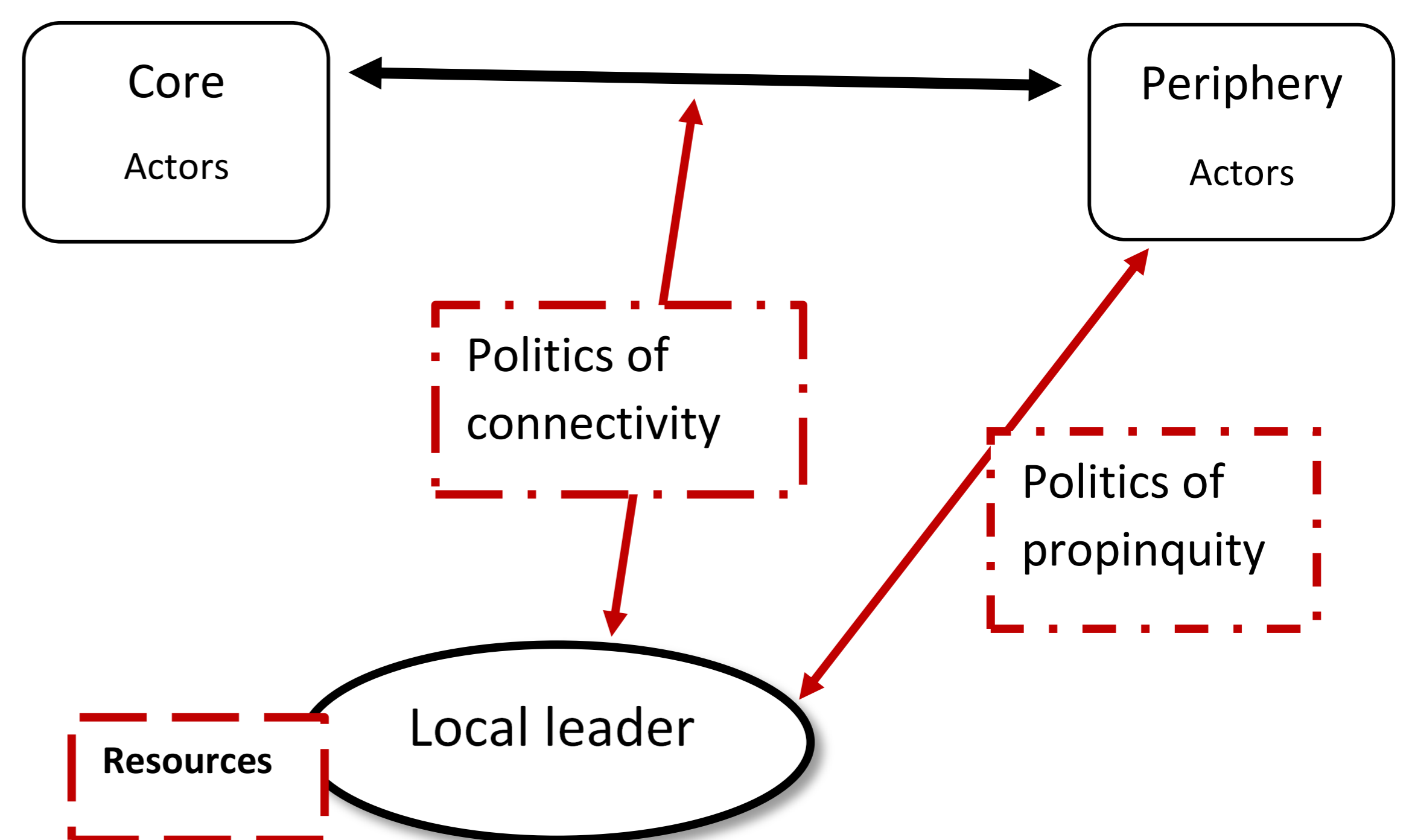
Contribution to RegPol²

With its focus on actors in the peripheralisation process, this project contributes to a better understanding of the strategies and possibilities that are exercised by actors of the peripheries

Geographical remoteness does not result in powerlessness necessarily and might even be seen as a resource for localities

What is the role of public leaders in peripheralising Estonian and Dutch regions?

Conceptual framework



Methodology

Comparative Case Study (Est & Ned.)

- Shadowing local leaders in their practices and relations
- Semi-structured interviews, informal, everyday conversation with selected leaders
- Semi-structured interviews with other key actors
- Participant observation in multiple arena's (local council meeting, regional county meeting, informal meetings etc.)

First results

The exploratory case studies have shown that geographical peripherality does not have to lead to socio-political peripherality necessarily and that peripherality can also be used as a resource. Secondly territorial (borders, identity) as well as relational notions (lobbying, EU-funding) of place are used by leaders.

