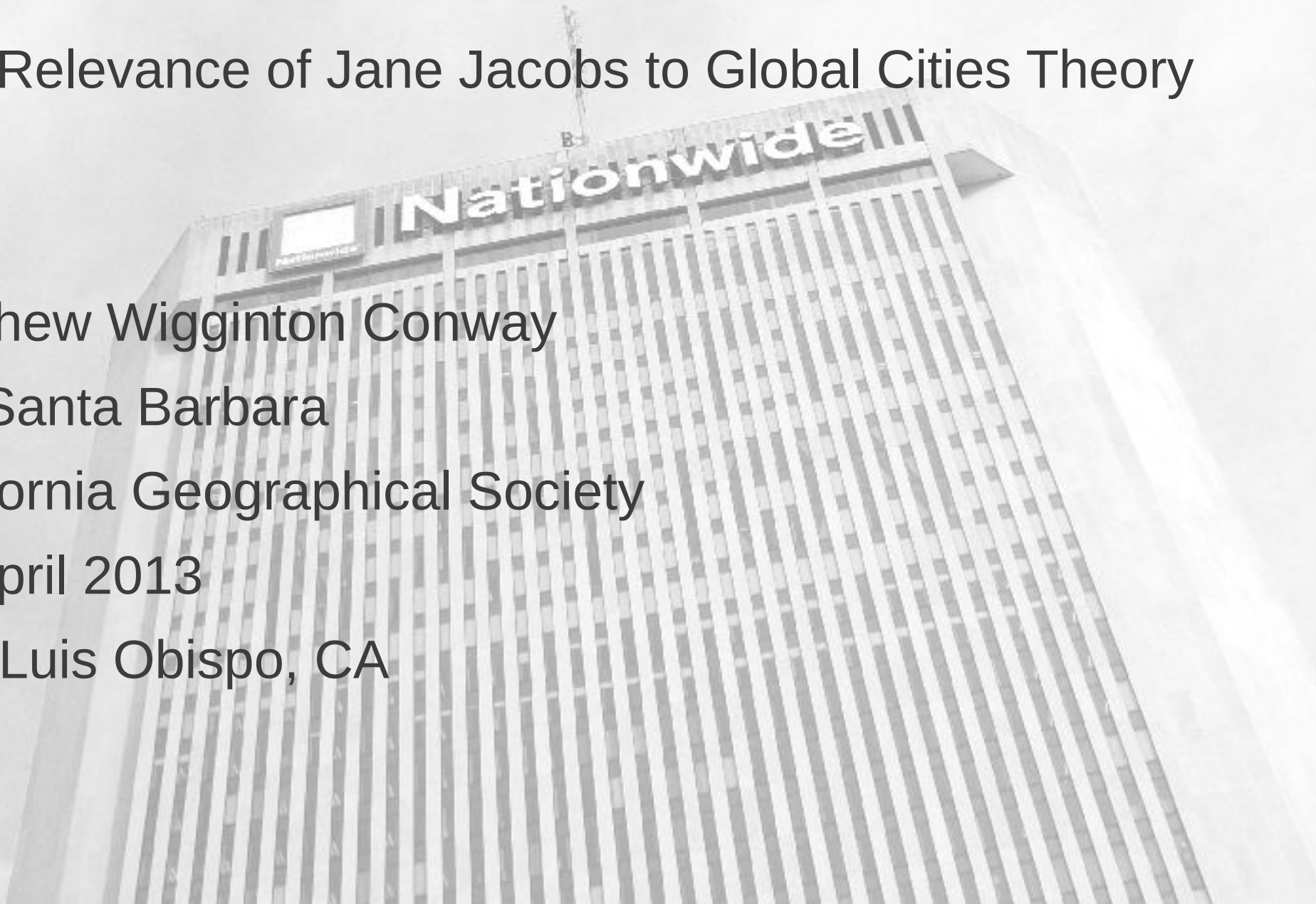


# The Death and Life of Great Global Cities

The Relevance of Jane Jacobs to Global Cities Theory

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San Luis Obispo, CA



# Global Cities Theory

- There is a network of linked cities that defines the global economy
- Is a very broad field
- Key scholars include Saskia Sassen, John Friedmann, Allen J. Scott and Edward Soja

# Jane Jacobs

- Urban society
- Economics
- Well known for *Death and Life*
- Other economic works



From the Modern Library  
50th anniversary edition of  
*Death and Life*.

# Jacobs' Relevant Works

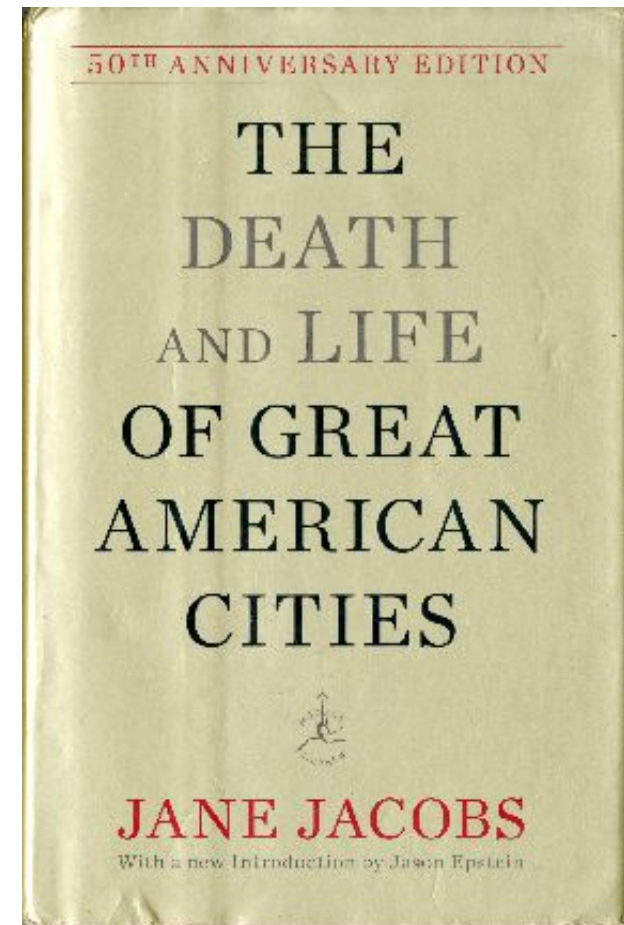
- *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961)
- *The Economy of Cities* (1969)
- *Canadian Cities and Sovereignty-Association* (1980)
- *The Question of Separatism* (1980)
- *Cities and the Wealth of Nations* (1984)
- *Systems of Survival* (1992)
- *The Nature of Economies* (2000)
- *Dark Age Ahead* (2004)

# Research Theme

- Jacobs' works were seen as iconoclastic (e.g. Jacobs [1961] 2011, 5, Friedmann 2001, 133n1, Mumford 1962, 154)
- However, there are many similar ideas in Global Cities Theory
- Bodies of work are largely separate
- Jacobs' ideas are applicable at many spatial scales

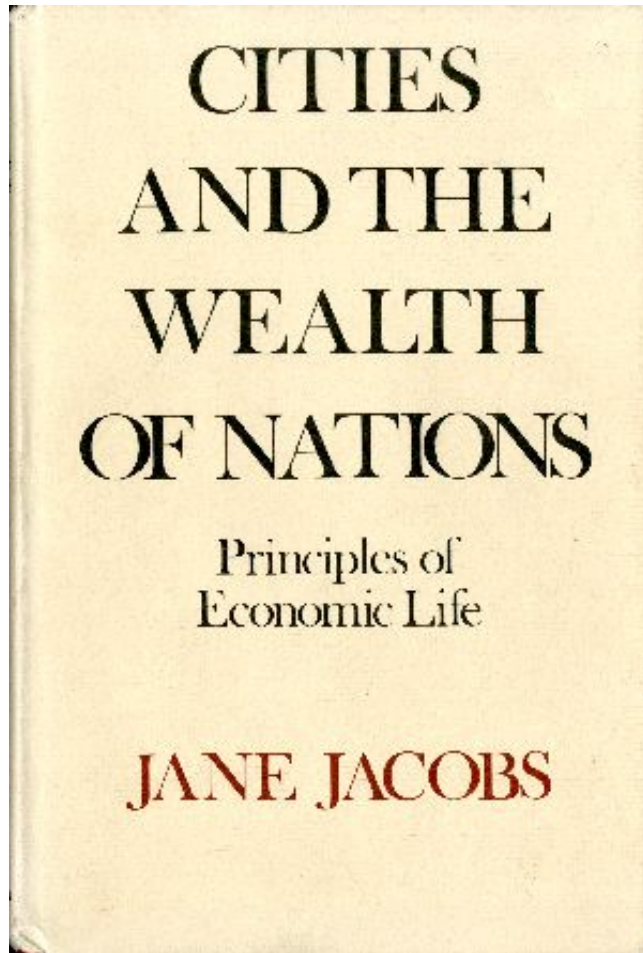
# Project and District Scale

- Jacobs' thesis based on city diversity ([1961] 2011)
- Sharon Zukin observed commercial project development (1992)
- Saskia Sassen and the Consumer City Hypothesis mention the need for amenities (Sassen 2001, Glaeser, Kolko and Saiz 2001)



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# City-Regions and Economics



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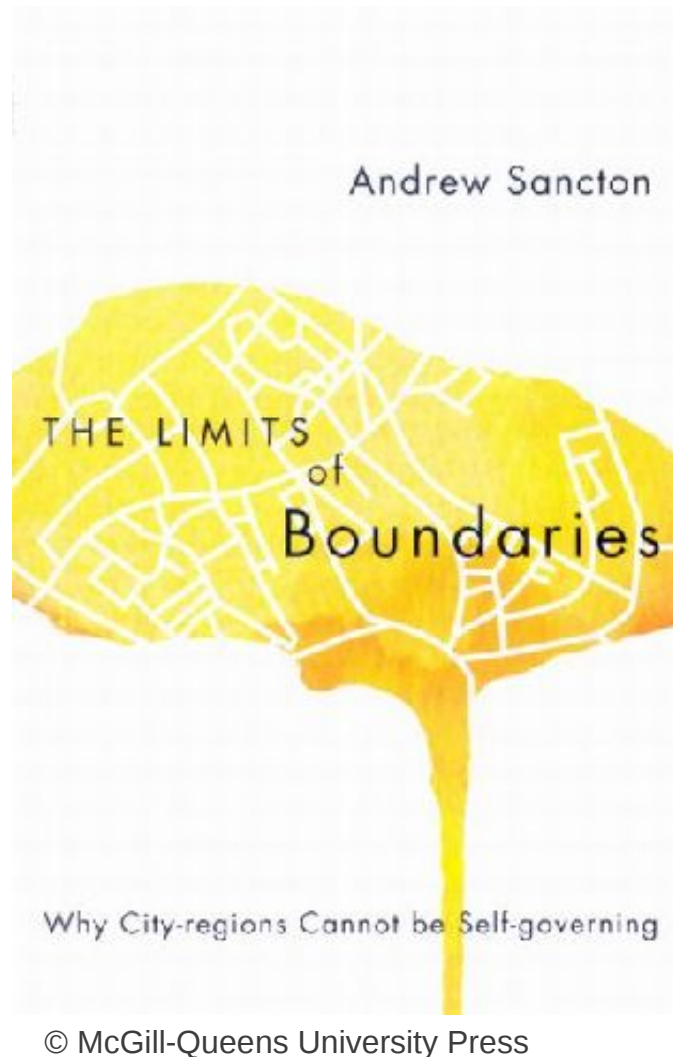
- City-regions are economically defined
- They contain heterogeneous development around a city
- City-regions are the salient economic units (Jacobs 1984)

# City-Regions and Currency

- Individual currencies for city-regions (Jacobs 1984)
- Floating currencies provide economic feedback (2000)
- In a nation, one city can be doing well while others are not; the currency reflects that one city (1984)
- Beaverstock et al. (2000) mention New York's shadow effect in the US
- Sassen (2001) mentions New York, London and Tokyo as the top-tier global cities; each has a different currency



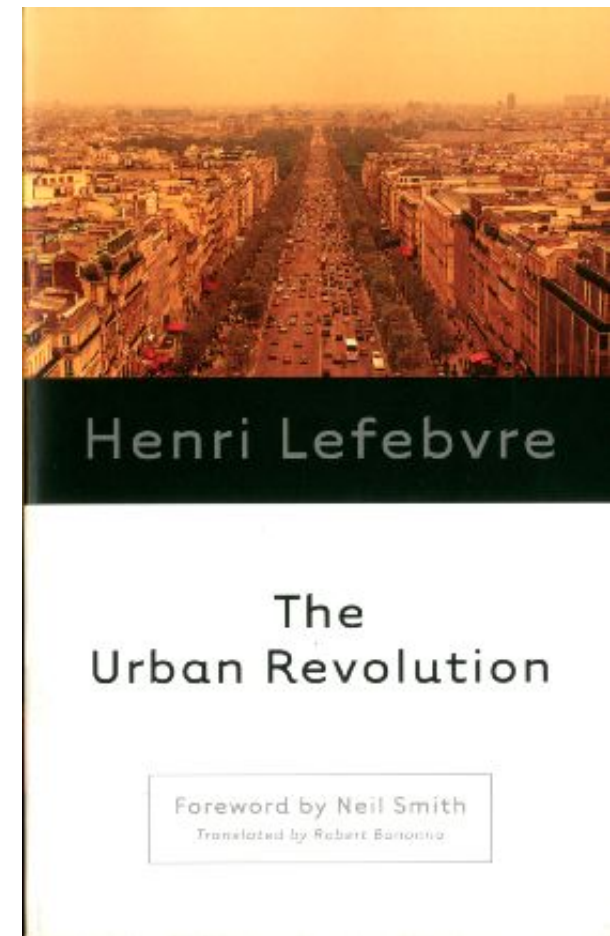
# Sancton and Boundaries



- We need to define the boundaries of city-regions if they have their own currencies
- Jacobs did not address this
- City-regions cannot have defined boundaries (Sancton 2008)

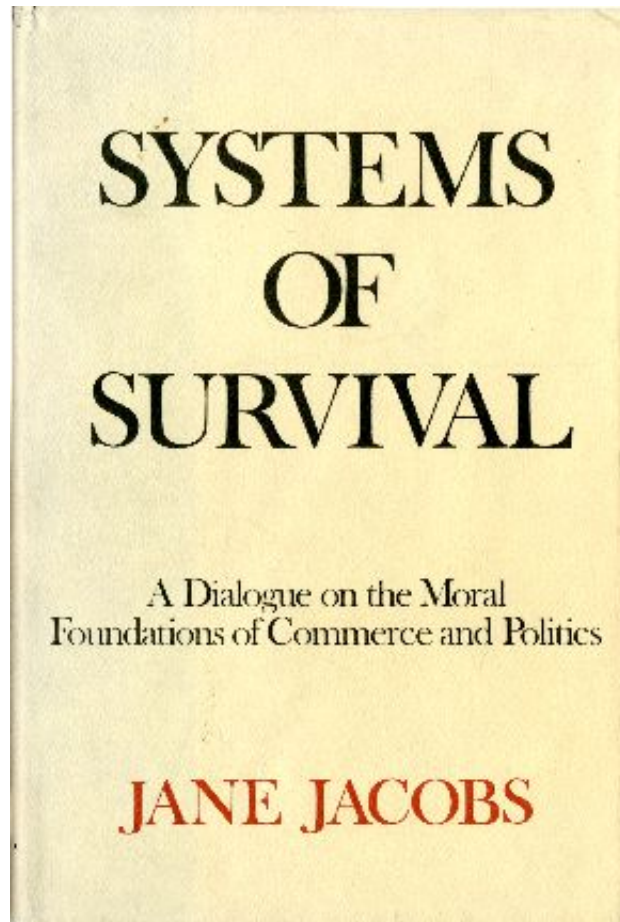
# Lefebvre and *The Urban Revolution*

- Originally published in French in 1970
- Society has become completely urbanized (Lefebvre 2003)
- Jacobs' city-region economies affect other economies (Jacobs 1984)
- Complete urbanization is possible without the built environment



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# Morality in the Global City



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- There is much public-private collaboration in the global city (e.g. Zukin 1992)
- There are two moral syndromes, guardian and commercial
- Based on *The Republic*
- Mixing of syndromes creates problems: Law of Intractable Systemic Corruption (Jacobs 1992)

# Conclusion

- There are many links between Jacobs and the Global Cities Hypothesis
- Urban society works most applicable to project and district scales
- Economic works most applicable to city-regional and global scales
- Morality in the global city is a topic for further research

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