

Moats

- "I've worked as an academic, an applied, and a practicing anthropologist. Historically those three categories are surrounded by moats filled with snark."



So, what's in the castle, beyond the moat?

- ◉ Humane, believable, and credible accounts of the human situation in all its manifestations, that will benefit people now and will also contribute to a scientific theory of culture and society.
- ◉ "Without science, we lose our credibility. Without humanity, we lose our ability to understand others."

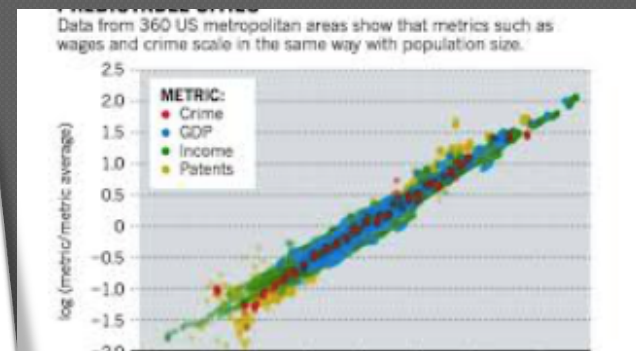
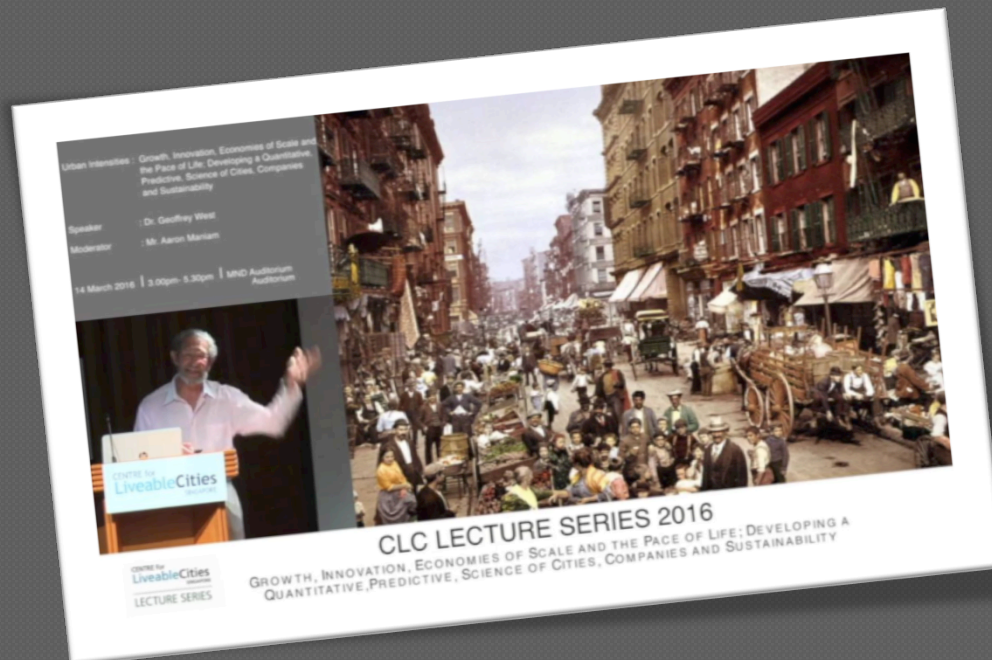


Agar science, example 1: Is our research "robust and reliable"?

- ◉ NSF: "Robust and reliable science refers to research that is reproducible, replicable, and generalizable." Science crisis? Negative findings?
- ◉ Mike: Credibility comes from coming clean about how the research was *really* done. "Method = getting closer to the actual research process so that you *have* to show what happened that makes you think things are the way that you claim them to be."
- ◉ No hiding negative. No crisis in Mike's science.

Agar science, example 2: Universal laws?

Geoffrey West: "Growth, Innovation, Economies of Scale, and the Pace of Life: Developing a Quantitative, Predictive Science of Cities, Companies, and Sustainability"



Laws vs. history

PNAS

Proceedings of the
National Academy of Sciences
of the United States of America

"From global scaling to the dynamics of individual cities" (Despersin & Barthelemy, *PNAS*, 2/18)

- ◉ What happens if you go from general to particular?
- ◉ Cases of individual cities show that history and culture matter: "strong path dependency"
- ◉ D & B: "Cannot always agglomerate the data for many different systems."
- ◉ As scientists we seek patterns, but as anthropologists we remember that the local matters.

Mike taught me that.



Disclaimer: opinions, findings, & conclusions expressed here are mine alone and do not necessarily reflect views of NSF, where I was employed at the time I wrote this talk.

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