

# Discussion on 'Identifying Agglomeration Shadows: Long-run Evidence from Ancient Ports'

Arieda Muço

CEU

January 19, 2024

- This paper by Hornbeck, Michaels, and Rauch speaks to the significance of understanding historical impacts on urban development.
- Agglomeration Spillovers vs Agglomeration Shadows
  - 'Productivity benefits from concentration of economic activity' vs 'Discouragement of some nearby economic activities'

# Study Summary

- Objective: Impact of ancient ports on modern urbanization.
- Geographic focus: Mediterranean, Black Sea, Red Sea.
- Rich data sources and historical context.

# Approach

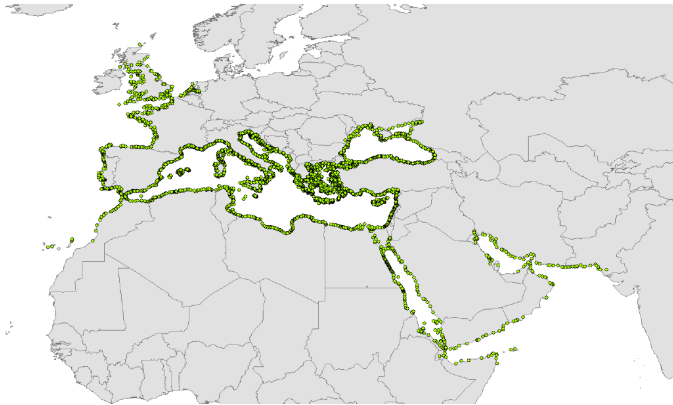
- New Economic Geography models.
- "City seeds" and ancient ports concept.
- Analysis of agglomeration shadows. Document when we can – and cannot – see agglomeration shadows and at what distances

# Key Findings

- Population density patterns around ancient ports.
- Path dependence in spatial relationships.

- Agglomeration spillovers or shadows by distance. How should we think about sectors?
- Generalizability of the findings?
- Inland ports?

# Sea Ports



- Agglomeration spillovers or shadows by distance. How should we think about economic sectors?
- Generalizability of the findings? How should we think about them even when contrasted to Caselli and Michaels (2013)?
- How to think about implications for urban policy/planning and inequality? Population growth? Can we use the recent years to extrapolate about what would have happened 100, 200 years ago?
- Do modern borders matter?
- Port persistence?