**A reflection to How Geography Shapes—and Is Shaped by—the Internet**

How Geography Shapes—and Is Shaped by—the Internet - Shane Greenstein, Chris Forman, and Avi Goldfarb

The internet had become available to private users around the mid-1990s, it was described as an inter-networking infrastructure of the research community. The spreading of the internet had consequences for the geographical location of economic activity.

In the economic transactions, the internet has an effect on communication costs, transportation costs and search costs. Communication costs are lower when using the internet because it is an inexpensive way to communicate with everyone, regardless of the distance. The cost of emails that are sent to people, no matter their distance, will always stay the same as opposed to the price differences to send mail to people who live further away from you.

Transportation costs are lower on the internet because certain goods that can be digitized and their distribution fee would be free. An example that was used is that the physical delivery of objects has a much higher cost of operation, as well as media that can be bought in store, it can be distributed for free. Items that are not digitized, can be ordered online so that consumers do not have to travel all the way to a different place in order to get what they want, there would be added costs if a consumer were to travel and purchase what they need.

The internet will allow people to feel closer together, as it bridges the distance between them, being able to connect and chat to virtually anyone that is anywhere in the world. There are also consequences of the internet for wealth and productivity, in the sense, there would be convergence and divergence in certain areas. The view that supports the convergence sees that the spread of the internet caused growth in employment and wage gains in low population regions. There is an alternative view, which is the divergence, where the internet benefits certain regions or places that already have a high income, with people that are highly skilled.

It is mentioned that some jobs cannot be replaced or done from a distance, the example given is being a hairdresser and how their job cannot be done from a distance. Although, there is a fine line between tradeable and non-tradeable jobs, this can change drastically over time, and could possibly be digitized in different ways.

In conclusion, the internet and technology has had a massive impact on the geographical implications of many things, such as jobs, communication and even transportation, geography has also shaped the way technology improved. The internet lessens a variety of costs in the economic sector, such as transportations costs, communication costs and search costs.